

C A Y M A N I S L A N D S

L E G I S L A T I V E A S S E M B L Y

M I N U T E S

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OFFICIAL REPORT

F I R S T M E E T I N G

O F T H E

T H I R D (1974) S E S S I O N O F T H E

L E G I S L A T I V E A S S E M B L Y

T U E S D A Y, 12th MARCH, 1974

PART I

TUESDAY, 12th MARCH, 1974

PRESENT WERE:-

HIS ESCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, MR. K.R.CROOK - PRESIDENT

GOVERNMENT AND OFFICIAL MEMBERS

HON.D.V.WATLER, O.B.E., J.P.	FIRST OFFICIAL MEMBER
HON.G.E.WADDINGTON, Q.C.	SECOND OFFICIAL MEMBER
HON.V.G.JOHNSON,O.B.E.	THIRD OFFICIAL MEMBER
HON.A.B.BUSH,J.P.	SECOND ELECTORAL DISTRICT GEORGE TOWN (MEMBER FOR WORKS, COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT)
HON. TREVOR FOSTER	THIRD ELECTORAL DISTRICT LESSER ISLANDS (MEMBER FOR LESSER ISLANDS CO-ORDINATION AND INFORMATION)
HON. B. O. EBANKS	FIRST ELECTORAL DISTRICT, WEST BAY (MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES AND LABOUR).
HON.W.W.CONOLLY,J.P.	SIXTH ELECTORAL DISTRICT, EAST END (MEMBER FOR TOURISM, NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, MRCU., AND SURVEYS).

ELECTED MEMBERS

MR. JOHN JEFFERSON	FIRST ELECTORAL DISTRICT, WEST BAY
MISS ANNIE H.BODDEN	SECOND ELECTORAL DISTRICT, GEORGE TOWN
MR. CLAUDE HILL	SECOND ELECTORAL DISTRICT, GEORGE TOWN
CAPT. A. A. REID	THIRD ELECTORAL DISTRICT, LESSER ISLANDS
MR. JAMES M.BODDEN	FOURTH ELECTORAL DISTRICT, BODDEN TOWN
MR. G. HAIG BODDEN	FOURTH ELECTORAL DISTRICT, BODDEN TOWN
MR.CRADDOCK EBANKS	FIFTH ELECTORAL DISTRICT, NORTH SIDE

ABSENT WAS:-

MR.T.W.FARRINGTON,C.B.E., J.P.	(DUE TO ILLNESS)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

STATE OPENING

TUESDAY, 12th March, 1974.

10 a.m.

1. STATE OPENING (SEE PROGRAMME CIRCULATED)

2. RESUMPTION.

3. QUESTIONS:-

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (SECOND ELECTED MEMBER FOR DISTRICT OF BODDEN TOWN) TO ASK THE FIRST ELECTED MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RESPONSIBLE FOR COMMUNICATIONS, WORKS AND TRANSPORT:-

(i) IS THERE ANY ACTION BEING TAKEN IN REGARDS TO PLACING CAYMAN PERSONNEL AT THE LACSA OFFICE IN MIAMI TO HANDLE THE CAYMAN TRAFFIC, OR WILL WE CONTINUE TO USE THE PRESENT STAFF OF LACSA?

(ii) HOW ARE THE CHARGES INCURRED AT THE LACSA-CAL OFFICE DIVIDED IN REGARDS TO GROUND PERSONNEL CHARGES AND OFFICE STAFF WAGES?

(iii) IN VIEW OF THE RECENT LONG BOUT OF NORTHWESTERS WHEN NO SHIP COULD BERTH IN GEORGE TOWN, IS GOVERNMENT STILL SATISFIED THAT THIS IS THE RIGHT AREA TO CONSTRUCT A NEW DOCK? IF SO, HOW IS IT PLANNED TO OVERCOME THIS PROBLEM WHEN A NEW DOCK IS BUILT?

MR.JAMES M.BODDEN (FIRST ELECTED MEMBER FOR DISTRICT OF BODDEN TOWN) TO ASK THE FIRST ELECTED MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RESPONSIBLE FOR COMMUNICATIONS, WORKS AND TRANSPORT:-

(i) WILL GOVERNMENT GIVE THE NAMES OF THE ATTORNEYS FOR EACH SIDE WHO FORMED THE CAYMAN AIRLINE AGREEMENT BETWEEN LACSA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT?

(ii) WILL GOVERNMENT USE THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SURVEY TEAM OF THE LAND SURVEY DEPARTMENT TO DO THE NECESSARY SURVEY WORK OF THE PROPOSED DOCK AREA OR WILL A FIRM FROM JAMAICA BE BROUGHT IN TO DO THIS?

MR. G.HAIG BODDEN (SECOND ELECTED MEMBER FOR DISTRICT OF BODDEN TOWN) TO ASK THE THIRD ELECTED MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION, MEDICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES:-

(i) IN VIEW OF THE RESOLUTION BEING PASSED OVER A YEAR AGO TO CLEAN UP THE OLD GARBAGE DUMP ON SMITH ROAD, CAN THE MEMBER STATE WHEN THIS WORK WILL COMMENCE?

(ii) WHAT IS BEING DONE TO RESTRICT THE USE OF THE SEWAGE PLANT AT GOVERNOR'S HARBOUR IN VIEW OF IT BEING IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE SHORES OF THE NORTH SOUND AND HAVE ANY INVESTIGATIONS BEEN CARRIED OUT TO DETERMINE THE TYPE OF SEWAGE DISPOSAL USED AT THE HOTELS?

MR. JAMES M.BODDEN (FIRST ELECTED MEMBER FOR DISTRICT OF BODDEN TOWN) TO ASK THE THIRD ELECTED MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION, MEDICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES:-

WILL THE NEW PRINCIPAL BE BROUGHT IN FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL OR WILL ONE BE SELECTED LOCALLY?

MR. JAMES M.BODDEN(FIRST ELECTED MEMBER FOR DISTRICT OF BODDEN TOWN) TO ASK THE FIRST OFFICIAL MEMBER:-

(i) WHEN WILL THE EASTERN END OF THE ISLAND BE SERVICED BY A REGULAR MOUNTED TWENTY-FOUR HOUR POLICE PATROL?

(ii) HAS A QUOTA BEEN SET AS TO HOW MANY PERSONS CAN OBTAIN CAYMANIAN STATUS YEARLY? IF SO, HOW ARE THE LUCKY RECIPIENTS EVALUATED AND DETERMINED?

MR.G. HAIG BODDEN (SECOND ELECTED MEMBER FOR DISTRICT OF BODDEN TOWN) TO ASK THE FIRST OFFICIAL MEMBER:-

WILL GOVERNMENT GIVE CONSIDERATION TO AN AMENDMENT TO THE CINEMATOGRAPH LAW ALLOWING FOR THE SETTING UP OF A CENSOR BOARD?

MR.G. HAIG BODDEN (SECOND ELECTED MEMBER FOR DISTRICT OF BODDEN TOWN) TO ASK THE SECOND OFFICIAL MEMBER:

UNDER WHAT AUTHORITY WAS AUTHORISATION GIVEN TO THE CAYMANIAN PROTECTION BOARD TO DECIDE THAT PERSONS COULD NOT CHANGE FROM ONE JOB TO ANOTHER?

MR. JAMES M.BODDEN (FIRST OFFICIAL MEMBER FOR DISTRICT OF BODDEN TOWN) TO ASK THE SECOND OFFICIAL MEMBER:-

WILL GOVERNMENT GIVE CONSIDERATION TO ALLOWING PERSONS TO BE ARTICLED TO A LAW FIRM FOR A SPECIFIED PERIOD OF TIME AND THEN SIT AN EXAMINATION UNDER GOVERNMENT AUSPICES WHICH WILL BE SET BY THE LAW SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENT, AND SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES BE ADMITTED AS ATTORNEYS AT LAW?

4. GOVERNMENT BUSINESS:-

BILLS:-

(i) The Judicature (Administration of Justice) (Amendment) Law, 1974 First and Second Readings
(ii) The Mosquito (Research and Control) (Amendment) Law, 1974 First and Second Readings
(iii) The Coroner's (Amendment)Law, 1974 - First and Second Readings
(iv) The Loan (Capital Projects) (Amendment) Law, 1974.

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THRONE SPEECH BY
HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR MR. K. R. CROOK
STATE OPENING OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
(1974 SESSION)

ON TUESDAY, 12TH MARCH, 1974.

Hon. Members, these Islands have acquired a new nickname to replace the old out dated cliche about "time forgot". These, if ever I saw them, are the Fortunate Islands.

Firstly, they have a strong executive and legislature. A new-style, participatory Cayman Islands Government has been established, and - on a Year's experience at least - is working well. I shall attempt - since I am not sure that this is fully understood by members of the public - a quick sketch of how it works. The Cayman Islands Government consists of six Caymanians, the Attorney General who happens to be a Jamacian, and me. Two of the Caymanians, and the Attorney General, are officials; the other four members of the Government are elected politicians. The Constitution empowers me to charge elected members with a lot of responsibility for subjects, and I have done so. Full publicity has been given, so that everyone knows who does what. Similarly I have delegated authority, as far as I possibly can, to other members of the Government. The individual members of the Government formulate their policies. If they wish to consult me in the process they can - and do. When their policies are formulated they lay them before the Government - the Executive Council, of which, be it remembered, I am still the Chairman - and lead the resultant discussion. Decisions are then taken. If their policies are approved by the Executive Council, the Members implement them.

All this adds up to businesslike Government. It is possible to argue that the situation is not unlike that of the Board of a large Company. But the analogy soon breaks down, for the Cayman Islands is not a Company, but a country, and the elected representatives sit in this Assembly. The Government's policies must be good enough to stand questioning and constructive criticism in this House. Where its policies need legislation, the legislation must be approved by this House, which can debate the legislation, modify it, or even withhold its agreement. The House's powers as regards provision of money are well known.

We have, therefore a business-like Government, properly subject to the checks and balances of a parliamentary democracy. One question remains; it is a vital one. How do the people feel about it?

It is, of course, for the peole to give their opinion, and give it they will, in 1976. Meanwhile, it may be presumptious for anyone to hazard a guess. I am nevertheless going to hazard one. It is overall; people are pretty well content with the style of Government they have, and with its performance. Some members may disagree. I invite them to prove their point, if they can. I will put mine in straightforward language. The majority of Caymanians are doing all right - and they know it. When they no longer feel they are doing all right, and want some changes made, they can be relied on to say so. They haven't said so yet. They know perfectly well that there are avenues for negotiation when the time comes, and this enables them to approach the whole business of constitutional change in a pragmatic , sensible fashion, not much concerned about political theory. It must be a very comfortable feeling.

The second main way in which the Islands are so fortunate is in their comparative insulation, so far, from the political ideologies which cause so much trouble elsewhere in the world. There is a certain amount of political controversy in these Islands. But it is not ideological in character; there isn't really all that much to differ about. I think people should bear in mind that elsewhere in the world ther is political controversy which really is ideological in character. Some of it is not pleasant, and some of it is not far

away. I do not wish to dwell long on this unsavoury topic but you need only think in terms of communism and its various derivatives, of urban terrorism, of "revolutionism" in some universities, of Black Power - though I personally doubt if it is really all that dangerous - of right wing reaction, and above all of extreme nationalism. Think of the various forms of beastliness which men seem able to practise on their fellows, in the name of some cause or other. Of assassination, which is better called what it is, murder. Of torture in one form or another. Of violence forpolitcial ends; of bombings, hijacking, kidnapping, and so on. These are the things from which the fortunate Cayman Islands is so far virtually immune.

The third matter which brings the word "fortunate" to my mind is the overall economic situation as reflected in the recent Budget. I need not comment in any detail on that Budget, so ably presented by the Financial Secretary. Briefly the financial position of Government as revealed in that statement was most encouraging.

We saw a 1972 budget deficit converted into a substantial surplus and the same trend followed in 1973. All this resulted from the economic boom now being enjoyed by these Islands, especially within the last two years. There is evidence that the trend will continue. The financial industry has also grown tremendously over the past year or two. The number of banks and trust companies has now reached 150 and more are coming. Companies incorporated and registered here now number approximately 4,500 and the number is increasing daily. Tourism is expanding steadily.

This very healthy financial and economic background provided a firm base for the 1974 Budget. Revenue for 1974 was estimated at something like 48% over the 1973 Estimates. It contained one new revenue measure introduced in late 1973 increased duty on liquor and tobacco - which accounts for only 8% of the 48% increase. The 1974 revenues plus a substantial surplus revenue balance coming forward made the budgetary exercise fairly simple. Government was able to provide for most of the requests coming from departments together with undertaking to finance an appreciable increase in salaries. The budget was prepared in November, 1973 and we are now in March, 1974. I understand the Financial Secretary is quite confident about the present financial position so the Budgetary outlook is good.

The main politico-economic point to be made, however, is this. With due regard to the need for prudent expenditure control in the future (and for this you may rely on the Financial Secretary), the resultant situation is one in which the first question you should ask yourselves, when considering any reasonable proposition requiring action in the public sector is not so much "can we afford it" as "are we organisationally capable of doing it". I know of no other country in the world, of even remotely comparable size, where this situation applies.

The fourth advantage which these Islands have is the comparative absence of social tensions. In most developing countries there is an identifiable and usually large segment of the population which, because it fails to obtain any share in rising prosperity becomes disaffected. The situation is aggravated when the country in question is frequented by tourists, enjoying a standard of living which the under-privileged can never hope to share. This situation does not apply here, Most Caymanians have seen their prosperity grow, some more than others, and the difference between local and tourist standards is not so great as to produce tensions. I do not suggest that no one in these Islands is in any kind of need.

The Government is well aware of social needs, and I shall be touching later on the measures being taken. But I know of no seriously under-privileged classes here, and to my mind this gives these Islands great advantages over others in the area.

Honourable Members, you may be surprised to learn that I personally consider the controversy which has developed in this House recently to be itself an advantage - and I can assure anyone who happens to be familiar with the theories of Professor Marcuse that I am not trying to practise the doctrine of repressive tolerance. The fact is that overall the situation here is so good that there is some danger of the Government's becoming over-complacent unless there is someone who will stick pins in it now and again. As a good British democrat I would be horrified if that were to happen, and I would say on behalf of this Government that it welcomes criticism - so long as it is constructive.

Honourable Members, I turn sadly from this account of the Cayman Islands' good fortune to some of the actual and potential snags.

I do not think you have much to worry about, constitutionally, in the near future. But the one thing this world never does is to stand still; it has changed unrecognizably in the last 25 years, and it seems to me idle to suppose that there will not be many more changes in the next 25. We should try therefore to do some constructive thinking about the longer term, and if I can during the rest of my time here sketch out, for Caymanians to think about, the outlines of a long-term for these Islands which might meet the wishes of its people, this could I think be valuable. Lest I arouse another crop of the inevitable and particularly imaginative "Caymanian rumours" I should perhaps say at once that I am speaking to no instructions here, merely using my own political sense.

The trouble with the economy, as you well know, is its potential fragility. Very small shifts in the political and economic climates could be seriously damaging both to the financial and tourist industries. I have given a great deal of thought to the possibilities of diversification. They are not great. Agricultural possibilities are worth exploring, but seem likely to be small in scale. Earnings from seamen will no doubt continue, but they are not enough to support life at the standards to which people have become accustomed here, and it will not I think be as easy for the new race of Caymanians to "go back to sea" as it was for the old. But the overall picture is by no means gloomy. If it does prove possible to establish these islands as a financial centre as distinct from just a tax haven - and the response to my remarks about this at the recent Tax Seminar has been most encouraging - and if the political situation remains stable, there is little reason to fear for the longer terms future of the finance industry. As to tourism, it seems to me that for an island which does not want to become a mass tourist resort - a kind of Caribbean Benidorm - the prospect of steady and controlled expansion is very good, so long as the physical attractiveness of the island, especially of its water, is maintained. (This, to me is what makes conservation so vital here).

The problem of inflation is almost too obvious to need identification. Everybody knows - I see no point in evading the issue - that both prices and wages here have reached near-fantastic levels. And it is quite possible that prices may rise still further as a result of the energy crisis. Oil, and oil based products have increased or are likely to increase in price very considerably. Prices of other primary products and commodities tend already to be high, and may not rise in real terms over the next few years, though I would like Honourable Members to appreciate that if cost increases eventually lead to an improvement of living standards in poor countries, this would be no bad thing. Whatever happens, it is likely that the Cayman

Islands, along with the rest of the world, can expect a period of rising prices and increases in the cost of living arising from the increased price of oil and general inflationary trends. The islands produce little or nothing, and tend to be the recipients of everyone else's inflation as well as their own. Cost increases stemming from increases in the costs of raw materials produced elsewhere are not within the control of anyone in these islands, be it Government, private traders or anyone else.

There are no easy answers to the problems of inflation for which the whole world is seeking solutions. What we have to consider is how best to proceed in relation to the Cayman Islands. The problem is not new; but as I have said it is likely to become more severe. Government is well aware of this and would be ready to consider proposing to this House radical measures such as price and wage control, if we became satisfied that the answers to our problems lay in such directions. But we are not so satisfied at present, and we are inclined instead to favour a combination of voluntary restraint and measures to increase public awareness of the true nature of the problem. Government is already asking for information about how consumer associations work, so that we can see whether any form of such body would help us here. We are ready to consider helping anyone who can produce goods in the Cayman Islands, at competitive prices. We are prepared to discuss particular price situations, on a voluntary basis, with individuals and intrests concerned, to see what conclusions can be drawn. We are prepared to have discussions with any organisations which may be able to help, and Members may care to know that I shall be writing shortly, sending copies of this section of my speech, to the Chamber of Commerce, the service clubs, and the Press.

We should like to see greater awareness of the link between the energy shortage and inflation, for example, how increases in the cost of primary products affect prices here, and how small and simple economies can save not only fuel but money. If there is any way in which Government can help to this end it will be glad to consider doing so. I, myself, feel that a great effort of public understanding is called for, and that some older and simple values may still be relevant to the modern situation.

Prosperity has come easily to the people of these Islands; they should learn to use it more wisely. People should stop treating money as if (in the old phase) it grew on trees, and remember the days when, I am told, life was really hard. If inflation is to be curbed at all, people must somehow be made to realise that they have a responsibility to the community as well as to themselves - for example, that one man's wage increase is another man's price increase, and vice versa, and that the community is entitled to expect a decent day's work for a day's pay. The possession of modern and expensive artefacts is not of itself bad; to demand increased income in order that one may acquire them is. A man is entitled to demand a wage increase in order to provide his children with decent food - but not to buy a second car. Materialism may need tempering with a little moderation. If the energy crisis makes us consider again whether we really need such things as large motorcars and fast speedboads - leads us to question whether the real purpose of life is the acquisition of more and more material possessions, and their unrestricted use whatever the effect on our neighbours - then it may prove to have some advantages after all.

To use words taken from a leading article in a recent London newspaper, "The truth is that we have become mesmerised by affluence, desensitised by the ever-increasing expectations that almost continuous inflation has fuelled". Those words were written about Britain, but to my mind they are equally applicable in the Cayman Islands.

The fuel crisis has caused us few real difficulties so far. Government dealt effectively with a situation which appeared to threaten airline fuel supplies, and the only consequences in terms of fuel consumption within the islands have concerned prices.

It is not, however, to be doubted that the consequences of a shortage of actual fuel (leaving the price factor aside) could be very serious indeed for the economy of small islands like these. Government is keeping the situation under review, and will not hesitate to take action if need be.

Hon. Members, I turn now to some of the things Government has done and plans to do starting with the vitally important subject of education. At the beginning of the 1973/1974 academic year two new courses, namely economics and business studies were introduced. This is in keeping with Government's stated intention of expanding the curriculum at the school to reflect and meet fully the needs of the community. It is Government's intention to develop the Cayman High School into a Community College providing further and adult education with a Career's bias.

However this phase of development of the school will of necessity have to await the provision of adequate essential accommodation and facilities. It is anticipated that this stage will have been reached during the 1974/1975 academic year upon completion of the currently planned building programme.

The remedial department at the school was strenghtened. At the primary level during 1973 a teacher completed a special course qualifying her as a teacher of the deaf. Some of the equipment for the establishment of this special unit has already arrived in the island and the rest is on order. Pending the arrival of all of the equipment and the establishment of the special unit the teacher is being utilised as a peripatetic teacher of the deaf at two of the district schools.

During 1973 primary and secondary teachers also attended workshops in Mathematics, Science and English in Jamaica. It is intended that these courses will be repeated in 1974. These are in-service training courses. During 1974 additional classrooms will be built at the East End Primary School. This year also, development of the Cayman Islands High School will continue with the erection of twelve new classrooms, two home economics rooms and additional workshops. More lands will be purchased to facilitate the development of the school.

At the Cayman Brac school two new classrooms will be built to cope with the increased numbers consequent upon the upgrading of that school to an eleven-sixteen high school offering subjects to G.C.E. 'O' level standard.

A Careers Officer will be recruited to commence work in September attached to the Education Office for the purpose of counselling and careers guidance.

This official will provide the liaison between the prospective employers and students. As a precursor to this, for the past few years Government officials have visited the school from time to time lecturing the senior forms on the varied opportunities in the Civil Service. Last year this was taken a step further when persons from the professional and commercial community were invited to the school to advise the senior classes on the varied opportunities in these fields. This year, through the cooperation of the Department of Tourism, the Hotel Association and the Education Department, qualified persons from the Hotels industry will give about one week

of lectures to the senior Form with a view to attracting some school leavers into the Hotel trade. This kind of cooperation between Government and the private sector augurs well for the future of these islands.

Provision has been made in the 1974 Estimates for the recruitment of a trained librarian to commence cataloguing the books and Audio Visual equipment now in use at the school in preparation for the provision of a library/resources centre during the 1975 construction phase.

A Teachers' Centre will be started before the end of 1974 with a full time warden in charge.

Arrangements have been made for a survey to be conducted to identify Educationally Sub-Normal Children now in our schools so that they can be removed from the main stream of education and given special attention.

We have negotiated a loan with Caribbean Development Bank for CI$50,000.00 in the first instance for on lending to students for higher education on very generous terms. At the present time there are k9 students abroad on Government paid or Government sponsored scholarships. It is envisaged that this number will increase sharply over the next few years and it is fair to assume, that Government will not be able to continue granting free scholarships in all cases as was the practise in the past.

Our efforts to improve and expand health care were numerous in 1973 and are expected to be even more significant this year. We built a modern Emergency Room and Nurses Quarters at Grand Cayman Hospital, and now have under construction a large Pharmacy, Stores Building and 200,00 gallon cistern. We have also engaged a firm to plan the renovation of the In-Patient Wing of the present hospital and develop a comprehensive phased plan for the site.

Our efforts have not been limited to facilities alone. Health care is a very personalised service and therefore we have doubled the number of nurses, increased the physicians by one and recruited a Hospital Administrator and during 1974 a Sanitary Engineer will be recruited to further our policy of making quality care readily accessible to all residents of the islands.

It is recognised that garbage collection and disposal have been key health problems. Positive steps are now underway to acquire the necessary equipment, personnel and legislation to deal effectively with these services.

We wish to express our gratitude to the many organisations and individuals in the community who have given freely of their time and resources to the hospitals on Cayman Brac and Grand Cayman. We hope this spirit will continue during the forthcoming year.

We are presently investigating our problems in respect to water and sewage and hope to be able to find feasible solutions to both of these problems during 1974.

Like the medical services, Government's activities in the field of Social Services during 1973 were preparatory to positive steps to be implemented during 1974. Requests were made for technical assistance in two important fields of Social Services.

First, was for an adviser on the establishment of a National Council of Social Services. This request was met by the visit of Mr. & Mrs. Lockhead from December 16th 1973 to January 16th, 1974.

Steps are now being taken to establish a Council of Social Services and it is hoped that from this Organisation will emanate the machinery to meet the Social Service requirements of the community. It is hoped to recruit a Social Services Department Official during 1974.

The second was an application for the services of someone experienced in the field of Provident Funds and Medical Insurance schemes, to visit the territory, study local conditions and in the light of his findings, to advise Government on the feasibility or otherwise of the establishment of a Provident Fund and/or Medical Insurance schemes.

An officer of the International Labour Organisation who is now working in the area under United Nations Development Plan auspices will undertake this study and is now in the island. It is hoped that action as may be necessary in keeping with his findings will be taken during 1974.

The Tourist Industry is one of the main sources of revenue of these islands and in 1973, with the approval of the Legislature this Government appointed a Director of Tourism and during the course of the year established a Department of Tourism which it is hoped will be fully staffed during this year. This industry continued to prosper during 1973 and we had approximately 44,000visitors during the year as compared to 30,646 in 1972, a growth of about 40% and it is ecpected that this rate will continue and thus we anticipate about 50,000 in 1974.

During the latter part of 1972 the Holiday Inn opened and the additional 125 rooms no doubt was instrumental in some of the increase in the number of visitors that took place in 1973. Later in the year Holiday Inn added another 58 rooms. But with all this the occupancy in the rooms provided by the various hoteliers rose to about 50 to 55% so that the year 1973 can be considered as very good tourist-wise.

Approval was given to a Caymanian for a 20 room hotel to be established in Breakers during 1973 and we trust that this will be completed in due course. This should help in the development of the Eastern section of Grand Cayman.

Consideration is being given to the erection of another hotel on the 7 mile beach which is planned to have 194 rooms. When these two additional establishments are in being a good look will have to be taken at the development of tourism in these Islands and to that end it is envisaged that a Tourism Law will be presented to the Legislature in the very near future.

Many of the visitors who come to these Islands from North America originate from the mid-western United States. Whe have recently opened an office in Chicago, Illinois and this should help to channel more visitors from that area to these Islands. A new promotional film should also be ready early in the Spring. This will run for 13 minutes, and be suitable for television showing as well as to small groups with special cassette viewers.

The future for tourism in these Islands, carefully planned as to quanity and rather specialised as to kind, which people favour, seems bright. But presentational efforts cannot be relaxed.

Turning now to agriculture, although we may not be able to point to any major development in this field, yet it is worthy to mention the vegetable farm that has been started in the Crewe Road

area of George Town, producing locally grown fresh vegetables which has shown that this can be done in these Islands. It is hoped that more people will realise that there is a future in agriculture and will thus turn to the land so that we can become more self sufficient in this area.

The turtle farm - Mariculture - continues to progress and it is hoped that the recent break-through that they had with the locally raised turtles laying eggs, the future supply of turtles will be ensured. This should prove to be a major source of protein and another step forward in producing locally grown foodstuff.

Caribbean Farms has continued to supply fresh milk and the local egg and beef farm is meeting a good part of the demand.

These developments are of course in the private sector. The Government expects to recruit a fully trained Veterinary Officer during the course of 1974 and thus it is hoped that the services that will be rendered by the Agricultural Department of these Islands will help to upgrade and sustain the livestock so that we may look forward to the day when these Islands will be able to meet the demand in beef, milk and eggs.

During 1973 the Legislature agreed to the establishment of a Marine and Natural Resources Study to be carried out in these Islands and at this time work is in progress on the required laboratory. The study should begin around May of this year. The natural resources of these Islands are very important to them and the Legislature is to be complimented on allowing this study to go forward in order to provide information which will help to ensure their protection and controlled exploitation. It is hoped that one and all will co-operate fully with the team of Experts who have so readily agreed to come to assist us at this stage of our development. The Government is examining our various laws to ensure that necessary protection can be provided, otherwise,new legislation will be submitted to the Legislature.

The people on Cayman Brac have in the past had to use steep, rocky tracks in order to get to their land on the Bluff. This is a detriment to agriculture and development and during 1973 we saw the commencement of the first proper road as access on the Bluff, to be constructed. Work is in progress and it is hoped that before long the people of that Island will be able to go up on the Bluff in a measure of comfort. Not only should agriculture gain a new impetus but real estate dealings should also increase.

The work of surfacing the channel road has been carried out. At the same time work was started on the rehabilitation of the Airfield in Cayman Brac. During 1973 land was purchased in Cayman Brac and a little Post Office erected on it at Watering Place. In Little Cayman, a plot of land was purchased and a jetty erected. With a Member charged with responibility for inter-island relations, the people of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman can be assured that their needs will not be overlooked.

1973 saw the Government launching the greatest number of capital projects in its history. A new Police Headquarters, rehabilitation of the Cayman Brac airfield, construction of a new Administration building, embarking on the first phase of a new port facility in George Town, reconstruction of main roads - urban and rural - from West Bay through George Town to Bodden Town; together with the Airport improvement project, were part of Government's development programme.

The Police Headquarters, the Cayman Brac Airport and the High School were financed from British Development Aid funds while the others are to be financed from local resources. To this end approval of the Legislature was sought to raise a loan of $5 M.

The Cayman Brac airfield rehabilitation has been undertaken by the Public Works Department and the preparatory work is progressing satisfactorily. This department has also undertaken the road reconstruction. When completed the main road from West Bay to Bodden Town and all of the main thorough-fares in George Town will have been raised to a very high standard. Hot mixed concrete asphalt will be used for surfacing and should provide good roads for the next 15 to 20 years.

Construction of the new Administration Building commenced in late 1973 and the building should be completed early in 1975. This building of approximatley 30,000 sq. ft. is designed to accommodate the main administration staff and as well, several departments and sections of Government. This should be another building of which Caymanians may be justly proud. Much thought has gone into its planning. It should prove very acceptable both funtionally and aesthetically.

Phase 1 - the preliminary study - for the Port Project has been completed. On the basis of this study the loan from Caribbean Development Bank referred to earlier on, was raised.

We have now embarked on the second phase, that of engaging consultants to do the final study, prepare drawings and estimates of quantities, receive tenders for and supervise the construction, which will be the 3rd and last phase. Because of the procedure which must be followed - a requirement of Caribbean Development Bank - work on the site is not expected to commence before late 1974 or early 1975, with a completion target of 18 months. The proposed improvement has rendered it necessary for Government to purchase lands on the water front adjoining the present dock area and also to acquire other lands contiguous thereto. The total cost will be about three hundred thousand dollars. This cost is to be met from local revenue. Formal approval of the Leguslature was obtained in October, 1973 for the purchase of these lands.

The first phase of improvemtnt planned for the Airport is shortly to be undertaken when a new freight shed will be constructed as well as a cistern to meet the future fresh water requirements of the Department. The next phase of development will commence in 1975 when work on a new terminal building, enlargement of the apron area and car parks is expected to commence. Under the umbrella of the new loan law, it is proposed to seek a loan under the British Government's loan aid policy, which provides for the granting of interest free loans to dependent territories for the financing of certain approved development projects.

The building of the new Terminal and the improvement of other facilities to meet the immediate and foreseeable future demands of the Airport, necessitates the purchasing of additional lands in the immediate vicinity of the terminal area. Action is being taken on this.

The Airport development and many other projects are being, and have been hampered by the shortage of land space, either for expansion of existing facilities or for establishing new ones. In the Government's efforts to secure the necessary lands, an attitude is being displayed by property owners which is to be deprecated. It seems that owners prefer to sell their lands to speculators and others in the private sector at a much lower price than that which is demanded from Government. It must be borne in mind that when

Government desires to purchase land it is for the development of some facility which will benefit either directly or indirectly every member of the community. It is not being suggested that owners should give their land to Government, although such benevolence would not be frowned upon, but certainly the good use to which it will be put and the benefits accuring to one and all should be considered. At the very least, Government should be given no worse a deal than speculators who will be making profits from which they alone will benefit.

Honourable Members, you will appreciate that there is much work to be done during this year. All of the projects are vital to the continued development of these islands. If legislation proves necessary, it will be brought to you. Much research and work has been done on the Motor Vehicle Insurance Law and it is hoped to place a new Bill before this Legislature before long. There are some necessary laws to be enacted to bring our Courts into line with present day procedures. It has been said that what is needed is more law enforcement and not more laws, but the major ones that are being contemplated will be doing just that; they will be dealing with the Criminal Procedure Code, the Grand Court, the Court of Appeal, Succession and Summary Jurisdiction, to mention some of them.

Honourable Members, I want to conclude by referring to a problem which is, in my view, even more important than that of inflation and the energy crisis; a problem which covers every aspect of society and which is indeed so wide-ranging that its existence may not always be fully realised - the problem of rapid adjustment and adaption to sudden prosperity.

Honourable Members, the Cayman Islands has moved out into the world, and there is no going back. Indeed, the process continues; even in the short time I have been here phenomenal growth has altered every perspective. Although there are regrets at the disappearance of the "good old days" - they reach me very often - it has to be remembered that no-one, having achieved prosperity, willingly gives it up. So the inevitable adjustments have to be made, and what is more they have become necessary all at once, within the space of a generation. It is amazing to me that so few tensions have been generated. But unless I am much mistaken a critical stage is being reached when, if difficulties are to be avoided, a major co-operative effort will be needed.

The growth in the economy has brought prosperity, and this is good. But prosperity demands change, and you can't have one without the other. Recognition of this, with all its consequences, is at the heart of the problem of adjustment. For instance when the economy rises above subsistence levels, and becomes dependent on imported goods, it is at once exposed to external influences beyond local control. And there are political dangers too. The more prosperity you have, the more attractive the Islands becomes to influences such as those to which I referred earlier.

The matter concerns the very sensitive question of man and his job. The world into which these Islands have moved is already a highly technological one, and will become increasingly so. To live in it, Caymanians must become experts in their own right. (They must do this, for the international expert of the future, increasingly a specialist, may not necessarily be willing or able to make his career here). Hence, in every profession one can think of - education, medical, legal, the police, the administration - the aim must be to give the jobs and the responsibility that goes with them, to Caymanians. But it is idle to pretend that Caymanians

have the necessary skills as yet. It is the Government's responsibility to see that the education base is sound; thereafter training at all levels will be needed. If, meanwhile, the impetus to progress is to be maintained, expatriate assistance at all levels will be needed. It is not enough that expatriates doing a job to help the country be merely tolerated. They must be positively welcomed, and respected, for the skills they bring.

Sudden prosperity seems to produce a dangerous tendency to deprecate local institutions, and the progress that has been made in reconstructing them. There is critical comment about roads - though only a few years ago they would have been thought superb. The public denigrates a school which not long ago would have been far beyond their aspirations. They criticise and encourage outsiders to criticise, a hospital which provides a fine service to the community. They snipe at a police force which is not perfect but has many successes. Above all, perhaps, they criticise the airline although it produces a service which not long ago would have seemed impossibly efficient. The reason in each case is the same. Expectations have risen too fast for the infrastructure to keep pace. Perfect organisations andfacilities cannot be summoned into being overnight at the waving of a wand. Caymanians should realise that there is no complacency amongst those whose responsibility it is to make improvements; that it takes a little time to rebuild; that in the meanwhile a little recognition is worth a lot of criticism.

Inescapable changes are taking place in the Society of these Islands. There is a decay of parental authority, here as elsewhere. There are changes in behavioural standards. There are children neglected because their parents are at work. There are old folk who do not get the family care they used to get. There is truancy. There is a little petty crime, and some drug-taking (though neither is really as serious, by wider standards, as people here think).

Honourable Members, the point is that since people cannot go backwards to the days when these difficulties did not exist - and I do not believe they would really want to even if they could - they must adapt to the present and to the future. I have no panaceas to offer; I ask you to think over very carefully what I have said, and I can give you an assurance from the Government that any suggestions you have to offer will be carefully considered. One thing is clear to me, Honourable Members. In this process of adaptation a heavy responsibility rests on you. Every member of this House has expressed to me at one time or another the importance he or she attaches to the role of "representing the people". With this, as you know, I agree completely. But it is not enough. A very great part of your job is to see that people are helped to understand what is happening around them, and helped to adapt. Government will do what it can, but it is essentially a constituency job, and one which, in my view at least, is inescapably yours.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: Mr. President, Mrs. Crook, Heads of Departments and their wives, Visiting Guests and children, it has been said, ' We ought to leave home with a smile because we don't know what will come across our path for the day, so that we could be better prepared for it'. I am not quite sure whether I am prepared for what has come across my path this morning.

But before going into what I stand here for to thank the President for his Throne Speech I would like to say that the Member whom we term as 'Father of the House' is unable to be here this morning through illness and not only the 'Father of the House' but the Honourable Elected Member Mr. Jefferson who is also ill. So it is with regret that these Members are not present and their absence is caused by illness which we all hope they will soon be with us.

Mr. President, and Members we have listened and followed your Address with interest and intent and what you have brought to the public over the past two to three years of what we have launched out in, what we achieved and what we are looking forward to achieve. I must say on behalf of this House you have done a remarkable job in bringing this piece of document before us today. I am sure that you have spent hours of hard work bringing this to explain the things the way you have done; and on behalf of the House I must extend to you in all your efforts and hard work a great thank you and I do hope during your remaining time in office as President of this Assembly,while I must admit we do not see and will not see eye to eye all the time, we do trust that we will have a smooth sailing with great prosperity and a better Cayman on the whole.

So at this time I'll just close with those few words and again say thank you for the efforts that you have brought before us today.

THE GOVERNOR, MR. JUSTICE MOODY, COMMISSIONER OF POLICE RISE (ALL STAND)

THE GOVERNOR BOWS AND PROCESSION LEAVES IN FOLLOWING ORDER:-
Serjeant-at-Arms
The Clerk
Deputy Clerk
His Excellency the Governor
Mrs. Crook
Commissioner of Police
AND DEPART

THE CLERK RETURNS TO THE TABLE AND ANNOUNCES THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE FOR FORTY FIVE MINUTES.

RESUMPTION HOUSE RESUMES AT 12 NOON.

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members before we start just a word or two on the subject of business. First an apology for the state of my voice.I have got a throat infection which causes me to fade out every now and again.

We have not put a great deal on the Order of the Day for today because it didn't seem that we could get through an enormous amount of business. I have an apology over tomorrow morning. I have a long standing engagement before the House was fixed to speak to an Insurance Seminar and it seems best therefore, not to resume until after lunch; so the idea is this that we continue for the rest of the day with the matters that are on the Order of the Day. We will resume after lunch tomorrow and that

MR. PRESIDENT (CONT'D): will be the opportunity for a debate on the speech which I have made this morning. I have no doubt that many Members will wish to comment. That I imagine will proably take us over Thursday and we'll take the rest of business from there onwards.

The first item on the Order of the Day for today apart from the ones that we have already gone through will be questions, and the first Question stands in the name of the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town.

QUESTIONS

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (SECOND ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE DISTRICT OF BODDEN TOWN) TO ASK THE FIRST ELECTED MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RESPONSIBLE FOR COMMUNICATIONS, WORKS AND TRANSPORT

(i) Is there any action being taken in regards to placing Cayman personnel at the Lacsa Office in Miami to handle the Cayman traffic, or will we continue to use the present staff of Lacsa?

(ii) How are the charges incurred at the Lacsa-CAL Office divided in regards to ground personnel charges and office staff wages?

(iii) In view of the recent long bout of Northwesters when no ship could berth in George Town, is Government still satisfied that this is the right area to construct a new dock? If so, how is it planned to overcome this problem when a new dock is built?

ANSWERS:

(i) The management of Cayman Airways Limited has advised that efforts are being made to find a suitably qualified Caymanian to employ as the airline's representative in Miami.

It is not practicable at this stage of the Company's development to set up its own offices in Miami as the cost involved would be beyond its ability to meet. Ideally this is desirable and the Company would hope that its future operations would develop to the point where the setting up of its own offices at the principle points of its operations would become an economically viable operation.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President a supplementary to that, Sir. I must apologise because this is also a border line question, but in view of the fact that there are so many complaints coming from the public as to the manner in which the present personnel tend to treat the traffic coming to the Cayman Islands, I wonder if this could be done let's say in due course or as soon as possible. Could we have some assurance that this will definitely be given some consideration.

HON. A.B. BUSH: Mr. President and Members as I have said I think the answer is that the management of Cayman Airways is trying to find a suitable person, and I think every effort will be explored to find this person.

MR. PRESIDENT: If there are no more supplementaries the next question is also in the name of the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town.

ANSWER:

(ii) There are no combined office operations of LASCA/CAYMAN AIRWAYS LIMITED.

In Grand Cayman where C.A.L. maintains its head office, the staff and ground employees are employed and paid solely by C.A.L. As general agents in the Cayman Islands for Lasca, C.A.L. is paid for each Lacsa flight handled. In Miami Lacsa, which maintains an office there, are general agents for C.A.L. and are paid for each C.A.L. flight handled. LACSA pays its own staff.

MR. PRESIDENT: If there are no supplementaries the third Question please?

ANSWER:

(iii) The Government's decision to construct the proposed Port Facility in George Town was dictated by financial expediency. Other more desirable sites were examined but the costs to develop any one of these proved far beyond the resources of the Government. In the circumstances, the Government is satisfied that George Town is the most feasible area to construct the dock.

The problem created by Northwesters is not a new development, and is by no means the greatest problem affecting the use of the dock. Lack of berthing space is a far greater problem which the new facility will help to solve. Taking the last two years as an example. In 1972, 16 working days were lost because of Northwesters, while in that year 82 working days were lost through lack of berthing space. In 1973, 28 working days were lost as the result of Northwesters but 65.5 days were lost through lack of berthing space.

The Northwester problem is a natural atmospheric development, which is beyond the ability of man to control. The Government therefore cannot and does not propose to attempt to overcome this problem.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: A supplementary to that, Mr. President. Has any consideration been given to granting a private firm the right to construct a finger jetty in a North - South direction which would help to protect this docking facility when it is built?

HON. A.B. BUSH: Mr. President and Members I don't know anything about this. We have nothing before us for this.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: Mr. President, if I maybe allowed to ask the First Elected representative of the ExCo - Is it Government's policy, Sir, if in the event that any additional facilities are offered by the public is it Government's intention to take in a private firm or the firm to take in Government? That is what I would like to have settled please, thank you.

MR. PRESIDENT: This sounds very much like a new question. If the Member can throw any light on it.

HON. A.B. BUSH: I am much afraid I am unable to. It would only be speculation if I did.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: Mr. President, to put it in plain language that everybody may understand. My Question is referring to this new jetty, this finger-pointed affair whatever it might be, if that comes about, is it the policy of the Government to take in this outside capitalist or the outside capitalist to take in Government? What I am saying, Sir, is that Government must control this facility

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: (CONT'D): on the waterfront.

HON. A.B. BUSH: Mr. President and Members as I said there is nothing on this before Government and if Members have any fear of Government relinquishing their rights to the dock which they propose to build I think they can put this aside because this will not happen.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: Mr. President, one further question to the First Elected Member of Executive Council. Could the Member say what might be the starting time for this facility?

HON. A.B. BUSH: I think if the Member remembers in the Throne Speech this was given as late 74 or early 1975. I think, Mr. President, that I should somewhat clarify this and say that it is through no fault of Government that this hasn't started yet, surely we would have liked to have seen it built by now but the formalities, I think this has been explained in the Throne Speech, of the Caribbean Development Bank which has a big say in just how procedures of this dock should go - we have to follow these and it is taking a much longer time than I think any Government anticipated it would. But I can assure Members that it is going ahead and it's not going to be any delay on the part of this Government.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Another supplementary, Mr. President. Does the Member admit that this is not the right area but we'll put the dock there just because of financial reasons?

HON. A.B. BUSH: No I am not admitting anything. I've said that Government still considers it is the right place to site the dock.

MR. PRESIDENT: Alright Honourable Members if we've all had our go at that one, the next Question stands in the name of the First Elected Member from Bodden Town.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN (FIRST ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE DISTRICT OF BODDEN TOWN) TO ASK THE FIRST ELECTED MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RESPONSIBLE FOR COMMUNICATIONS, WORKS AND TRANSPORT:

(i) Will Government give the names of the Attorneys for each side who formed the Cayman Airline agreement between LACSA and the Cayman Islands Government?

ANSWER:

It is not clear to waht agreement the Hon. Member is referring. The only relationship between LACSA and the Cayman Islands Government in respect to the C.A.L. is that each is a share-holder in the Company. The terms and conditions of this relationship are contained in the Memorandum of Association by which the Company was incorporated and in the Articles of Association which provide the guide lines along which the Company operates. Incorporation of the Company was done by the local firm of Corporate Lawyers, Messers W.S. Walker and Company. These documents were examined and approved by the legal advisers of each shareholder.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, a supplementary. Has there been more than one agreement in this arrangement, Sir?

HON. A.B. BUSH: I don't know, Mr. President. As far as I know there is one agreement.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: A further supplementary. Mr. President evidently something is wrong because we pressed for a long time to see this agreement and we were shown an agreement so there definitely has been an agreement.

MR. PRESIDENT: I don't think that I heard you being asked a question at that point Honourable Member.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: I am quite willing to concede to that point Sir. I think I have made my point.

My next question is the Company was formed by the firm of W.S. Walker & Company. Is W.S. Walker & Company still the Registered Office of the Company?

HON. A.B. BUSH: I can't answer that question.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: A further supplementary. To comply with the Company Law it should be registered and maintained some place. I understand it is not at Mr. Walker's office could we be told where is the Registered Office of the C.A.L. Company?

HON. A.B. BUSH: Mr. President, I think every Member knows that C.A.L. has an office right here in town and it is probably in that office.

MR. PRESIDENT: Next Question please.

(ii) Will Government use the local Government survey team of the Land Survey Department to do the necessary survey work of the proposed Dock area or will a firm from Jamaica be brought in to do this?

ANSWER:

Construction of the proposed Dock Facilities, will be in the hands of Consultants and Contractors, to be appointed by the Government in consultation with Caribbean Development Bank. Any survey work to be undertaken in connection with the construction will be the responsibility of one or the other or both of these engineering groups and they will employ surveyors of their choice.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Supplementary to that Mr. President. We do have a very large survey team operating in the islands and wouldn't it save this Government a lot of money if the services of that present survey team was utilised? And should we not consider doing so before we award this contract?

HON. A.B. BUSH: Mr. President, and Members it is not the view of Government that this would in any way save Government any money. Instead it would save private enterprise not Government. And it could prove disastrously costly in the end in the event of errors resulting from such a survey something went wrong with the dock. I don't think this would be at all desirable for Government to undertake.

As I said I think this is a matter for the people who we are going to employ to build the dock and they should carry it out to their satisfaction. Besides I think it is all together two different jobs. One, we have a survey team here it is true but probably they are not as well equipped to do this type of work as those which the Consultants may bring in.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: A further supplementary, Mr. President. I am understanding correctly that the Member in his estimation does not consider that the present well-paid survey team that we have not qualified to handle this job?

HON. A.B. BUSH: As I said I think it is two different jobs all together and it wouldn't be any advantage to Government. It wouldn't save Government any money I am sure - we feel sure about this, that it would only save the Contractor or the Consultants money not Government.

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members the next Question stands in the name of the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (SECOND ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE DISTRICT OF BODDEN TOWN) TO ASK THE THIRD ELECTED MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION, MEDICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES:-

(i) In view of the Resolution being passed over a year ago to clean up the old garbage dump on Smith Road, can the Member state when this work will commence?

ANSWER:

The site has been tidied up on several occasions and a recent attempt to bury the remains of old cars was halted by the Director of Civil Aviation pending a decision on the future use of the land which is Airport reserve and controlled by the Cayman Islands Corporation.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President a supplementary. This is something very important and I wonder whether we can be assured by the Member that it will be done in due course.

HON. B.O. EBANKS: Mr. President, the answer previously given indicates that Government has attempted to do something about it and that it is under active consideration. So I do not feel that the Member needs any further assurance that something will be done in due course.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: A further supplementary, Sir. What has happened to the street sweeper in George Town or has that gone like a lost Motion?

MR. PRESIDENT: New Question. Sorry.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: A further supplementary, Sir. In view of the present garbage dump at Smith Road being in such a deplorable condition and very much infested with rats, is there any consideration being given to a rat eradication campaign in the district of George Town?

MR. PRESIDENT: I think that is a new Question too but I don't know whether the Honourable Member can give any useful information on it.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, I did not put that as a new Question, Sir, it is tied in with the Smith Road dump.

MR. PRESIDENT: I am well aware you didn't. I am saying that I am not sure that it isn't a new Question but I am quite willing to have the Honourable Member give some information about it if he can.

HON. B.O. EBANKS: The answer is, Mr. President, I am not aware that the presence of rats has reached the proportions of an epidemic or a crisis and I have no knowledge that any plan is afoot

HON. B.O. EBANKS: (CONT'D): to launch a rat eradication campaign either in George Town or anywhere else in the islands.

MR. PRESIDENT: Next Question please.

MR.G. HAIG BODDEN (SECOND ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE DISTRICT OF BODDEN TOWN) TO ASK THE THIRD ELECTED MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION, MEDICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES:

(ii) What is being done to restrict the use of the sewage plant at Governor's Harbour in view of it being in close proximity to the shores of the North Sound and have any investigations been carried out to determine the type of sewage disposal used at the hotels?

ANSWER:

Nothing is being done to restrict the use of the sewage plant at Governor's Harbour. The plant is not in use at present.

Planning permission having been given for the construction of the plant the Public Health Department could not restrict its use until it is determined that it is malfunctioning.

Yes. All Hotels other than Holiday Inn use the Septic Tank and drainfield systems. Holiday Inn has a sewage treatment plant.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: A supplementary question, Mr. President. Has the Member received any complaint about the offensive smell in the vicinity of the Holiday Inn?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: The answer is No, Mr. President.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN? Further supplementary , Mr. President. Will consideration be given to controlling the operation of this plant before it does come into operation?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: I think the answer to that question, Mr. President, is contained in the second part of the answer previously given; that Planning permission having been given to construct the plant the Public Health Department could not restrict its use until it is determined that it is malfunctioning.

MR. CLAUDE HILL: Mr. President, a supplementary question, Sir. I would like the Member to inform the House if the sewage treatment plant at the Holiday Inn is functioning or not? If he knows if it is functioning or not?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: My information, Mr. President, is that the plant has given trouble in the past but that at the moment it is working fairly efficient.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: A further supplementary. Has any advice on this treatment plant at Governor's Harbour been given by the Doctors or the Public Health as to its posing a future threat to the health of this community?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: Mr. President, the Public Health Department is not in a position at this time to express conclusively an opinion on this matter. This is why we have fought for the appointment of a

HON. B.O. EBANKS: (CONT'D): Sanitary Engineer in the Department. The determination of this is the work of a Sanitary Engineer and I am afraid that the department has not got at the moment equipment nor personnel qualified to state emphatically the position regarding this plant.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: A further supplementary. Mr. President, will the Member in charge do his very best to determine this before this plant goes into operation, that the Sanitary Engineer will be completely satisfied that the affluent from this will not go into the North Sound?

MR. PRESIDENT: I should think it might be well to get the Sanitary Engineer first.

HON. B.O. EBANKS: Mr. President, if it would help the Member I can give him the assurance that Government has taken advice from visiting Sanitary Engineers from World Health Organisation on this matter over the past two years; and their opinions as to whether health or ecological problems will be caused differ.

There is general agreement that the health problem or the possibility of a health problem is negligible. And the question as to whether ecological damage would ensue depends on how well the plant functions. All sewage plants in the island will be kept under surveillance and if they endanger health or ecology they will be immediately ordered to be remedied or they would have to desist from using them.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: A further supplementary. Mr. President, I am not worried about the ecology but about the health, and I wonder whether the Member is aware that this plant or let's say this disposal facility which ultimately may handle 450 homes I think, it is only 20 feet away from the shores of the North Sound and that 20 feet is dredged in fill which is over tree stumps and so forth and so on.

HON. B.O. EBANKS: Mr. President, if the Member would recall not only am I aware of this but if he would recall the information which he is now using was given to him by me in the Finance Committee debate when I had to put up a very strong argument to get provision put into the Estimates for the appointment of a Sanitary Engineer. I am well aware of the situation that exists.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Another supplementary, Mr. President. I am glad that the Member will only quote one side of that discussion. But my further question on it is he told us awhile a go the plant was not in operation; if I recall correctly the Press recently carried a picture showing this plant in operation. Now could he tell me whether he has checked it recently to find out that it is not operating or is he going by assumption some months ago?

MR. PRESIDENT: I do sincerely advise Members to go by what is said in this House and not what appears in the Press.

Can the Honourable Member give any information on this?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: Yes, Mr. President. The answer would be I am not responsible for what appears in the Press that is not signed by me.

Secondly, I am assured by the department and the operators of Governor's Harbour that this plant is not in use.

MR. PRESIDENT: The next question stands in the name of the First Elected Member for Bodden Town.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN (FIRST ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE DISTRICT OF BODDEN TOWN) TO ASK THE THIRD ELECTED MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION, MEDICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES:

Will the new Principal be brought in for the Comprehensive school?

ANSWER:

A Principal will be brought in for the Comprehensive School.

MR. PRESIDENT: Next question also stands in the name of the First Elected Member for Bodden Town.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN (FIRST ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE DISTRICT OF BODDEN TOWN) TO ASK THE FIRST OFFICIAL MEMBER:-

(i) When will the Eastern end of the island be serviced by a regular mounted twenty-four hour Police patrol?

ANSWER:

Periodical police patrols are made in the Eastern District of Grand Cayman.

The Overseas Police Adviser visited these Islands in January, 1974 and made certain recommendations for the strengthening of the Police Force in order to give more effective policing of the Islands.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: A supplementary question, Mr. President. What is the extent of the periodic patrols?

HON. D.V. WATLER: That I am not able to say because that is controlled by the Commissioner himself. I am sorry.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, a further supplementary. Could the First Official Member advise us how many cars are presently in use in the Traffic Department?

MR. PRESIDENT: New question, sorry.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: A further supplementary, Sir. When will the new cars to be used in the Traffic Department arrive on the island?

MR. PRESIDENT: New question, sorry.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Further supplementary, Sir. When is it planned to appoint a regular officer in charge of Traffic?

MR. PRESIDENT: New question, sorry.

MR. PRESIDENT: Next question please.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN (FIRST ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE DISTRICT OF BODDEN TOWN) TO ASK THE FIRST OFFICIAL MEMBER:

(ii) Has a quota been set as to how many persons can obtain Caymanian Status yearly? If so, how are

the lucky recipients evaluated and determined?

ANSWER:

Yes, a quota has been set by the Executive Council.

Applications for the grant of Caymanian status are dealt with by the Caymanian Protection Board in the order in which they are received. The factors to be taken into account are set out in Section 17 of the Caymanian Protection Law.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Supplementary Mr. President. Could the First Official Member advise us as to date how many have been granted?

HON. D.V. WATLER: I really don't know. I don't know the exact number to date.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Further supplementary, Mr. President. Could the First Official Member advise us how many has obtained this by domicile or how many by grant?

HON. D.V. WATLER: That would be following on to the other supplementary regarding the number. And as I said I really don't know the number. If I knew the number I might know the break-down but I don't know the total number.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Further supplementary. Would it be possible that the First Official Member could have this circulated in due course to the Legislative Assembly?

HON. D.V. WATLER: I can see no objection to that.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: Mr. President, a further supplementary. Could the First Official Member say how many is the amount for the quota for a year?

HON. D.V. WATLER: What is the quota? Twelve.

MR. PRESIDENT: Sorry, did the Honourable Member hear the answer?

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: Yes, Sir.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Following on that a further supplementary. Is that 12 by domicile or 12 by grant?

HON. D.V. WATLER: There are different ways in which a person can obtain Caymanian Status. One is by domicile, and domicile is the one by grant. By grant and domicile is one and the same. But you have those that you get through marriage where a Caymanian marries a British Subject that is not a Caymanian and then that wife is deemed to be a Caymanian. Likewise you have persons born in the Cayman Islands by British parents that are not Caymanians and they likewise.

But the 12 that I am speaking of are British Subjects that are domicile and come in and reside here for five years or over.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: A further supplementary, Mr. President. Can Cayman status be granted to the husband of a Cayman woman on the quota basis?

HON. D.V. WATLER: Caymanian status is granted to a British Subject under the British Nationality Act - a wife cannot pass Nationality so that the husband will have to be a British Subject. If he is not

HON. D.V. WATLER: (CONT'D): a British Subject he cannot get it. And he would have to qualify in his own rights and not under the rights of the wife.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: A further supplementary, Mr. President. To be a lucky recipient under the quota system would the First Official Member say if it seems likely or if it is necessary to amend our present Nationality Laws?

HON. D.V. WATLER: No. I have no idea that Government is considering any amendment. Indeed, we cannot amend our Nationality Act - that is the British Nationality Act.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: A further supplementary on the quota system. Can we amend the Caymanian Protection Law to make provision so that the husband of a Cayman woman would be a lucky recipient under the quota system?

HON. D.V WATLER: No. I don't think we can because as I said before we are a British Colony and as a British Colony we are bound by the British Nationality Act. We can amend our Caymanian Protection Law yes, but then it depends on whether the husband is a British Subject or not.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: Mr. President, a further supplementary question to the First Official Member. Does it seem at this time that it may be a need for an amendment or an increase of the applicants to this 12? In other words is Government faced with the amount of the quota then that it might think that it would be necessary to increase this amount from 12 to 18, 20 or what per annum?

HON. D.V. WATLER: This amount has been set, this quota has been set by the Executive Council and is open for review as it seems necessary and advisable.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: Mr. President, I would like to ask the First Official Member if this quota of 12 has already been filled or it is still some open places?

HON. D.V. WATLER: I don't know because as I said I don't know the number that has been granted.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: A further supplementary, Sir. This maybe a legal point but I am wondering under our law when we say that if he is here five years he qualifies for Caymanian status and on the quota basis of 12 it may take fifty years for him to become - how would we treat him in between?

MR. PRESIDENT: That sounds remarkably like a hypothetical question to me. Out of order.

CAPT. A.A. REID: Mr. President, may I ask the First Official Member if in this context of British Subjects does that include everybody who is in the Commonwealth? Or are we talking about people from England and Great Britain and Ireland only?

HON. D.V.WATLER: All persons in the British Commonwealth are looked upon as British Subjects. But for registration purposes to qualify for a British Passport the subjects of Independent Colonies have to reside in a British Territory , a dependent Territory into Britain for five years before they can be registered and eligible for a British Passport.

CAPT. A.A. REID: A further supplementary. I can assure you, Sir, that we are not treated - or I am not treated the same way in the

CAPT. A.A. REID: (CONT'D): West Indian Islands as I am treated in England, I have no problem there or in fact in Europe. When they see a British Passport they don't even open it they hand it back to you. But in the Caribbean Area .....(INTERRUPTION).

MR. PRESIDENT: We are waiting with interest to hear a question.

MR. PRESIDENT: If there are no further supplementaries next question stands in the name of the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (SECOND ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE DISTRICT OF BODDEN TOWN) TO ASK THE FIRST OFFICIAL MEMBER:-

Will Government give consideration to an amendment to the Cinematograph Law allowing for the setting up of a Censor Board?

ANSWER:

Government has from time to time considered this very carefully, but procedural difficulties and expense suggest that it would be wise to continue to rely for the present on external certification.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Mr. President, may I ask the First Official Member what procedural difficulties he envisages?

HON. D.V. WATLER: You would have to get persons who are qualified to be able to act as a censor. And what standards are you going to set under this? And it is though with a lot of difficulties to be able to get proper standards.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: A further supplementary, Mr. President. Maybe a Censor Board is not the answer but would Government give some consideration to the controlling of admissions of let's say pre-teenagers to alot of these shows?

HON. D.V. WATLER: There is no legislation that I know of at present to control the persons that will go into shows. But all of the shows that are advertised they have their ratings given and it would seem that the guardians and parents are the ones that would be better able to control the minors and young persons from entering the shows that are rated unsuitable for them to attend.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Further supplementary, Mr. President. If a person is mature enough they should be allowed to see anything they want to see, but I am thinking whether it would be possible for Government to consider enacting some sort of legislation that would control this admission because I cannot forsee it being that difficult to be done. And it could be probably easier controlled in our present economy than it is the other way, Sir.

HON. D.V. WATLER: It would give you a certain amount of difficulty still because even if you had an age limit placed you have children or young persons appearing at that Cinema would they have to take their birth certificates with them? Or how would the operator know the age? This is where some of the difficulties come in.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: A further supplementary to that. A Driver's Licence would be a good idea. Because I think you have to be seventeen on that.

MR. PRESIDENT: Don't hear a question there.

MR. CLAUDE HILL: Supplementary please, Sir. I would like to ask the First Official Member if a Censor Board is not the answer, if Government is giving some consideration as to what would assist in the showing of certain pictures?

HON. D.V. WATLER: I am afraid, Mr. President, I am not too sure of what exactly the Member's question is. As I said the Government has from time to time been considering it and is of the opinion that for the present it is better to depend on external certification, the ratings as given in those.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Another supplementary, Mr. President. Just for some clarification. Can the First Official Member tell us what expense would be involved in setting up a Censor Board? The reason why I am asking this is because the answer says that procedural difficulties and expense suggests that it would be wise to continue to rely for the present on external certification. Can you say what expense would be involved?

HON. D.V. WATLER: That would be the employment of the Censor Board and any equipment that would be required for them to use.

MR.CLAUDE HILL: Another supplementary, Mr. President. I would like the First Official Member to state if Government depends on external certification at all times in certain matters dealing in cinematographic?

HON. D.V. WATLER: Do I understand the question correctly, if Government is prepared to consider the certification in all instances?

MR. CLAUDE HILL: Mr. President, I would like to ask the First Official Member if Government depends on external certification dealing in matters of cinematographic or showing of pictures in general?

HON. D.V. WATLER: Yes.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Another supplementary, Mr. President. Is the expense involved really sufficient to exclude the setting up of a Censor Board?

HON. D.V. WATLER: As I said the procedural difficulties and the expense, there are two things involved.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: Mr. President, will the First Official Member say whether relying on the external certification that all or whatever portion of pictures teenagers may see - I mean of certain types of films it will be to any benefit or in other words what is the effort then that Government would make to try to control the viewing of certain pictures by teenagers since it is difficult to set up a Censor Board?

HON. D.V. WATLER: I am not too sure of the question but if it is as I said before that all pictures that come in have a rating and the control of who should see those pictures is really the business of the parents and guardians of the youth.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: If I am allowed to ask the First Official Member is it then the policy, according to the Cinematographic Law, that any picture regardless of how lude, how bad, how disgraceful it may appear that there is nothing to stop it being shown?

HON. D.V. WATLER: There is nothing in our law to prohibit the showing of a film.

MR. CLAUDE HILL: Mr. President, one supplementary question more, Sir. Has Government had any complaints as to pictures being shown in the island?

HON. D.V. WATLER: There have been quite alot into the papers about the various pictures, yes.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, a supplementary on that. You just told us not to pay any attention to the Press.

MR. PRESIDENT: I didn't particularly want to intervene on that point, I agree. The question was whether Government has had any complaints?

HON. D.V. WATLER: No the Government hasn't.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: Mr. President, one further question. Since there is nothing in the law to control this, what is Government's intentions of doing something about controlling it?

HON. D.V. WATLER: The Government has no considerations just now of doing anything. What could happen in case of a Cinema breaking any laws and that is breaking the laws they could - their licence could be revoked.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: How can we break a law if there is no law to cover it?

HON. D.V. WATLER: Well that is what I said. Only in case they break a law. But the showing of a film of any particular type is not the breaking of the law.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: Mr. President, is it the intention of this Government then because it maybe the interest of some parents to take their children to be dragged down in their standards - is it the intention for Government to let all children or young people in this country be dragged down and demoralised through these things?

HON. D.V. WATLER: I think I said before that the Government is not the parents of children. It is for the parents of children to see what their children do. It is not the Government. The Government is not the parent to go around to see whether - what their children do and what they see. Its the parents themselves or guardians.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: Where do these offenders end up in the home then or in the Courts that is headed by Government?

MR. PRESIDENT: Sorry I didn't hear a question.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: One further supplementary, Mr. President. Would Government .....(INTERRUPTION)

MR.CRADDOCK EBANKS: Mr. President, I asked the question through seeing some of these pictures the teenagers become whatever they maybe - turn out to be - where do they end up then with their offences and their crimes and their bad behaviour, if it is back in the home or in the courts?

MR. PRESIDENT: I think this is getting dangerously close to Standing Order 25 (5) which says, 'that a question may not be asked for the purpose of obtaining an expression of opinion or the answer to a hypothetical proposition'. Think we better leave

MR. PRESIDENT: (CONT'D): it at that.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: One further supplementary on that, Mr. President. Is the First Official Member in espousing Government's views waiting for this to be brought from this side of the House as a Motion knowing it will be defeated?

MR. PRESIDENT: Oh dear we do do violence to our Standing Orders don't we? Out of order.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Mr. President, just one more, this is my last supplementary question. In the answer I read that it is wise to continue to rely for the present on external certification. My question is what steps are being taken to ensure that the requirements of the external certification are carried out?

I can clarify that question if I am allowed Mr. President. I think the external certification that is referred to is the ratings on the pictures X R PG and G which I think come mostly from United States or England; and in those countries those certifications means like an X rated picture wouldn't be shown to minors, what are we doing to see that the X rated pictures are not shown to minors? We are relying as the answer says on external certification.

HON. D.V. WATLER: I think I answered that before that it would be difficult for any operator to be able to tell the age and, therefore, we are depending on the parents when they know the age limit to see that their children do not go.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: A further supplementary. But Mr. President, in other countries like my colleague has just explained these films are not shown to certain people under certain ages. I think our question is whether we will consider putting such a thing into our law as the other countries have which affect this or whether we are just going to leave it open?

MR. PRESIDENT: Yes I am well aware of what the objects of the question are and I don't want to lay it down - the question of what sort physical control be imposed is a new issue though it is in fact. If the First Official Member can give any further information about that.

No. I thought not.

We have two separate questions here, of course, the question that has been asked is whether Government will give consideration to an amemdment of the Cinematographic Law allowing for the setting up of a Censor Board? That has been answered, quite clearly. If there is the second mind of questioning dedicated to what is Government's intention as to physical control so as to impose what the laws of other countries , that I think must be treated as a new question.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, one final question, Sir. Can we wait then for Government to bring this Motion?

MR. PRESIDENT: I am not sure what that question means? Out of order.

Next question standing in the name of the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (SECOND ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE DISTRICT OF BODDEN TOWN) TO ASK THE SECOND OFFICIAL MEMBER:

Under what authority was authorisation given to the Caymanian Protection Board to decide that persons could not change from one job to another?

ANSWER:

The Caymanian Protection Board is a statutory body established under the Caymanian Protection Law, 1971, and its functions and powers amongst other things, include the granting of gainful occupation licences under the Law. In the exercise of that function and power the Board has a discretion, subject to any general directions given by the Governor in Council, to refuse or to grant an application for a gainful occupation licence, and, if granted, to attach such conditions or limitations to such licence as it may determine.

On the 21st of June, 1973 the Governor in Council issued general directions to the Board to the effect that holders of gainful occupation licences normally should not be allowed to change employers, but in circumstances that the Board considered that it was desirable, and the licensee was being victimised, then they could allow it.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: A supplementary, Mr. President. If you had to appeal in a case of this nature, being ExCo is an body and appears to have overstepped its bound, how could you apply because Caesar would be applying unto Caesar?

HON. G.E. WADDINGTON: That is what the law says, Mr. President, and if an appeal was made in circumstances where the Governor in Council had issued general directions the appeal would be dismissed.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: A further supplementary, Sir. In view of this action is Government aware that this will tend to create bondage and the lowering of wages that are paid to certain people, Sir?

HON. G.E. WADDINGTON: As far as I am aware I am not aware of any such results, Mr. President.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Would you try to become aware in the near future?

MR. PRESIDENT: First Member for Bodden Town sorry the Member here has priority.

CAPT. A.A. REID: Mr. President, may I ask the Honourable Second Official Member if Government would give consideration to putting the onus on contractors, employers in all categories to report to this Government the number of men they have on their payroll and if they all have working permits? Because I believe, in fact I am sure that this Government is being robbed out of a lot of money in this respect. And until we give that onus on the contractors we'll never control it.

HON. G.E. WADDINGTON: I am unable to answer that question, Mr. President, that is a matter of policy for the Board.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: A further supplementary, Sir, in view that I had to yield to my colleague from the Republic of Cayman Brac. Will you try in the near future to become aware of whether this is happening and report back to the House?

HON. G.E. WADDINGTON: Again, Mr. President, I am unable to give any such assurance that's a matter of policy for the Board.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, a further supplementary. This is not a policy, Sir, I am enquiring into lets say the disadvantages that are created by doing such a thing,Sir, and I do nt think that my learned colleague can claim this under policy.

MR. PRESIDENT: What you're not doing unfortunately is asking a question. Out of order.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: A further supplementary. Was this done under the usual discretionary loopholes?

MR. PRESIDENT: Out of order.

The final question in the name of the First Elected Member for Bodden Town.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN (FIRST ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE DISTRICT OF BODDEN TOWN) TO ASK THE SECOND OFFICIAL MEMBER:

Will Government give consideration to allowing persons to be articled to a Law Firm for a specified period of time and then sit an examination under Government auspices which will be set by the Law Society and Government, and successful candidates be admitted as Attorneys-at-Law?

ANSWER:

No. Government would not be averse however, to giving consideration to a system providing for the articling of persons to admitted Attorneys-at-law after passing examinations to be set and adjudged by an appropriate examining body acceptable to Government.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: I think that we do follow English custom alot, and I think under the usual English practice it is somewhat customary for a person to become articled and then become a Lawyer or an Attorney; will we give due consideration to that in due course?

HON. G.E. WADDINGTON: Mr. President,my answer to the original Question answered that supplementary question.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, if you could just give me a minute I may have some more when I get the answer back here that I can read it.

A supplementary, Sir. In your answer has any policy decision then been set as to how you would adjudge an appropriate examining body that would be acceptable to Government?

HON. G.E. WADDINGTON: The answer is no, Mr. President.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, is it possible then that we can give some due consideration to setting up and authorising this body to do the same thing that the Attorney-General has answered me on so that our local people can take advantage of this rather than having to go abroad?

HON. G.E. WADDINGTON: This is a matter,Mr. President, that would have to come from the Law Society. And if the Law Society put up any proposals of this nature then such proposals would be given due consideration by Government as stated in my answer.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: A further supplementary, Mr. President. I cannot agree with that. How would that have to come from Government? Is the Law Society running the Government?

MR. PRESIDENT: Out of order.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: Mr. President, I would like to ask the Second Official Member if such a proposal could not come from some other source than the Law Society?

HON. G.E. WADDINGTON: The answer is yes, Mr. President.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Would you entertain a Motion from this side of the House then rather than the Law Society?

HON. G.E. WADDINGTON: I am not prepared to answer that question Mr. President.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: Mr. President, would the Second Official Member say then what source would be entertained by Government on this behalf?

HON. G.E. WADDINGTON: Government would entertain proposals from any recognised source, Mr. President.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, a supplementary. Is the Legislative Assembly considered a legitimate source then?

HON. G.E. WADDINGTON: The answer is yes, Mr. President.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Thank you.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: Mr. President, then it has been flatly expressed then that the Law Society is running this country.

MR. PRESIDENT: Out of order.

MR. PRESIDENT: If there are no more questions, supplementary questions that is, that brings us to the end of the Questions that have so far been put down on the Order Paper and provides a convenient opportunity to adjourn for lunch until 2.15 p.m. Thank you.

HOUSE SUSPENDED

HOUSE RESUMED.

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members please be seated. Item 4 - Government Business - First The Judicature (Administration of Justice) (Amendment) Law, 1974.

THE JUDICATURE (ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE) (AMENDMENT) LAW, 1974.

INTRODUCTION & FIRST READING

MOVED BY HON. G.E. WADDINGTON

SECONDED BY HON. D.V. WATLER

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: BILL INTRODUCED & GIVEN A FIRST READING.

CLERK: THE JUDICATURE (ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE) (AMENDMENT) LAW, 1974.

SECOND READING

HON. G.E. WADDINGTON: At present, Mr. President and Members, a juryman attending Grand Court is only entitled to receive as an allowance for his lost of his time, in the measly sum of a one dollarper day. That has been the fee for a considerable number of years, and it is thought that with today's values that this sum is completely inadequate. Not that it is desired to really remunerate jurymen because they are preforming a service, as a citizen of the country which I'm quite sure they would be happy to preform, even if they were not paid. But, one has to be practical, and it is only reasonable in my submission to increase this sum from the old inadequate sum of $1 to a more realistic figure of $10 per day; and this is what this bill seeks to do, by amending section 125 of the law, by substituting the words 'ten shillings' which now appears therein, and putting instead the words 'ten dollars'.

I recommend this bill for the favourable consideration of Members of this House.

SECONDED BY HON. D.V. WATLER.

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members opportunity arises to debate on the general merits and principles of the bill.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Mr. President, Honourable Members of this House, I must say that I agree with every word that has been said by the Member introducing this bill. It is quite time that we bring the allowance for jurors up to a figure which is in keeping with everything else.

This figure of $1 per day to jurors, has been paid for a long time, probably from the time that Columbus discovered these Islands. We have neglected upgrading it,until today it is necessary to bring it up by one thousand per cent, which is a very big increase, and I think another Law to be upgraded, will later on today be seeking an upgrading of ten thousand per cent. I hope no other item in this island will have to be increased by ten thousand per cent at one time. But I feel that it is very necessary to attach a sufficient allowance so that a person serving as a juror can go to a place where he can eat a lunch on that day, which is in keeping with the great office or the great service that

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: (CONT'D) a juror performs. The jury system in my opinion is a very fundamental part of our administration of justice; and I wholeheartedly support this increase, and just as the Second Member said I also think that we should never really try to pay a juror for his day in court, because many of them would be too happy to serve if there was nothing attached. But as many hardships are incurred by the day workers,especially, who have to lose their whole day's pay, I think it is only right they should have a figure sufficient to buy them a good lunch on that day. I support this amendment.

CAPT. A.A. REID: Mr. President, and Honourable Members of this House I wholeheartedly support this amendment.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: Mr. President and Members, I just could only add to what has been said, that the only thing, some of these smaller things, is what createsan unhappy feeling among some of our people, that have to serve even in these capacities. However small or insignificant their work may be, there is no reason apparently why this shouldn't have been given consideration many years ago, not just today; and while thirty or forty people might be taken off - most of them from their permanent place of employment and what not for a day to come in for a bench to be selected, and not be paid transportation, and enough for food allowance, is kind of ridiculous. But I'm glad that this has been brought forward, and I'm positive that I'm speaking for all members, that it's a well deserving case, and we're glad that it has been brought forth now, even at a late date; and I'm sure that members who have served on the jury of the public from time to time, they have done so wholeheartedly, and I don't think this will be an incentive to them to want to clammer to become a juryman or a jurywoman, as the case may be, but they'll feel better satisfied to know that they can earn enough for the day, to pay their lunch bill and their transportation passage if they don't have a vehicle of their own.

So I support this wholeheartedly, and hope that it will be able to go into effect at a very early date. Thank you.

MR. CLAUDE HILL: Mr. President, and Honourable Members, I rise to support this bill. For the present allowance of money allotted to juryman attending the Grand Court, as the Second Official member stated has been long overdue, and I feel that words could not express how much. It's not a matter of a raise, it is an honour to serve their country, and I'm sure the jurymen who have served on the bench have administered their services without expecting any pay even, some of them. But when you take a man who has a job, and he has to leave his job and attend court, there must be some compensation given him; and it is no use of anyone elaborating on this particular bill, the only thing, as I've said it has been long overdue, and with that I wholeheartedly support this bill; and I thank you Sir.

MR. PRESIDENT: If on one elsewishes to speak I shall ask the Second Official Member to wind up.

HON. G.E. WADDINGTON: Mr. President, Honourable Members, I'm very gratified to see that this bill has received the wholehearted support of members of the House, and nothing now remains, but for me to move that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House to consider the bill clause by clause and amend it as may be deemed necessary.

SECONDED BY HON. D.V. WATLER.

MR. PRESIDENT: I pause to welcome the Second Member for West Bay, who I trust has recovered.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: BILL GIVEN A SECOND READING

COMMITTEE THEREON

MOVED BY HON. G.E. WADDINGTON
SECONDED BY HON. D.V. WATLER
CLERK: CLAUSE 1 SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT
QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 1 PASSED
CLERK: CLAUSE 2 INTERPRETATION
QUESTION PUT: AGREED CLAUSE 2 PASSED
CLERK: CLAUSE 3 SECTION 125 SUBSECTION (1) AMENDED
QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 3 PASSED
CLERK: A LAW TO AMEND THE JUDICATURE (ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE) LAW.
QUESTION PUT: AYES
TITLE PASSED

HOUSE RESUMEND

REPORT THEREON

HON. G.E. WADDINGTON: Mr. President, I have to report that a Bill entitled "The Judicature (Administration of Justice) (Amendment) Law, 1974" was considered clause by clause by a committee of the whole House and passed without any amendments and accepted; and I would beg to move, Sir, that this Bill be given a Third Reading, tomorrow, 13th day of March, 1974.

MR. PRESIDENT: Slight procedural mix-up, in that I see that we haven't got the Third Reading of the Bill for today. We might just as well do it really - now does the House have any objections?

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 54

MOVED BY HON. G.E. WADDINGTON

SECONDED BY HON. D.V.WATLER

QUESTION PUT: AGREED

STANDING ORDER 54 SUSPENDED

THIRD READING

MOVED BY HON. G.E. WADDINGTON

SECONDED BY HON. D.V. WATLER

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. BILL READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED.

CLERK: THE JUDICATURE (ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE) (AMENDMENT) LAW, 1974.

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members, the next item "The Mosquito (Research and Control) (Amendment) Law, 1974."

THE MOSQUITO (RESEARCH AND CONTROL) (AMENDMENT) LAW, 1974

INTRODUCTION & FIRST READING

MOVED BY HON. W.W. CONOLLY

SECONDED BY HON. D.V. WATLER

QUESTION PUT: AGREED BILL INTRODUCED & GIVEN A FIRST READING

CLERK: THE MOSQUITO (RESEARCH AND CONTROL) (AMENDMENT) LAW, 1974.

SECOND READING

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: Recently the presence of the Aedes aegyti mosquitoes in the Cayman Islands, has called for certain additional measures for Mosquito control, and with the building of marinas, it was thought necessary to introduce this Bill which seeks to put the onus on boats coming into this island, whether they are at the harbour here in George Town, or they're going to a marina, or any other place. The responsibility of ensuring that all water vessels are mosquito proofed.

The Bill is a very short one and it seeks to add two sections to Section 25 of the Law, which is the Mosquito Research Control Law.

I think this is very necessary in order for the Mosquito Research Unit to have the control which is necessary. I'm sure it's in everybody's favour to ensure that the island is freed from these mosquitoes; and to ensure that their presence do not occur again. I recommend the Bill.

SECONDED BY HON. D.V. WATLER.

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members the question arises for debate on the general merits and principles of the Bill.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, and fellow Members, I take much pleasure, Sir, in that I agree with this Bill. But there is a golden opportunity, I think presented to us here, and I would not like to let it pass without commenting on it.

There has been a very persistent rumour recently, that boats are coming into this island and not clearing, in or out and no one knows where they come from. So maybe by implementing this law it may assist us to take care of that matter. It is also rumoured that boats come, leave here, short periods of time - eight to ten days, come back and people know they're here call the police or the immigration, whoever is responsible there, and advise that the boats are in, and asked that they be boarded, and it has not been done and things have been ferried back and forth from these boats at night.

Now you may pin me down to try to find out how I substantiate this, but let me say it is a very persistent rumour, and I thought this was a golden opportunity to bring this point to the attention of the House. So I fully support the bill in its entirety. Thank you Sir.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: Mr. President, and Members of this House I too support this Mosquito (Research and Control) (Amendment). I feel that it is very necessary to do all possible to have mosquitoes eradicated.

A couple of weeks ago, very unfortunately they showered down themselves and were almost thick as ever. But I feel that we should not let that discourage us, but go ahead and try and control, and if possible eradicate this pest.

Now maybe we're out of order, I don't know whether the First Member from Bodden Town is or not. But, there are persistent rumours that ships come here, which are never boarded, which come from unknown ports, never cleared, and there is quite a feeling of dissatisfaction, I must say in regard to this; and I don't know if the Mosquito Control Law will have any purpose to eradicate this pest, but I'm very sure that it is something to it. Thank you Sir.

CAPT. A.A. REID: Mr. President, I rise to support this Law, but I feel that I'd be lacking in my duty if I didn't make a suggestion in another line, and a very important one too, and that is the rats - foreign rats that are imported.

Now every ship in nearly every other part of the world is bound by law to put on rat guard, and pull away from the dock eight feet at night. I don't say that all rats are going to be afraid to jump eight feet, but as a rule they won't jump in the water; and I think that keen consideration should be given to this proposal, because we run a risk at bringing many diseases in here, it's not impossible to get rabies that way; and that's another thing too, that I know for certain dogs have come into this country not many, but I know of two cases, and I'm quite sure they didn't have any certificate with them.

But I do feel that above everything as necessary as the Mosquito Law, is the rat guards, and that ships should pull away from our dock at night, by breasting off, that all lines are probably rat guarded.

MR. CLAUDE HILL: Mr. President, and Honourable Members, I rise to support this Bill in its entirety.

Since the presence of the Aedes aegyti calls for certain additional measures, I feel that this in itself may prove a success, and as the First Elected Member from Bodden Town has stated, that rumours have it, I have heard those rumours myself, I have no proof as to what I've heard in regards to ships coming into this harbour or into the island in general, but where there is smoke there is fire; and I support this bill in its entirety, and I hope that with this law seeking to protect us from the aegyti mosquitoes, will also protect us from some slackness that exists on our water-front. Thank you Sir.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: Mr. President, Members, I'm not too alarmed about the mosquito situation, or the pest of the mosquitoes, because I born and found them here, presumedly I will die and leave them too. But the Bible says render to Caeser the things that are due to Caesar, and I can only say that this department is doing a magnificent job, not only done but still doing. I realise that we've got a few people kind of had the feeling that the next day after this unit went into operation we shouldn't have anymore mosquitoes. We still have a few that is saying that they ain't doing but a poor job. Well I am here to say that I think, in repeating my words they have been doing a magnificent job, and I am prepared to support every effort

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: (CONT'D): that will further assist in bringing these nuisance to a minimum, where we may be able to live in as it were, sort of a complete peace. I am not thinking that we'll forever have them completely eradicated, because there are countries like Canada and the United States, and Mexico and Australia, and what not, that have been battling these things for countless numbers of years, and they still have a few to deal with.

So I'm hoping that we will get them to that place, but even at that, as it is I think we are enjoying a reasonable amount of satisfaction during the whole year, except occasionally for a night or two, if a little flair up. So I give my whole support to this, hoping that the Mosquito Research staff will be able to contact these little fishing boats, yachts , or whatever they may be entering into these marina areas, and see that the proper precaution is carried out, in fogging, or spraying or whatever the case may be. So I give my wholehearted support to this Bill.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Mr. President, Honourable Members, just to show that there is no bias in my heart, I rise to fully endorse what has been said, and would also like to add a further compliment to our Minister for Lands Natural Resources and Development, and that compliment is, on the matter of increasing the penalties from a meagre fifty pounds to a substantial $500 an increase of 500%, and I'm happy to say that I agree with everything this amendment aims to do. I thank you.

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: Mr. President, and Members, I think it's the concensus of opinion that Members are in agreement with this Bill, as it stands. There is just one point I would like to draw members' attention to, and that is, one member spoke of infestation of rats. Actually this bill has been mentioned by the Member for Health that in the new Public Health legislation there will be adequate provisions for same. Also in respect of importation of animals, there is at the present time on our statue books adequate legislation to deal with the importation of animals.

This bill is dealing with the Aedes aegyti mosquitoes, particularly, and these are not only pests, but these are the yellow fever carrying mosquitoes which is very dangerous to the health of these Islands.

I formally move the Second Reading of this Bill, Sir.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. BILL READ A SECOND TIME.

COMMITTEE THEREON

MOVED BY HON. W.W. CONOLLY.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED HOUSE IN COMMITTEE

CLERK: SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT - CLAUSE 1

CLAUSE 1 PASSED

CLERK: CLAUSE 2 INTEREPATION

CLAUSE 2 PASSED

CLERK: CLAUSE 3 - AMENDMENT TO SECTION 25 OF LAW 16 OF 1966

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to make an amendment in this. On the second page there in (c) the words adding after the proviso to paragraph (vii) the following two paragraphs - and then instead of (vii) it's (viii). I think your papers have (vii) on it - it's probably a misprint. The figure is (viii).

I don't know how many members have compared the amendment with the present law. But I would like to say that the section 25 was formally amended in 1968 and it reads - "It shall be obligatory on all Agents for all ships, and this law that we are doing now, and operators of marinas hosting sea going vessels" be added. The obligation rests on the Agents for all ships calling to Grand Cayman, or operating out of Grand Cayman, so the Mosquito Research has a comeback on the Agent; if we do not comply with this law.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 3 PASSED.

CLERK: A LAW TO AMEND THE MOSQUITO (RESEARCH AND CONTROL) LAW, 1966.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. TITLE PASSED.

HOUSE RESUMED

REPORT THEREON

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: Mr. President, I beg to report that a Bill entitled "The Mosquito (Research and Control) (Amendment) Law, 1974" has been through a committee of the whole House and with the amendment to subsection (c) the insection of (viii) instead of (vii); the Bill has been agreed by the committee.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 54

MOVED BY HON. W.W. CONOLLY

SECONDED BY HON. D.V. WATLER

QUESTION PUT: AGREED

STANDING ORDER 54 SUSPENDED

THIRD READING

MOVED BY HON. W.W. CONOLLY

SECONDED BY HON. D.V. WATLER

QUESTION PUT: AGREED BILL READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED

CLERK: THE MOSQUITO (RESEARCH AND CONTROL) (AMENDMENT) LAW, 1974.

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members, Item 3, The Coroner's (Amendment) Law, 1974.

THE CORONER'S (AMENDMENT) LAW, 1974

INTRODUCTION & FIRST READING

MOVED BY HON. G.E. WADDINGTON

SECONDED BY HON. D.V. WATLER

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. BILL INTRODUCED & GIVEN A FIRST READING

CLERK: THE CORONER'S (AMENDMENT) LAW, 1974.

SECOND READING

HON. G.E. WADDINGTON: Mr. President, I beg to move, Sir, the Second Reading of a Bill entitled "The Coroner's (Amendment) Law, 1974. "

This Bill, Mr. President and Members of this House is sister bill to the Bill to amend The Judicature (Administration of Justice) (Amendmant) Law, in that the fees payable to a coroner's juror is at the moment ten cents for the entire proceedings, not even per day. And so it is sought, Mr. President and Members to bring this in line with the jurors under the other law, by increasing the fee to ten dollars per day; and I have no doubt that the members of this House will give this Bill the same support that they did to the previous one.

SECONDED BY HON. D.V. WATLER.

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable members the opportunity arises for a debate on the general merits and principles of this Bill.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Mr. President, Members of this House, I hardly need to say that I support this Bill. But it has served the purpose of telling me something that I didn't know all along, from the time I was a young man, in my twenties, I have served on a coroner's jury, and I was always under the impression that there was no allowance. I think the reason for this was, that the amount was so small nobody ever bothered to claim it; and I am glad that we are now giving some measure of respectbility to the office of a coroner's jury, and I wholeheartedly support this. But I can assure you this is the only thing that can come before this House that I will give a ten thousand percent increase in one sitting.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: Mr. President, and Members of this House, I rise to support this Bill, and I have only one comment to make. That when these Islands were referred to this morning as "Fortunate", I would say this, that this proves that now we can afford to pay ten dollars per day, when those far off days ten cents for a period of may be two or three weeks, was thought a luxury.

CAPT. A.A. REID: Mr. President, and Honourable Members, I support this bill, and as the First Elected Member from Bodden Town suggested that the rate must have been fixed for the jurors in Columbus' time. I would say this one at least dates back to Morgan's days. And I certainly support it.

MR. CLAUDE HILL: Mr. President, and Honourable Members, I voice the sentiments of the Second Elected Member from Bodden Town, as a man who has served on many a case. I feel that what he has said has a lot of talk to it, and with that I fully support this Bill, Sir.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: Mr. President it appears like it's getting time for Members of the Executive Council to come out of their shell and say something on some of these bills; they will have an impression going out as if they weren't in favour, so some of them better wake up from their sleep, and say something.

I support this Mr. President, and it would be good if you could even give them some little back pay, I think they well deserve it.

MR. PRESIDENT: If no other Member wishes to participate - Second Official Member.

HON. G.E. WADDINGTON: Once again, Mr. President I'm glad to see that Members of this House have given this bill their wholehearted support; and nothing remains, but to perhaps point out to the Member for North Side, that this bill has already received the support of Executive Council in appearing before the House at all. And I would now Mr. President, move that this House resolve itself into a committee of the whole House to study the bill clause by clause and amend it as may be deemed necessary.

MR. PRESIDENT: I think just to tidy up procedure, first of all I have to move that the bill be read a Second time.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. BILL READ A SECOND TIME.

MR. PRESIDENT: Now, may we have a seconder for the motion to resolve ourselves into committee,please.

SECONDED BY HON. D.V. WATLER.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. COMMITTEE THEREON

COMMITTEE THEREON

CLERK: CLAUSE 1 - SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT

QUESTION PUT: AGREED CLAUSE 1 PASSED

CLERK: CLAUSE 2 - SECTION 5 OF CAP. 26 AMENDED.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 2 PASSED

CLERK: A LAW TO AMEND THE CORONER'S LAW.

TITLE PASSED.

HOUSE RESUMED

REPORT THEREON

HON. G.E. WADDINGTON: Mr. President, I have to report that a Bill entitled "The Coroner"s (Amendment) Law, 1974" was considered clause by clause by a committee of the whole House, and passed without amendment, and accepted. And I would now beg to move, Sir the suspension of Standing Order 54 to enable this bill to be taken through its remaining stages at this sitting.

SECONDED BY HON. D.V. WATLER.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. STANDING ORDER 54 SUSPENDED

THIRD READING

MOVED BY HON. G.E. WADDINGTON.

SECONDED BY HON. D.V. WATLER

QUESTION PUT: AGREED

CLERK: THE CORONER'S (AMENDMENT) LAW, 1974.

HOUSE SUSPENDED

HOUSE RESUMED

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members, the remaining item on today's order paper, "The Loan (Capital Projects) (Amendment) Law, 1974."

THE LOAN (CAPITAL PROJECTS) (AMENDMENT) LAW, 1974.

INTRODUCTION & FIRST READING

MOVED BY HON. V.G. JOHNSON

SECONDED BY HON. D.V. WATLER

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. BILL INTRODUCED AND GIVEN A FIRST READING

CLERK: THE LOAN (CAPITAL PROJECTS) (AMENDMENT) LAW, 1974.

SECOND READING

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: Mr. President, Honourable Members, I move the Second Reading of a bill entitled The Loan (Capital Projects) (Amendment) Law, 1974.

Mr. President, it is regretted that so early after the coming into effect of the main law, The Loan (Capital Projects) Law, 1973, that an amendment is being requested to it. This arose from the fact that the main law contained a reference to the provisions of the Debentures (Local) Law, (Cap. 33), and it was discovered that although the Law in itself embodied in The Loan (Capital Projects) Law was permissive, it was thought that to remove doubt and from the fact that loans raised under The Loan (Capital Projects) Law with the Debentures (Local) Law incorporated would require loans being made with the issue of either treasury bills or Debentures; and the form of loan which the Government wish to raise under this Law, is the straightforward loan by agreement, and therefore the legal opinion was that the present law should be amended to remove this doubt. At the same time it was thought that since an amendment was necessary that the amendment should also contain provision for the exemption of stamp duty from the raising of the loan. This is not a very important matter all the same, because even if stamp duty was to be paid, it would only mean that Government would receive the revenue on the one hand, and pay on the other. But in order to avoid this sort of transaction, it is being proposed that this amendment law contains the provision exempting any of the loans raised under this law from the provisions of the Stamp Duty Law.

Mr. President, that is the reason for the amendment coming forward, and I must say that as yet Government is not able to negotiate any loans under this law, because of the amendment which is necessary to the law. And I would therefore ask members of this House to consider the proposals in this amendment, and accept it as being presented. Thank you Sir.

SECONDED BY HON. D.V. WATLER

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members, the opportunity now arises for a debate on the general merits and principles of the Bill.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, fellow Members, its been so nice in here this afternoon, that I just about went to sleep in this comfortable and expensive chair.

I hate to be the one to break the spell, and raise may be an unpleasant note. I do agree with the ideas behind the Bill, but I would appreciate seeing section 4 of the Bill changed a bit. In my mind it gives too much control to the Governor in Council. I feel like this Legislative House should know where this money is raised, in what manner it is raised, and what the terms of the payment and the interest as well as the repayment would be. I wholeheartedly support the section concerning the stamp tax, but feel that this section should be reworded, because it does give a lot of latitude. Thank you.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: Mr. President, and Members of this House, I rise to support the Bill, and I feel that we can trust our Executive Council, and the Governor in an issue such as this. I do trust them beyond this I must say, very much so, I'm not pleased with some of their preformance, in as much as I'm not notified of certain things that I feel I'm entitled to hear, but on the whole I give them a chance, and I'm not going to question this thing because I feel the Governor and our Council will not do anything out of order. Thank you Sir.

MR. CLAUDE HILL: Mr. President, Honourable Members, I rise to support this Bill. While reading the Memorandum of Objects and Reasons of this Bill, and seeing it is aimed to exempt Government from stamp duty on a loan, or any loan under this law as the Third Official Member stated I feel that this Bill does not need to be debated, actually. It's just a matter, not saying that everyone here is a "yes man", because if you're a no man, you're no man at all; and I rise to support this, as I said in the first instance, and I wholeheartedly support it. Thank you.

MR. JOHN JEFFERSON: Mr. President, I don't feel that I need to say anything on this Bill, but like the Third Member from George Town so ably stated, sometimes you're misunderstood, if you don't speak out on somethings.

I rise to support this Bill, Mr. President, in its entirety and I think it is straightforward. I support it as it is presented. Thank you.

CAPT. A.A. REID: Mr. President, and Honourable Members, I support this Bill in its entirety, and I should agree with the First Elected Member from Bodden Town, only if the Governor had proven himself to be a dictator. It is worded in this way just simply because he is head of the Government, and I'm quite sure he isn't going to spend any money, or pay it out in any way that isn't conducive to the consent of the rest in Executive Council, and if we can't trust them in that manner, we may as well give up now.

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: Mr. President, I don't feel really that I have anything further to say, because all the members except one have given full support to the Bill. The point that was raise by the First Elected Member for Bodden Town, is perhaps something that we could not very well entertain. Governor in Council must have latitude to negotiate loans, and I don't think members need have any fear where this particular law is concerned, because the loans will be coming from three main sources, to my knowledge at this time. One is from a local consortium, of six banks, and I can assure members that even before the matter is presented to Executive Council, that very tough negotiations have gone on with those banks. And whatever terms and conditions are recommended, is perhaps all that any individual could hope to achieve, in those rounds of negotiations.

HON. V.G. JOHNSON (CONT'D): The other two loans, one will be from the Caribbean Development Bank, and the terms and conditions have been set out by the bank, it is not something that they waive from day to day, it's a set policy of the bank. The Cayman Islands being a member territory, subscribing to that bank, is entitled to benefits from the bank and so the loan is being raised as a member country of that bank. And part of the loan is being raised as soft loan, and the other portion at commercial rate. The third portion of the loan will perhaps come from the British Government, and it is perhaps that this will be an interest free loan, payable over a very long period of time. So I don't think members need to fear really, about any of the loans that will be raised under this law.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. BILL GIVEN A SECOND READING

COMMITTEE THEREON

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: Mr. President, I therefore move that this House resolve itself into a committee of the whole House to consider the bill clause by clause and amend it as may be found necessary.

SECONDED BY HON. D.V. WATLER

QUESTION PUT- AGREED. HOUSE IN COMMITTEE

HOUSE IN COMMITTEE

CLERK: CLAUSE 1 SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 1 PASSED

CLERK: CLAUSE 2 LAW 3 OF 1973 AMENDED

QUESTION PUT: AYES & NOES

MR. PRESIDENT: THE AYES HAVE IT.

CLERK: A LAW TO AMEND THE LOAN (CAPITAL PROJECTS) LAW, 1973

TITLE PASSED.

HOUSE RESUMEND

REPORT THEREON

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: Mr. President, Honourable Members, I have to report that a bill entitled "The Loan (Capital Projects) (Amendment) Law, 1974", was considered clause by clause by a committee of the whole House and passed without amendments.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER

Mr. President and Honourable Members I beg to move suspension of Standing Order 54 to enable a bill entitled "The Loan (Capital Projects) (Amendment) Law, 1974," to be given a Third Reading and passed.

SECONDED BY HON. D.V. WATLER.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. STANDING ORDER 54 SUSPENDED

THIRD READING

MOVED BY HON. V.G. JOHNSON

SECONDED BY HON. D.V. WATLER

QUESTION PUT: AYES & NOES

MR. PRESIDENT: THE AYES HAVE IT. BILL GIVEN A THIRD READING AND PASSED

CLERK: THE LOAN (CAPITAL PROJECTS) (AMENDMENT) LAW, 1974.

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members, this brings us to the end of the order of the day. I seem to be quite unable to forecast accurately just how much business this House can transact in any one day. Since we have reached the end of the order of the day, we have no alternative but to adjourn until, as I mentioned 2;15 tomorrow. May I have a motion to that effect.

HON. D.V. WATLER: Mr. President and Honourable Members, I beg to move that this House stand adjourn until 2:15 tomorrow afternoon.

SECONDED BY HON. G.E. WADDINGTON.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. AT 4 P.M. THE HOUSE WAS SUSPENDED UNTIL WEDNESDAY THE 13TH MARCH, 1974 AT 2.15 P.M.



C A Y M A N I S L A N D S

L E G I S L A T I V E A S S E M B L Y

M I N U T E S

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OFFICIAL REPORT

F I R S T M E E T I N G

O F T H E

T H I R D (1974) S E S S I O N O F

T H E L E G I S L A T I V E

A S S E M B L Y

WEDNESDAY 13th MARCH, 1974

PART 11

WEDNESDAY 13th MARCH, 1974

2;15 P.M.

PRESENT WERE:-

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, MR. K.R. CROOK -PRESIDENT

GOVERNMENT AND OFFICIAL MEMBERS

HON. D.V. WATLER, O.B.E., J.P.	FIRST OFFICIAL MEMBER
HON. G.E. WADDINGTON, Q.C.	SECOND OFFICIAL MEMBER
HON. V.G. JOHNSON, O.B.E.	THIRD OFFICIAL MEMBER
HON. A.B. BUSH, J.P.	SECOND ELECTROL DISTRICT GEORTE TOWN (MEMBER FOR WORKS, COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT)
HON. TREVOR FOSTER	THIRD ELECTORAL DISTRICT LESSER ISLANDS (MEMBER FOR LESSER ISLANDS CO-ORDINATION AND INFORMATION)
HON. B.O. EBANKS	FIRST ELECTORAL DISTRICT WEST BAY (MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES AND LABOUR)
HON. W.W. CONOLLY, J.P.	SIXTH ELECTORAL DISTRICT, EAST END (MEMBER FOR TOURISM, NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, M.R.C.U., AND SURVEYS)

ELECTED MEMBERS

MR. JOHN JEFFERSON	FIRST ELECTORAL DISTRICT, WEST BAY
MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN	SECOND ELECTORAL DISTRICT, GEORTE TOWN
MR. CLAUDE HILL	SECOND ELECTORAL DISTRICT, GEORGE TOWN
CAPT. A.A. REID	THIRD ELECTORAL DISTRICT, LESSER ISLANDS
MR. JAMES M. BODDEN	FOURTH ELECTORAL DISTRICT, BODDEN TOWN
MR. G. HAIG BODDEN	FOURTH ELECTORAL DISTRICT, BODDEN TOWN
MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS	FIFTH ELECTORAL DISTRICT, NORTH SIDE

ABSENT WAS:-

MR. T.W. FARRINGTON, C.B.E., J.P. (DUE TO ILLNESS)

ORDER OF THE DAY

WEDNESDAY, 13th MARCH, 1974

2.15 P. M.

D E B A T E O N T H E T H R O N E S P E E C H

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WEDNESDAY 13th MARCH, 1974.

2:15 P.M.

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members, please be seated.

Honourable Members, I'm sorry to hear that the "Father of the House" is still sick, I hope he may be present for the later stages of this debate. Meanwhile, debate on the Throne Speech - over to you.

MR. CLAUDE HILL: Mr. President, Honourable members I guess I'm supposed to be the one to start the ball off.

I would like first of all to compliment the President on the Throne Speech, it was so well and ably delivered. The opportunity given to members to debate on his speech, I would say, is one of the happiest moments in this Honourable House it seems.

In his speech he made mention that the Islands are no more the Islands that "time forgot". He said that the Islands are now nicknamed the Fortunate Islands, which I personally will have to agree to a certain extent. I would say that we have been very fortunate in the past years, and may our good fortune continue to the years ahead, by God's help.

The Islands are now with a new style of Government with six Caymanians at the helm, under our new Constitution, which we should be proud of when we stop to think. We have six Caymanians who are in command, in certain respects, and we should be proud of them, and we must give thanks also to those who come here to assist us. Mention was made as to how the people felt about it, and it was said in his speech, it is of course for people to give their opinion in 1976, which means, an election year, and I'm quite sure that people by that time will fully decide who is who, or if we are moving in the right way as representatives for them.

One thing I would like to bring to attention here, is that the last sitting here, we had a debate that was not debated by the Executive side, I'm hoping that they do not sit on the fence and watch us this time. It left a very impressing idea in the minds of the representatives here, and the public in general. I'm not sounding a warning, or not trying to dictate to them what they should do from what they don't do, but I feel that being on Executive Council they should give some debate on any speech delivered from the throne, or the Financial Secretary.

I'm sure that the people of these Islands are doing fine, and if they are kept away from political controversy much more can be done. I'm glad to learn that the President is aware of the fact that a certain amount of political controversy exists in these Islands. But it is not of any threat as yet to the stability of our good government, let us not let it become a threat. It is for us to stop it in the bud.

Dealing on the financial position, in our recent budget which was so ably presented by the Financial Secretary it showed us that financial industry has moved up in many respects in the past year or two. Bank and Trust companies have numbered one hundred and fifty, we learn. Companies incorporated have registered here now, 4,500. What we have to do is to see to it at all times, that we get the right kind of people invest in these Islands. We will have to screen certain types of investment; I'm sure as the President said we can always rely on our Financial SEcretary

MR. CLAUDE HILL (CONT'D): Speaking on social tension, it is quite true that most developing countries have problems of social tension, where one feels like he is underprivileged. We here in the Cayman Islands enjoy a fair standard of living. Caymanians as a whole are a proud people, we do not expect something for nothing. I join in saying that we do not have underprivileged people in these Islands, in a way of speaking. Constructive criticism, is most what we find in and around the Island. Thinking of long term future for these Islands, could prove itself to be very valuable.

Dealing in agriculture, it is quite true that something could be done in these Islands in regards to agriculture. It is a known fact that any country that does not produce something from its soil, the people are oppressed with the high cost of living, and I would say with some incentive giving from Government, in the agricultural field, I feel that something could be done.

It is quite true that prices and wages in the Cayman Islands have reached high levels. The energy crisis has brought this on, an increase in the cost of living, and it is also quite true that we are not alone, as the whole world faces inflation. I'm very pleased to learn that Government will gladly hail any information from Consumer Association Work, and I do hope and pray that the day will come when someone will be able to give competition on prices.

On Education, we learn that Government intentions of expanding a curriculum at the school, and that the Cayman High School will be developed into a Community College for further adult education. This I hail with great delight. I personally do not know of any government service which is more vital to our future than education.

At Cayman Brac we learn of new classrooms to be built, to cope with the increase number of pupils. I do hope that Government will continue to do their best for our neighbours.

Say what one may, but the Department of Tourism and the Hotel Association seem to be playing their role, from what I have heard at the speech. They are planning to give lectures to attract children leaving school to get into the hotel trade. But one sad thing, in the throne speech that let me think, and that is, to learn that government will not be able to continue these scholarships in all cases. It is quite true, we have children who will not be up to mark, not every child will become a preacher or a teacher, they must fit in different categories, and I'm sure the minister whose portfolio that education comes under will not just turn his back on them although we will not be giving scholarships, which I am sure these scholarships means overseas; and I presume they mean overseas scholarships.

On the Hospital - we learn of improvements at the Hospital, with a modern emergency room, the nurses have been doubled, and an increase on the physician staff, have taken place.

On Social Services, steps are being taken to establish a Council of Social Service, I would like to let it be borne in mind of the people of these Islands at all times that each one of us is his brothers' keeper. This becomes a prelude to social problems.

I touch again on Tourism, let us always bear in mind that we have opened our gates to visitors, and this has become the main source of revenue. I need not go into statistics,

MR. CLAUDE HILL (CONT'D): for one can see from day to day, the vital role that is taking place in and around the island, as far as tourism is concerned.

I touch back at Cayman Brac again. A road making access to the Bluff, where most of the valuable land is, for cultivating, I would say, which is very much needed - has been started, and I wish them the best in so doing, and with the help of Government I'm sure Cayman Brac will benefit from that road on the Bluff.

On Capital Projects - the Government has launched a lot of Capital Projects which is considered the greatest in the history of the Cayman Islands. We learn that on the Port Project, Phase 1 is finished and Phase 2 has started, and almost completed, and when Phase 3 is completed work will begin on a Port which is also needed in the Cayman Islands.

Dealing with the Airport - in 1875 work on a new Terminal Building, and the first phase for improvement will be undertaken on a new freight shed a cistern for storage of water. These are great strides that the Government has placed and it is for us, as the people of these Islands to accept them with thanks and be grateful.

The sudden prosperity in these Islands finds some of us not able to adapt ourselves to it, which is very dangerous to social balance, it is very dangerous. We must learn to adopt the principles and good principles that surround us. We should not become upset, we do not have to take the image of anything that is not good for us. We have moved up in the past, and let us unite as one, and continue to move up. We must also qualify to the demands of a growing country - we must qualify or else we will continue to bring expatriates into this country to do jobs for us. We have to qualify. That's why I suggest that there is no subject more vital than education. Mr. President, to quote your own words, I would say, they are so true, "Prosperity demands change, and you can't have it without the other, recognition of this, with all its consequences, is at the heart of the problem of adjustment." Prosperity demands change, and you can't have it without the other.

We in the Cayman Islands must think on the future, which I would say lies in how we educate our young ones to take the stand. With this Mr. President, I again compliment you on so well and able a speech, and with the help of God may we learn to understand each other, and see eye to eye with each other, not looking for things that are no benefit to us, or the Islands. And may we who serve the people of the Cayman Islands always be guided to do what is right. I thank You, Mr. President.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: Mr. President, and Members of this House, I too would join in complimenting our President on this speech which has been so well prepared. I quite accept the fact that flattery is food for fools, and consequently, I'm not going to flatter anybody. But I must say it is well thought out put to the point, and there's so many things in it that are past true. For instance, most of us, I'm speaking of myself, I'm an old lady like I have to repeat so often, know the time when the money that is now, I would say some of it wasted in a day that money was not spent in a year. And we have forgotten those hard, times gone by, or at least some people have, and they are living up as if money was going out of style. If I get a hundred dollars today I must spend a hundred dollars, because tomorrow I can get another hundred. That is not good sense, we should educate ourselves to live in a way that rainy days might come, and if we haven't got and umbrella under which we can perch, we shall go back to those times when we were so unfortunate that we hardly had food to eat. I heard a man say not too long ago, I was raised so very poor, that the ridge in my skull has not yet grown out of the heavy loads I

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN (CONT'D): had to tote bringing thatch from miles away to twist, to get twenty five fathoms of rope to get a four pence half penny. We do not want to go back to those days, we want to go forward, but we must go forward sensibly. We must not sell out our Islands, because some racketeer comes here and say,"I've got a million dollars, I'm going to give the Government ten million, or a thousand, or a five dollars or what, to get what I want." No we must study the people who come here to invest to see that they are characters that we would like to have live among us, and be with us and help us. Not only financially, but morally and spiritually as well.

In this Executive Council, which I sometimes criticise, not that I do not think they are doing a good job, my criticism is this, that we as legislators should have some information on things before it reaches the ears of the public, that is my complaint. I very fortunately, or unfortunately, I don't know which it is, cannot ever learn to drive a car. I do not like to fly, or I might have been one of those in the Executive Council, who is sometimes so severely criticised. Now I'm going to hand them what they are due. They are doing a good job, but my complaint is, they are too secretive to us the ordinary members. That is my complaint. I feel that that salary or remuneration, whatever you want to call it, that is being paid to them, if we could afford to double it, with the amount of work, and worry which they have, we should not think that we are overpaying them. Now, I feel that we should stress the point that we want to retain our Government as is now. When I hear people talking about independence, we can have independence, we have the material to be independent, I have to laugh. I say Jamaica which is a rich country, with bauxite, sugar cane, coffee, rum etc., that they export; to me their navy look like two cat boats when we compare them with those beautiful ships which Her Majesty's Government has, and send here so often to protect us. Look at those ships, look at the Jamaica Navy, just look at that; and if we had our independence, like some fools think we should have, well our navy would consist of perhaps two cat boats, the most would be the size of the Cayman Pilot. Now, do we want to give up the rights and privileges which we now enjoy, just for what - pride. Of course not. I don't suppose I have another sixty-six years to put in on this earth, but if I do, I shall always say we must remain a Crown Colony.

Now speaking of expatriates and others coming here to help us. Let us accept the fact that all Caymanians men, unfortunately I haven't got any men to fight for. But I'm saying that they were born seamen, they were never landlubbers, I believe the word is, and their great ambition was to go to sea. Those who remain here were looked upon as no goods, in those days. Now the picture has changed. People try to educate their children, to take posts which will enable them to take good jobs. I must say that in the olden days there were some half way good well off people, who had the ambition to send their children abroad to be trained, they have come back, they have filled a great place, and I feel confident that if in those far off days more money had been available, there would have been more educated people that we would not need to have to import everybody to do all the top notch jobs. But we must be thankful for those who are able to fill these posts, and on the other hand, we should also be thankful for those who come to assist us. After all Caymanians have had to go all over the world in search of a livelihood. Suppose every country where they have gone you would have heard they were Caymanians, we don't want them there, they've come to take our country away from us. Do you think that we would have been happy hearing that report? No, I'm sure we wouldn't have been. So I feel when people come here to assist us that we should welcome them provided that they look on us as their equals as flesh and blood. Don't come and say that we are this, we are West Indians, we are this we are that, they must respect us as human beings, made in the image of God, all nations having one blood, even if they are

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN (CONT'D): higher educated. They must respect us, and we in turn respect them.

Now I feel that a lot of the problems we have with these expatriates, as they are called, is that we aloof ourselves from them. We're afraid to mix with them, and perhaps they feel, well I'm not welcomed in the Cayman Islands, I keep in my own society, and that might be some of the trouble. Or we might think they're too proud to mix with us. I feel that if we are to have a good relationship with outsiders, that we should act towards them, not only the smile that we give tourist, but we should give that smile to the people who are helping us out in our Government, in our banks, everywhere, if we are really to be true Caymanians, and just not smile to those who we think are going to bring us some money in. We should also smile to those who might be taking the money out, but they are doing us some service.

I, for one Mr. President and Members, am very proud of the steps forward that we have made financially. Because I remember when five thousand pounds was thought to be impossible to raise, now we are talking of millions, and I've heard all over the streets last week that there are men who have come here with billions - not millions, billions. Well I really don't credit all these tales, but I'm very sure that if and when investors come here they will be properly screened, get their background to find out that they've not just come here, to as it were see what they can get from us, hear our laws, go away and use that for their own benefits, instead of ours. I am very sure that our immigration will do all the necessaries to see that we do not invite racketeers to come here. We want good people residing in our midst.

As I repeat we are fortunate, we don't want to go back to those days when all the highest in the island had to eat, consisted of a few beans, breadfruit, fish, now we can eat like anybody else, and it's because of the fact that tourists have come here, investors have come here, our seamen have gone abroad, and on the whole, I would say that we are rich, to think of what we were in the past. And I hope and pray and trust that we as a people will have enough sense to use the wealth that God, it must be God, it could be nobody but God, who has allowed this prosperity to come in our midst. But we should not use that prosperity and foolishly destroy what we have today in the hope that it will keep on, because it could change, and we would be in a sorrowful condition, if it comes to the place where most people couldn't get the luxury which they now enjoy.

I suppose today, I live in one of the poorest houses in George Town. I haven't got any hot water, not even running water in my kitchen, and all these electrical appliances, electrical mixers, electrical knives, etc. Now I'm not saying that I couldn't buy them, but I am saying this, that I have been raised without them, and the few dollars that I have been able to save, I might live to get old and if I had all this stuff now I mightn't even be able to pay the electric bill. So I keep what I have, I live the way I was raised, very humbly, very poor; and I go on in that way very happy in my own way. I feel myself that I can get what most people get, but why should I burden myself with unnecessary exenditure, when the time might come that this propserity might cease. I might go to my office and sit down, wouldn't make a pound a day or two dollars. So I am trying to provide for the future, because unfortunatley I haven't got anybody to take care of me, I must take care of myself; and I'm trying to do that.

You know my mother raised us with the theory, we are independent. She did that I'm very sure to boost up her spirits. We didn't have any father, we didn't have any brothers, we didn't have any friends, we didn't have anybody. She said,"We're independent," I said "no Mama, we're not independent, we're dependent on somebody," "Oh no," she said, what she(my mother) didn't do, my sister could do, what my sister could do I could do, therefore we were independent. But I do not see things like that. We are each dependent on somebody to get things. What would it be if one family

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN (CONT'D): in the Cayman Islands had all the wealth, that wouldn't work, we must distribute things among ourselves and feel that we are all dependant one on another, to let this good stable Government go on as is.

Well about this controversy in the House. Now, I don't believe that, I don't like that. I like settling our affairs, each submitting what they believe would help for the Island, and talking in a good orderly, quite sensible fashion. I don't believe in anybody rubbing it over the other ones. If each of us is gifted up to a point, with some degree of common sense; and I feel if we as a Legislative Assembly use that common sense, and always remember there must be a head in everything. The Bible tells that, if all of us were feet or hands, or legs and we didn't have any head what would happen. We must respect the head of our Goverment, and in turn, expect that they will respect us up to a point;and I feel that is going on. I don't think anybody in this Legislative Assembly feels that they are in any way above the others. I mean some people believe that, but I know it's not true. They say that some in the Executive Council is there for nothing but prestige, I don't think so. I think they're there because, personally they were the best fitted to take on these jobs which we need and which we wanted Caymanians to handle. Now, Caymanians are handling them to the best of their ability, not properly trained, it was as if they have gone the ABC, now I would say they're in about the second book, and I hope by 1976 they will be in the sixth standard. Now, as I said, I want it clearly understood, that I am not the least bit envious of the Executive Council, I'm very proud that we had men who had that much nerve to venture out on this course. This course when I would say Caymanians are partially governing our affairs.

Now about the Constitution, like I'd said, I personally want to remain a Crown Colony. I want to see that beautiful British on the top of all our flag poles, on the ships. I don't want to see any red and green and yellow, or whatever the colours Jamaica's is, or Honduras or Cuba. I want to see the British flag, and I hope that the day will never dawn that we try to be foolish enough to talk that we can get our independence. The United Nations has nothing to do with us, let them mind their business, and study those that really need to be cleared. If they can give us any assistance, we would be very happy to have it, any technical aid, or whatever, but to interfere with our Constitution, we just don't want that, or at least I don't.

Now this inflation - I think it would be very silly of us to talk about trying to control merchants. Now only last Christmas, I had my old house painted, which I try to do every year. The paint cost me forty eight dollars. Six cans at eight dollars per can; and to get that put on on the walls outside it cost me one hundred and fifty dollars. Now what are we going to control? The merchants or labour? Because if we start with the merchants, he certainly will have to control labour, and it just won't be the dock workers, or the Cable & Wireless men, it will start from the top notch lawyers, teachers, right on down the line, to the bare foot boy. And I do not think the Government is in any position to set up a board that would be able to curb all this. So I think we'd better leave well alone. Competition in the shops will take care of the situation. And after all the merchants have to make a living, they have a lot of over head expense, all the electricity, all their help, the maintenance of their building. I mean after all they are entitled to make a fair living, and I don't think it would be fair for us as legislators to legislate any law where-by we would have to control just the price of merchandise. If we are going into it we will have to go whole hog and take and have a proper investigation made, and control everything. So consequently, I am not in favour of any price control at this

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN (CONT'D): stage. But of course Mr. President, I'm only the weak woman in the Assembly, the eleven men I'm very sure feel that I'm a weak woman, but I feel myself very strong, and as strong as either one of those. That's my opinion of myself, I don't know who else thinks it about me.

Now I'm not very happy with the disposal of garbage. I feel that we should make every effort to get at least three good dump trucks. I mean if we're to keep this George Town how it should be kept, we must have more facilities to take away the garbage. And I would hope Sir, that there is some kind of an engineer coming, but we haven't got to wait on him to tell us that we want this, we want this George Town cleaned up. We as citizens should make every effort to have this done.

Now this poor CAL. I was one who insisted when the proposal was made that we should not go back to Cimboco days. We had to wait at those times, at least twenty one days to get a mail. Now I said I expect we shall get the service from CAL, I don't ever expect to hear that you get any dividends, and I think that we should be very proud that we this little ten thousand people, or twelve, whatever we are, could have such high aspirations, and then have it fulfilled. And regardless if we like the manager of the CAL or the manager of LACSA, or having their office in Costa Rica or where ever it is, we must admit that we would be lost without the CAL or LACSA. Now I'm not exactly like two people I used to hear say three or four years ago, if BWIA had come every hour of every day, and the LACSA only came once a week they'd still say LACSA was giving the best service. Now I'm not like that, but I say this, that LACSA kept us going while the other company pulled out and any support that we can reasonably give to LACSA, we should do so; and I would again repeat that if we ever did anything would cause LACSA and CAL to collapse, we can forget that there's such a place called the Cayman Islands, we'll go back to those Cimboco days, we'll go back to eating fish and breadfruit and corn meal dumplings, beans if we could get them, and that would be it. So I would implore members to let us be content with what we have got; and I'm very sure the LACSA company, and the CAL are just like all other companies, subject to errors, and I'm sure they make a lot of errors, I'm very sure about it. But I'm sure they are doing more good than they are harm, and we must do what we can to keep this island on the map. And air service is the answer, as far as I am concerned.

Now I met a lady today, and she recognised me, she said, "I know you're Miss Annie Huldah Bodden, I seen your picture. you're a member of the Legislative Assembly," but she said, "please see that no more hotels are built on the island." I said "Lady, I could not agree with you," because if we are to progress, we have to find accommodation when tourist come here. I said I had a client come from Cleveland, Ohio two weeks ago, he came in the morning, he had to leave in the afternoon because he could get no hotel accommodation. Now I feel that the time has come, since as I understand that this last tourist season all the hotels were completely filled, that if and when we get an application to have a hotel we should not dig up and try to stop progress in this line. You know the First Elected Member of the Executive Council, and another member in this House had to fight almost to get the Holiday Inn. Well I hope, even though he is in Executive Council and any proposals are put forward to discontinue the building of hotels, that he stand like he did before. I would hope so, and I'm sure he will.

Now this Marine and Natural Resources study. I am not against that, but what I'm against is that the office or lab or whatever you call it is being built on the hospital grounds. I do not agree that it should have been built there, and I hope and pray and trust that in the immediate future land will be found whereby

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN (CONT'D): the Mosquito Control Unit as well as this lab will be put somewhere else. Because I do not feel that there should be such buildings in the ground where the hospital is, that they are conducive to the betterment and health improvement of the people who have to go to the hospital. And I would hope, I have that against Executive Council that they insisted on putting this up there, but I suppose one mistake you'll have to try to forgive them for.

Now the harbour - I would be too shocked, so hurt, so disappointed, if that harbour was not put where it is intended to be put. George Town would not be the same place without seeing ships that come into this harbour. Furthermore, if we were to put it in the North Sound, or Prospect or Red Bay or East End, even I have heard suggested, it would mean additional cost, and who would bear that additional cost when it was put on food stuff, and other essentials, certainly the public. But a-part from that, George Town would not be the same place, without being able to look out on the sea, and see ships plying up and down. And I for one will never agree that we should change this, I'm very sure in my life time it will be sufficient for what we have. If these millionaires and billionaires want to make deep harbour piers or whatever they call it, let them go ahead; but I sincerely and honestly hope that our Government, our good stable Government will not be taken in by these people who pretend to have so much money. If there's any taken in to be done, let our Government head the project, and take in these people under them, but not ever get to the place where our Government is subjected to these people of whom we do not know, whether they're millionaires, billionaires their background. We the Government must lead, because if we did not have a good stable Government we wouldn't have any banks, we wouldn t have anything, and the day that our Government ever looses its strength as a Government, and listen to idle talk, which I'm very sure they will not, we are doomed. We keep on as we are keeping on - Government leading the way, those that under come behind, and some might even bring up in the tail end. But our Government must go forward as the head of the Cayman Islands.

Now I'm glad to hear the Airport is being improved, I'm not very sure that those buildings which I've seen recently erected there if that will not interfere with what we originally had planned. But I'm very sure that has been taken into consideration.

I do admit that prosperity has brought changes, and changes will come each day, if we do not have changes we'll stand still. We do not want to sink in the swamps of retrogression, we want to march forward, but we want to march sensibly under good leadership. And I feel that unless we go forward we shall sink in the swamp of retrogression, as I've said. But in going forward we must be sure we are going in the right direction, and keep on that right direction, and depend on the greater leader than ourselves to keep us right.

Now the school - I am pleased to learn that the school atmosphere is being changed. But I still feel, Mr. President that in this day & age generation, if children believe that they will not have some chastisement in the way of a stick or a strap that they will go from bad to worse. I know when we went to school, the teacher all he had to do was to hold that strap up, keep quiet, do your work, come back and sweep the schoolroom, and that was it. We were afraid that we would in any way cause him - as children we thought any hard feeling against us, and we were afraid of that strap. Or we were afraid of having to sit down after school hours to write a couple hundred lines, I must behave better tomorrow. We were afraid of it, but children of today are in such a state that they believe they're in charge; and the only how to correct this generation is by letting them know that they are under their teachers. And I feel that that is

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN (CONT'D): the trouble with our school, because they have no respect for the teachers, and the teachers in turn must respect the children to the extent that if they do wrong, they must be chastised in the right way, not struck with their fist or kicked, or such like. They must chastise them as they would like somebody to chastise their childern if they did wrong.

Now Mr. President, and Members of this Honourable HOuse, I don't want to be too long winded, but I feel that, and hope and pray that in this year on which we have embarked that we will go forward in a quiet, orderly, well behaved manner, each person in this House respecting the other as a human being, and knowing that if we are divided that we shall fall a-part. We must stand united together, do all we can to assist and if we truly represent the people we shall do our best. But on the other hand look at this gallery, where are all the prominent businessmen, where are all the ladies who could come here, who are we talking to. But you let us do one thing wrong and there will be these businessmen, these real estate brokers, these law agents, lawyers, attorneys-at-law, well these legislators are no good. Nevertheless they will not waste one half a day to come to hear discussions in this HOuse. Personally if I didn't love politics, I would be so discouraged by the lack of interest displayed by our George Towners that I wouldn't bother to come. But somebody has to carry on, and I feel that I would be less than a coward just because these businessmen only stay on the street and criticise us, instead of coming to help us, if nothing else by their presence. I feel that they are not treating us fair. And talking of 1976 with the elections, suppose we say the lack of interest we're not even interested in running. So I feel Mr. President, that we should have more support from the public of George Town in particular. I notice on some occasions people from the out districts come and listen, but these George Towners are so busy getting rich overnight that they never bother to listen to what we say. I thank you Sir.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, will the Government Bench be debating?

HOUSE SUSPENDED

HOUSE RESUMED

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: Mr. President, I will have to ask at this time to be excused I'll join the band-wagon in the morning. Thank you, Sir.

HON. TREVOR FOSTER: Mr. President, Honourable Members it seems as if I am going to have to break the ice here and get the second book children on a ball. I think this position suits me very well inasmuch I am supposed to do the co-ordination for the Lesser Islands but it seems as if part of my job is to help co-ordinate the Members right here in Parliament.

I'd like to congratualte the President on his well put together speech. I think it deserves alot of credit. He has touched on many points that affect the islands and many points, if consideration is given to them and the people of the islands take thought about them can help to make the Cayman Islands a better place.

Mention of the new Constitution. I can agree with him that thus far we have been through one year in this operation and I think that it has worked very well. As one Member has said previously that there is going to be no orginasation or no firm or no group that will not make mistakes. We will make mistakes no doubt, but one thing I would like to assure Members of the Executive Council that they work together for the betterment of the country. As I have been told from the outside that the Executive Council is strictly a group of 'yes people'. I can assure you, Ladies and Gentlemen, this is not so; many stiff arguments go on on the specific days behind the walls of the Conference Room. We all can't win, sometimes we have to give in. As our President uses the words 'sometimes we must get off scent'. But I'll assure you that the Members there have these islands at heart and they work to that extent.

I like to look at the Executive Council as the same way that we all look to our Constituency, that we have been elected by the people to serve the people in the best way we know how. This Council was elected by the twelve elected Members to serve on the Executive Council. This is what we are doing. I think the correct channel, as many Members will realise that I have mentioned to them to get their objectives done, is speaking with the Member, giving them their problems. This is only my second term in the Legislative Assembly and I quite quickly found out in my first term that if we are to get the needs of our Constituency answered we in turn have to channel it to the right sources previously to the balancing of the Budget. Because needless to say what does the trick is money. I learnt at an early stage that that was the job of your Executive Council Members. Take your problems to them.

I would like you to bear with me in elaborating on the Executive Council and its role in our Government. Because we do have a difference however humourous it might be we would not like to do without the humour in our Parliamentary debates, but at the same time we would like to know that each Member in here realises each others job. It is not an easy position,which I found out shorly after being placed in this position. As I said many times before the Member of the Legislative Assembly and not of the Executive Council it is easy to criticise; you stand up over there and you switch on your mikes and you hurl the eggs, this needs to be done,the other needs to be done all very well true with a slight crossing of the Chamber the picture changes. You are not only asked by your people to have the objectives brought about,you are then in turn asked to make it a reality. And this is not all of the time very easy. We have to answer these problems. So I would say to our Members to try to understand the position of the Executive Council Members, realising that

HON. TREVOR FOSTER: (CONT'D): the job is not done by the flick of a finger but it has to be financed and ways and means have to be instituted.

I can truthfully say that the problems of these islands are in the hearts of the Members of Executive Council as much as they are in the hearts of the Members of the Legislative Assembly. We try to do our best, remembering that we are not only elected by you to serve on this Council but we also have a Constituency to serve. My own position, I have tried over the years to serve my Constituency in the best possible way, this I know they appreciate. They appreciate the position that I have now been placed in, because the two small islands now think we are part of the Cayman Islands Government. I cannot say if this position will be carried on in years to come but I sincerely hope it will be, if fortune sees it that way. I do not know if I will be here to continue it that as our President said in his speech is left to our people in 1976.

I have taken this time to try to explain how I feel about the Executive Council. I sincerely hope that the food for thought will rest in the minds and Members can adjust it and we can have a closer association. If your districts have certain needs which all of them do, should I tem myself as an outsider not being from Grand Cayman and you do not want to visit your fellow colleagues in Executive Council I'll make myself very open wherever you see me you can lay your problems whatever they may be and I will try to channel them through the right places and see that something is done. I cannot say it will be done but I will assure this that Council will hear about it.

Mr. President, you mentioned in your speech that Caymanians are doing alright constitutionally wise and if there are any changes to be made you will hear it from the people. I can well agree with this. I feel this has been the source of our development, the source of the position financially we are now place in a stable Government. I have talked with many visitors to these islands during my times in Grand Cayman and I can assure you that if our Government wasn't stable and linked with a stable Government success would not be yours. We have something to be very thankful for. Although I do not always agree with some of my colleagues statement about our heritage as far as our family trees are concerned but I agree that our families have set a heritage in our political world although as mentioned earlier,even if the Executive Council is in second book, that we have not been educated to that extent, but it is our political status that many of our neighbouring countries in the Caribbean today are envious of. People are coming in daily into these islands - flight of refuge. It makes one feel proud that they can be part of it and be part to keep a stable Government within the Cayman Islands. I can only ask Members here that they are not only to represent their people with their thoughts or your ideologies but they should also help to lead their people and lead them in the right road, the right future. Many people will have the thought that this, the other will be good for us; I think that is part of a representative's job to explain in every meeting that they have to their constituency the right road that they should take. We might not be able to do this, we might only be able to do it according to our own minds, but it is evident that the people in your various districts have that confidence in you that you could help lead them by electing you. And if they have placed that confidence in you I feel certain that they will place the confidence in yourself - self confidence of guidership. I think this is very needed bearing in mind that our people have not been opened to the various political operations of the world. And if they are opened to it it is usually they are opened to what is not the very best for them.

As he so very well said in his speech that the

HON. TREVOR FOSTER: (CONT'D): major portions of political ideologies have not reached our shores yet. I agree, how long will it take to come I am not certain, this is another problem. We are travelling, foreigners are travelling. This may sound like a sermon but in truth and in fact I think our people need this . But not every green grass across the border is what we need. I think we're doing very well in our own way and some of these ideologies should be forgotten about and a thought brought to the carrier of the thought as to why did it not work in his own country.

Social tensions were mentioned, so far we have been quite lucky. But as all is mentioned, particularly around in George Town, that Caymanians are becoming second rate citizens. This I cannot fathom. In order that we are to become a second rate citizen I think you must do it yourself; you can have a complex, an inferiority complex you will be second rate, if you don't have that I can see no other role but being a first rate citizen. I beseech one and all as the time comes that you must be a second rate citizen in your country - you have to look into it. I don't think it is the fault of our Constitution, nor the fault of our Government, I think the fault lies within. We have many visitors to our shores, we have many, as the term that is protrayed, expatriates in our Government. They are only human beings if you meet them face to face on a solid foot it is nothing they or you can do about it. I think they are quite happy to welcome you and you to welcome them. However, if a person is led to believe that you believe they are better than you it is only human that they will accept the proud position of being in the higher standard. Therefore, it beholds us to stand up firmly and meet our fellow man regardless of the country he comes from and let him know in no uncertain terms that we are as good as he is. You will have your problems, I quite agree. I have had many of them myself but once that position is taken I can truthfully say that if you can't beat them you'll join them.

So I would say that this is one of the methods that we can keep down our social tensions is to meet our visitors, be part of them and in due course let them know where the whole position stands.

Getting to a very humourous thought, a controverse in the House. This Ladies and Gentlemen I appreciate a lot of times. It puts a bit of humour in the House, it keeps us busy and as our President stated constructive criticism is very good. I am certain the Executive Council, the Elected Members, if they are given constructive criticism they will appreciate it. However, we are only human beings and when the eggs are hurled at us indeed we catch them, but indeed they must be returned; that is only a human trait. But one thing I feel very certain of and indeed I feel proud of that every Member in this Chamber today has the thought of their island at heart. Now we might decide to take a different highway to readh the goal, and this is where the problem arise. And then again, it is only human that we try to preach to our brother that our direction is correct; but in the end the ultimate goal, we hope, to reach there. And I should say that when the day arise if we do not have the interests of our islands at heart, that we cannot see the problem from a broadminded fashion I think we are no more needed.

It is one section of our President's speech, this may sound funny, that I cannot readily agree with. Prosperity has come too easy. This statement will appear that way to the naked eye but I can assure you that a Caymanian that has reached greater heights he has worked mighty hard for it. The method in which they spend might not convince everyone that this is so but every-one has a different aspect about life. Our Lady Member mentioned that she would hope to grow old one day, if it was is her plans for

HON. TREVOR FOSTER: (CONT'D): the future, and she was putting up funds for the rainy days. Life is very short and therefore, some people might see it possible to put it up for their old days but enjoy it while they are here.

Prosperity has come to these islands, it has come to the people. It has not all been easy but I will agree that a second thought should be taken of how it is being spent and remember,as you so very well said in your speech, the hard old days.

One particular section of the President's speech which I think affects our society very much is the problem of rapid adjustment. Adaptations to sudden prosperity, this I think over the years has and will affect our people if thought, and genuine thought, is not taken. It is very easy to envy the other man of his success but no one knows the hardship he went through to gain it. We see our visitors coming in as the Member said with millions or billions we do not know how he acquired it or how she acquired it. It might not have been in the right way.

Our people are going to have to take a very wide look on our development. They are going to have to take the attitude that most of it is for the betterment of the Caymanian. They are going to have to adjust themselves accordingly. And one of the main things that should not be brought into their minds in viewing this success is enviousness which is so readily adaptable to the human brain. Anyone can envy. We would always like it for ourselves but are we willing to work for it.

Another point of His Excellency's speech that the islands are fast moving into a technological world. And this is very true; and it beholds the younger Caymanian if he is to fill a place in his society and hold the leading job that he is going to have to donate more time in the educational field. We have been brought up in a society over the years - but this was not so that a young man at the age of 16 to 18 could go to sea and in five or ten years, if he was thrifty, could save more money and put it away while the other guy was studying his profession. The day and age of this is coming to an end. It is not the immediate product that counts but it is the ultimate product that counts. After long tired weary years of study and service a man feels and a lady feels when they have gained their positions in life that they are well paid - and it has an inner feeling.

Our people are going to have to realise that if we expect to get alot out of a job we are going to have to put alot in. And we have not been used to this in the past years.

I would like to mention again, which was the conclusion of the President's speech, that the responsibility rests on Members to keep the Constituency well informed and to lead them. This is so very well true. I think that in many cases the physical things that take action in our various constituencies is what our people unders In many cases it is the only thing they understand; if the road is black-topped or a new building is up - but I do not think that that is the only job that rests on our shoulders. We must help lead our people in the right form.

Recently having been added to my portfolio of information we have been putting out articles in the Press "KNOW YOUR GOVERNMENT". Ad inquiring, discussing this whole matter with our Information Officer I find out that Government has quite a few books printed on this same subject. Is it too much to ask for people to read these books? Read the paper. Try to learn how our Government operates. Understand it quite clearly for themselves that it is just not a matter of saying the word and the job is done. I think our people have to get and be more aware of what is taking place in their country and what is taking place within their Government.

I can truthfully say that Members on the whole I feel have the interest of the country at heart. We have to work closer together, we have to get our aims channelled to the

HON. TREVOR FOSTER: (CONT'D): right source if we should see success. On the other hand I feel the same knowledge must be channelled to our people for them to realise that Government is not a foreign institution with unlimited funds. But Government tries to supply the needs of the people from day to day. They are not always met but usually its on the agenda and some day we shall meet them.

I thank you, Mr. President.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: Mr. President, if I may have just one word of explanation, Sir.

When I was a child and went to school, I just want to explain what second book means Sir, to me thats half way through. When I went to school I first was taught at home (I was so poor I couldn't even get to school) I had to learn A B C Book, the next stage was Anne with Her Doll, the next stage was the Infant Readers, the next one was Second Book. So these - I meant to say thereby, Sir, that these Executive Council Members are well on in their learning, no aspersions to their work, Sir.

MR. PRESIDENT: Whether that counts as a personal explanation I don't know but we won't go in to it.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, Honourable Fellow Members it took a long time to smoke them out but I must say, Sir, that that is one of the best speeches that has ever come out of Executive Council. I see now where the First Elected Member to Executive Council must be worried because there is a chance now for us to have another First Elected Member in 1976.

Mr. President, I'd like to compliment you on your address. I am sure that it took quite sometime for you to put it together. I personally have read it four times. You might say that is a bit unusual but I had to read it four times before my small mentality could finally put the speech together.

I must agree with you, Sir, and compliment you on the new phrase that you have put for the names of these islands, "The Fortunate Islands" because frankly, Sir, I think we are the most fortunate people in the entire world.

I would also like to compliment you, Sir, on the getting to fully tell the truth in regards to the Constitution to let the people of the islands become aware of it. I don't know whether that came about because of our recent telephone conversation or not, but I am very pleased to see it, Sir. The only thing is I think that you diplomatically skirted it.

The nex t thing I must compliment you on, Sir, that I feel like in your speech you are beginning to finally implement some of the ideas that my colleague and myself have presented to this House, although our Motions have taken such a bad defeat. And I know, Sir, that the hardest last thing in life for any human being to accept is to accept another man's ideas. So,Mr. President, I think you have been very generous.

I would also, Sir, before I go on to the next thing say that if my speech today or my voice rather might sound a bit harsh it is not from the cold because I have not yet caught this one and that is the reason I decided to speak this evening because I may have it tomorrow. But the reason for it, Sir, is that I am still suffering from the daggers thrust that came about in your speech yesterday under my shoulder blade. I refer, Sir, respectfully to page 4 where you complimented the Opposition a bit , Sir, and you really rubbed it on with a lot of honey. I was feeling good about that until we got down to page 18 and believe me when that dagger struck all I could say, Sir, was uh because it hurt.

Mr. President, that is a jest. We meet today to debate the future and the past policies of our Government. And

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: (CONT'D): this will lead into and touch many subjects. It will probably be things or different views of opinion which the House as a whole will never agree on.

First, Sir, I would like to define, coming off from your speech, sir, not leading into a new subject, my personal position and some of my beliefs. I would like at this point, Sir, to clarify one point. My colleague and myself from the first capital Bodden Town are usually described as being quite radical. Frankly, Sir, I do not believe that is so because we only want changes that will come within the existing structure of what we have now. I don't know what makes us a bit unusual in wanting that; other than it might be from the nice sea breezes which we enjoy in that area.

Mr. President, I feel quite capable of fighting any debate in this House in the great thrust of debate and the politics involved therein. But I also feel like I am man enough to stand shoulder to shoulder and fight just as strongly with you as I would against you. We do not just oppose for the sake of opposition. My personal belief in politics, Sir, is that it is one in which you are devoted to your beliefs and for what you think is good for your people. Being willing to give of your time, your substance, your money orwhatever may be involved in order to see that your people can be better taken care of. That has always been my belief. I desire no honours from politics, I desire no gains. I have yet to get any gain from it and I intend whatever the length of my stay in this House that it will remain that way, Sir. The only thing, Sir, is that I do get a great privilege and I feel it a great honour to come here and represent my people and to have the pleasure of sitting in this very expensive chair.

No where in the world today is thirteen thousand people faced with more problems that we are in Grand Cayman or in the Cayman Islands respectfully. I would say that the only other country would be the Israelies and if they could make such a Nation as they have today through perseverance, determination and hard work from a desert, I believe that we can make something similar to that from a verdant tropical island like we have here.

Mr. President, man's most precious possession is the freedom of choice. The freedom to choose who he wants to serve and the freedom to choose who shall lead him. These are freedoms that should never be taken away from us. Government's policy should confirm as far as possible to the traditions of the Colony and what the people of the Colony think and want. And that policy in my estimation, Sir, should be made by the people of the Colony. When we get away from this, Sir, we then put ourselves into a position somewhat like in Hitler's Germany before the war when theReichstag became a debating society into which the Rulers came and only dictated their dictates to the people. We must try and see that such a thing will never happen in our Colony, Sir.

I would like to touch further on another point in regards to Self Government. People I think confuse the point of Self Government with Independence. This could be the furthest thing away from my mind. Independence is something that I could never forsee that the Cayman Islands could have; but Mr. President, in the last election I told the people in my Constituency that I stood for full Internal Self Government,Sir. As an elected man here in the House addressing it today I still tell you I stand for full Internal Self Government. But I also told them that I would not be the one to give it to them and Mr. President, I will not go back on that word, I would not be the one to push for this Government to go into Internal Self Government. But I'd like to get that point clear that I do stand for it and I am not afraid to debate it. I feel we should not bury it. To me looking into the future it is as inevitable as the rising of the sun tomorrow morning God's willing.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: (CONT'D): And I would not be true to the dictates of my conscience and my soul and to the respect that I hold for my ancestors if I told you that I did not hope that one day in the future, whether it be this generation or ten generations from now, that we could eventually govern ourselves, Sir. I think we would not be much in the line of people if we did not have this faith and ambition. Mr. President, all young boys and girls they imitate their elders, they strive hoping that one day they can be men and women and I put the position of our Territory today in the position of those boys and girls. We are striving and I do not feel like we would warrant the respect of the people if we did not want for our people to proudly stand up and be able to strike out on their own and to be able to open their own doors. Mr. President, on maturity most young boys will then want the key to the front door and although as I said before I will not be the one to push for a change; if a change must come it must come from the dictates of the people, but I am proud of my people and I believe that they have it in them to eventually become the Leaders of this country and as well, as to enlarge on that, Sir, whether this be a vision or a dream, we have it in this island, if we take care of it, to really be the model for the entire West Indies and maybe eventually to even lead that.

Mr. President, history has taught us that the Colonial Office and its Administrators have usually been out of touch with the people. It has also shown us that although that policy is great and has tried to carry the torch of enlightenment and justice to the people; but the torch bearers of that torch in so many cases, Mr. President, has really failed in their jobs because they have not left the footprints and the shadows in the wake of them when they have left these Territories. And, Mr. President, although there are only a few staunch Members on the back bench I would not wish anyone in the House to become deluded and mis-guided in thinking that there may not be some support for some of the things that we say.

Mr. President, my view goes further. With the help of the Constitution I would say that you have created a party system, you have created an Opposition. I say that because of the constitution of the Executive Council and the manner in which they operate and bring forth their policy to us. I feel like it has come to the point where it is minority rules and that is not good for the country. And I do not think that we on the other side here can be blamed too harshly if we stand in opposition to this because we have always been hurled that a party system would not be good for this country. Mr. President, everything has its beauty and you may not see the beauty in this because sometimes I do not see it.

Mr. President, power in a democracy is shared by all the people; the majority and the minority combined, we must never lose sight of that fact. Government has to be by the majority. But I feel, Sir, that in ruling by the majority the wishes of the minority should also be included and unfortunately this has not been happening. The genuine efforts to bring this about has not been put forth, Sir. And I feel like the opinions from the minority side of this House should have some affect in what the decisions of the Cabinet that are made. Unless this minority can be heard then, Mr. President, there is danger in this House as it has been in many other countries in the world. It is my opinion, Sir, that this Opposition which has been created has been created from the party system from that side. And it is our job as the Opposition then on this side to keep the public fully alerted. I feel at that point that the Opposition on this side becomes as much as a constitutional figure as the Cabinet on that side.

The Opposition, Sir, in any country actually becomes the auditors because no well thinking businessman is

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: (CONT'D):going to start a business and just leave it alone without ever checking on it. So in this case the Opposition I think does play a very important part and I was very glad to see you bring it forth in your Message. We must continue to oppose, Sir, the things that we feel are wrong and the things that we do not agree with. I feel like we have got to the point, Sir, where so many of our problems can no longer be brushed under the carpet. We've been doing that for a long time and we have been promising.

Mr. President, five years ago it would have been unthinkable to think of a strike in Grand Cayman. For the last year or so we have been getting several of them; labour has begun Sir, to raise its head and this is only giving us an insight into the future. That is why I say and why I have stressed the importance of this Government considering some of the social aspects and what it entails for the future.

Mr. President, I am not satisfied with the Medical situation yet. I am sorry if you think it may be barbs that I am throwing but Isee no reason why in a country as rich as ours today why we should have a system that dates back to pre-colonial days in the African Territories. I am sorry if you think I stepped on it too much but we do need improvements in that department. People are having to leave this island everyday nearly to seek medical attention abroad. But there is one other aspect of this that worries me, Mr. President, and that is the fact that we have striven, several Members in this House here, to try to get the Hospital relocated, to try to get a new building but it is not considered that the hospital needs to be a prestige building so we have not yet gotten a new hospital. But in the recent finance hearings we were told that the hospital compound was approximately seven acres, at that meeting, Sir, we had the Chief Medical Officer and if I am permitted to say so in my estimation he virtually pleaded with us that that seven acres be left strictly for the use of the hospital. But unfortunately land must be becoming very scarce because we now find that we have built another building there in addition to the noisy building where we have the Mosquito Research Unit.

I am alarmed at a few other things, Mr. President, in this department. According to the Education Law a child is supposed to be out of school at the age of fifteen. I do not know whether this was Government's policy in the past to give medical care free up to fifteen or whether it was ten. But I understand, Sir, that recently it has been decided by those who sit in exalted positions that the age is now fourteen. Well I will not argue too much with that one way or the other because I do not know what the policy was before, but the thing that worries about it a bit is this , Sir, that at the dental clinic people have been told that they would have to wait as much - well this was in the middle of- the end of last month rather in February they would have to wait until the middle of April before they could get an appointment. Now, Mr. President, even if I had a toothache that would be too long to wait. I feel these things must be considered, we must do something about them. We are always bringing in experts to study and to give us reports and I feel that it is no better place that we could bring some real good experts to than that hospital and all the attendant medical facilities that we have on this island.

We have spoken in this Chamber several times concerning a Social Security Scheme or something modelled after that but, Mr. President, I hope the day will never come when from this House we will adopt a National Health Scheme something similar to the system that is in Great Britain. I do not think that would be anything for this Territory to model itself after. And I can only,say, Sir, that at this part of my speech which I

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: (CONT'D): know the eggs will be thrown back from that the Member responsible for this will really give this a lot of thought; not take it as real criticism but take it thinking about the good that he will be doing for his countrymen when he has this matter rectified. And I am hoping that in the near future he will do so.

Another thing that I will have to speak about, Mr. President, which you did not cover in your address but it has happened recently. And this has been the rate increases to Cable and Wireless and the rate increases to Caribbean Utilities. Maybe some of this was justified but I think the Legislature should have known something and I think you should have covered it in your speech to us as to just what yardstick you used or they used to determine this rate increase.

According to the Agreement, I think, which this Government has with Caribbean Utilities it was said that their returns should be somewhere, I think, in the neighbourhood of 8%. Mr. President, I am sure that the net return at this time is much much more than that and I am willing to substantiate it by passing to this House the last balance sheet of Caribbean Utilities in case they haven't seen it. And it will show, Sir, that unless some figures are wrong some place this great increase should never have been given. I agree, Sir, that things are costing more but something must be wrong either Caribbean Utilities were charging too much at the beginning or then it is too little now. Because they have been making profit, Sir, unless this balance sheet lies and I do not think it does.

I think that when this franchise was granted to them it covered let us say the entire island and it covered or meant that they would have to do certain things in order to hold that contract. I am alarmed when they tell me, Mr. President, that come June they will probably not be able to make any more hook-ups and they are blaming that on the energy crisis. Mr. President, it is a good thing I guess that we had an energy crisis because there is something now to blame it on. But I feel like this House and it is contingent on us to do it because we are guardians of the people, that this thing should be checked out fully before it goes any further. Electricity is one of the main things that we have for use in this island and Caribbean Utilities or whatever Company it may be should be in a position to where they can guarantee this Government that they are going to satisfy the terms of that franchise completely. It must not be left the way it is anymore, Sir.

Finally before I get off of that point I will bring up a point which I know I will get the eggs and the bouquets thrown on but I feel, Sir, that the time has past when this House should have a Director sitting on the Board of Caribbean Utilities. I feel if Caribbean Utilities is lacking Directors they should come from the private sector because I do not think it right for a Member sitting in Executive Council to be able to sit on the Board of Directors of Caribbean Utilities which does have a franchise agreement with our Government.

Another point I want to touch on, Mr. President, is the secrecy which we have been speaking about for a long time in the House and this particularly concerns the reports. And these are reports that we as Members of the Legislative Assembly have to come in here and vote the money for to get these experts over here to do these. And instead of them being tabled over there on that table to where each Member of this Assembly could get his copy and find out what is going on and keep himself abreast of the present position, Mr. President, unfortunately when we go to get them they have been burnt up or we get some other story and finally the last one, Sir, is we must ask Executive Council before we can see them. Now if every Tom, Dick, and Harry nearly on the street can get these copies definitely, Mr. President, and I am sure you should agree with me that the Members of this Honourable House should be able

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: (CONT'D): to get them.

I see in the recent Press, although I know we shouldn't mention that too strongly, that a Radio Station is planned for this island. Mr. President, I would be speaking against my conscience today if I stood in this House and told you or any one else that I am in favour of a Radio Station by Government for this island. I think it is the last thing we should consider. We need a Radio Station probably but if it is going to be done it should be put out by public tenders and done from the business community under strict control (I am in favour of that) from the Government. But Government usually have not too much success in operating businesses and I don't think that you could do it with the news media.

Another thing about this, Sir, is that this would in my mind stifle freedom of press and the dissemination of the mews media throughout the country. It is stifled enough as it is, Mr. President and we must not let this happen. To put a Radio Station in this island is going to cost this Government alot of money. We the representatives are going to come in here and find that money. So I hope that the Membess who sit in exalted positions in the House of Lords, Sir, will give this plenty of consideration before they bring it back to the House of Commons.

Mr. President, I am very pleased to see that we have had a Social Service Report done by Professor Lockhead. And I think he did a marvellous job. The thing that I am wondering about is whether that report will like so many others put in the corner and gather dust. Or whether what he has suggested to us is going to be implemented.

Mr. President, what makes me really proud to see that report that he gave is that in my mind if I have to tell it to you in the House today eighty percent of what he recommended is things my colleague and myself have been saying for years. Yet we were called radical, I hope you don't call him radical and throw the report away. I'd like to see it implemented. This should be treated with the same priority, Sir, that the Natural Resources Survey was treated with when that was voted down completely in finance and came back here under our two party system and put through the next morning, Sir. I still feel strongly against this that the fourth Elected Member of Executive Council was doing the best for the people of this island when he took it upon himself to do such a thing. And at this stage I would very much like to see the Third Elected Member to Executive Council take the same manner and adopt it and put this other report through so that we can deal with this on apriority basis. Find the money to immediately implement it and find the money to put this project through because do not delude ourselves that is one of the most important things that we need to consider in this island today. Mr. President, this was pointed out by Professor Lockhead that we do need the children care centres, we need the playing fields, supervised sports, vocational guidance, more varied training particularly in lines of sociology and so forth, a Police Cadet School and so on. But he also pointed out to us that last year only 23% of our National Budget was allocated for the Social Services which is including Medical, Health and the milk and so forth that we give the kids and what not. And this is ridiculous because even he had to say that in most countries, the worst developed countries today in the world they are still using 40% or more of their National Budget to take care of these services yet we only spend 23% and we get a terrific argument when we try to increase it a little bit more for linens or something else. So, Mr. President, these things must be implemented for the good of our people. So that the people of these islands can enjoy some of the affluence, that some of it can rub off on the entire community and not be just in certain sections.

I would like to see the day come when the House of Lords, Sir, will present to this House a policy for the people

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: (CONT'D): rather than a Civil Service approach. Because, Mr. President, if they do not it is going to mean that someway along the road some of the ugly monsters that we have been preaching about they are going to see them in their dreams.

Mr. President, yesterday morning you effectively stifled some of the questions on the Police and I have to agree with you that to an extent, Sir, you were within your bounds which is given to you by the Constitution. Because the Constitution has reserved that specifically for you. But, Mr. President, we also have to vote the money for that and I feel like we should have and should be free to criticise it a bit. At this point, Sir, I do not know whether it is the body or the head that is sick but some place seems to be sick. We must get better police enforcement in this country. I would say per capita there is no other place in the world that has as many policemen as Grand Cayman has, yet we boast that we are a country of law abiding people. We have these police, Sir, because the job is not being done and we are not trying to train them to carry out their duties.

We touched on it in regards to accidents on our roadways, I know we have bad roads in some cases but you have countries like the United States where there is probably much more per capita in automobiles than we have here, highways are worst, they are wider with more traffic on them and yet in this island our death rate is running at least 250% more than it is in the United States. Something is wrong, Mr. President, this matter has to be dealt with, we have to get more police patrols on the roads; if we don't have the cars now to give these men let us find the money to buy these cars. Because, Mr. President, when you see some of the scenes like was on the road in our district just a week or so ago, and you see some of the heart-rending things that have been caused; and to be frank with you, Mr. President, at that point I have to pretty well lay some of that blame at the lap of the police and yourself, Sir, if it is going to be a reserved subject. Because, Mr. President, it is not a beautiful scene to see and alot of this could be averted if our police were doing the job that they should be doing and patrolling the roads effectively and trying to bring these speed demons and the consumption of alcohol down a bit. Mr. President, they have some of the tools to do it, because in the recent Traffic Law I think some tools have been put in there. Time for them to be implemented.

It is time for us to do something about this dope traffic that we have been speaking about here for a couple of years and maybe a lot more years than that. Mr. President, whatever is needed to get the Cayman Islands to the point where it has an effective police force whether it is going to be done on the majority basis or whether you will consider implementing some of the suggestions of the minority side but Mr. President, it must be done.

Our heritage here in this island has mainly been the sea. And to be frank with you I hope that in years to come it will still be something that some of our young men will cling to. Because I think it some of the best training that they could have. But, Mr. President, I think the time has been reached, I cannot stand here in this House today and tell you that I am conversant within everything that would be necessary to implement this because I am not; but whatever it is that is necessary to implement legislation in this House so that the Cayman Islands can become an effective port of registry I think we should do so, because it is going to mean alot of money for Treasury and the overworked Financial Secretary over there might be lucky enough to have a few more hairs on top of his head if we had something like this. So I think, Mr. President, that we should consider bringing something to this House to where we can have that and

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: (CONT'D): besides that think of the prestige it will be for us for the big ships travelling all over the world - we want prestige that is one way of getting it. But in getting prestige the other prestige points that we have been getting it from have been costing us money, this one is not going to cost us money, this one is going to make us money. By doing so we would be able to eventually set up our own Academy here to train our sailors. Could be for the whole West Indies. But our people would save money and not have to go abroad to study and sit exams to get Licences and so forth, the ships would be registered under our flag so we would have some effective control of the working conditions and the wages.

So, Mr. President, I hope whoever is responsible for that department that it will be forthcoming in due course.

I feel like more attention should be given to Agriculture. It has been proven as your statement said that crops can be grown here. I am glad to see that when I mentioned Agriculture that the Fourth Elected Member jumped around in his seat right quick. I was wondering whether he would do that or whether I would have to use the word Tourism, anyhow Agriculture worked.

I feel, Mr. President that one of the big lacks in this is finance again as so many of our problems have been. Because it is not easy to grow crops and wait six months for a return while you had to keep putting money out. Most of our people do not have that kind of money. So I feel that you could take maybe - some comment or what I am going to say - make a suggestion to you on it, Sir, that you do something like you have done here with the scholarship fund. Maybe one of these Caribbean Development Banks or something like that would be willing to give us loans on a long term pay out that this Government could use to help finance the agricultural development of this island. Because, Mr. President, the day that comes that we do not have a boat in here for a week and we don't have a plane here for a week we are going to starve to death. Besides that what is the use of building these beautiful hotels depending on Tourism if it isn't something here for them to use locally. And I still feel the land will sustain it, the people will do it, it needs money, it needs direction. I think that direction must come from Government in the form of its present Agriculture Department with them coming out and implementing some of the things and teaching the people the things that are necessary to put some of these things into effect. Maybe you could start it by coping a suggestion from the Second Elected Member from Cayman Brac by starting your prison farm, gradually you might have farmers.

Mr. President, all men require that a vision be held before them, an ideal toward which they can strive. I feel that we have reached the point where we need that vision. That vision I feel must come from the representatives of this House by taking it back to their people and leading them as you have suggested. I think that is the only way that the problems of this Nation can ever be really touched on.

I would like to close by saying to you, Sir, that when I think about some of the things that come from the House of Lords I am very much reminded of a story in the United States of a Methodist Minister who was out in the countryside trying to sell a Bible to a Roman Catholic woman. Mr. President, she kept insisting she had a Bible so didn't need another one; but she kept rummaging through the house trying to find it finally she came up with a few leaves and she said to the Methodist Minister I had no idea we were so nearly out. So, Mr. President, before we get any further out please try to adopt some of the suggestions that may come from the minority side and let the House of Lords think about them.

Thank you, Sir,

MR.JOHN JEFFERSON: Mr. President, I move the adjournment of the House until tomorrow.

SECONDED BY: MR. JAMES M. BODDEN.

MR. PRESIDENT: I think it is a bit early but if the House wants to I don't mind.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: HOUSE SUSPENDED AT 4.45. UNTIL 10 a.m. ON THURSDAY 14TH MARCH, 1974.



C A Y M A N I S L A N D S

L E G I S L A T I V E A S S E M B L Y

M I N U T E S

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OFFICIAL REPORT

F I R S T M E E T I N G

O F T H E

T H I R D (1974) S E S S I O N O F

T H E L E G I S L A T I V E

A S S E M B L Y

THURSDAY, 14th MARCH, 1974

PART III

THURSDAY, 14TH MARCH, 1974

10 a.m.

PRESENT WERE:-

His Excellency the Governor, Mr. K.R. Crook — President

GOVERNMENT AND OFFICIAL MEMBERS

Hon. D. V. Watler, O.B.E., J.P.	FIRST OFFICIAL MEMBER
Hon. G. E. Waddington, Q.C.	SECOND OFFICIAL MEMBER
Hon. V. G. Johnson, O.B.E.	THIRD OFFICIAL MEMBER
Hon. A. B. Bush, J.P.	SECOND ELECTORAL DISTRICT GEORGE TOWN (MEMBER FOR WORKS & COMMUNICATIONS)
Hon. Trevor Foster	THIRD ELECTORAL DISTRICT LESSER ISLANDS (MEMBER FOR LESSER ISLANDS CO-ORDINATION)
Hon. B. O. Ebanks	FIRST ELECTORAL DISTRICT WEST BAY (MEMBER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES & EDUCATION)
Hon. W. W. Conolly,J.P.	SIXTH ELECTORAL DISTRICT EAST END (MEMBER FOR TOURISM LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCES)

ELECTED MEMBERS

Mr. John Jefferson	FIRST ELECTORAL DISTRICT WEST BAY
Miss Annie H. Bodden	SECOND ELECTORAL DISTRICT GEORGE TOWN.
Mr. Claude Hill	SECOND ELECTORAL DISTRICT GEORGE TOWN
Capt. A. A. Reid	THIRD ELECTORAL DISTRICT LESSER ISLANDS
Mr. James M.Bodden	FOURTH ELECTORAL DISTRICT BODDEN TOWN
Mr. G. Haig Bodden	FOURTH ELECTORAL DISTRICT BODDEN TOWN
Mr. Craddock Ebanks	FIFTH ELECTORAL DISTRICT NORTH SIDE

ABSENT WAS:-

Mr. T. W. Farrington, C.B.E.,J.P.	(DUE TO ILLNESS)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THURSDAY, 14th MARCH, 1974

10 a.m.

1. DEBATE ON THE THRONE SPEECH CONTINUED.

2. PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS:-

(i) TO BE MOVED BY MR.JAMES M.BODDEN TO BE SECONDED BY MR.G.Haig BODDEN
(MEMBERS OF THE BODDEN TOWN DISTRICT)

WHEREAS due to the large amount of newly black-topped roads, particularly in the Seven Mile Beach area, on which large quantities of loose gravel is placed
BE IT RESOLVED that these areas, for at least two weeks after the gravel has been placed, have a reduced speed limit of twenty-five miles per hour, and that Police be stationed for enforcement.

(ii) TO BE MOVED BY MR.G.HAIG BODDEN TO BE SECONDED BY MR.JAMES M.BODDEN
(MEMBERS OF THE BODDEN TOWN DISTRICT)

WHEREAS the rapid increase in the cost of vital commodities affect every day living
BE IT RESOLVED that Government set up a committee with a view to instituting price control on the essential products.

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3. GOVERNMENT BUSINESS:-

BILLS:-

(i) The Supplementary Appropriation (1972) Law, 1974

(ii) The Estates Proceedings Law, 1974

(iii) The Aerial Spraying Protection Law, 1974.

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THURSDAY, 14TH MARCH, 1974

10 A.M.

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members debate on the Throne Speech continued.

MR. JOHN JEFFERSON: Mr. President and Honourable Members this is indeed a real privilege to come here today within the walls of this beautiful Chamber and stand here as an Elected Member, an Elected Representative of the people of the Cayman Islands.

I come here this morning to make my contribution to the debate on the Throne Speech which you so ably gave, Mr. President, a few days ago. It is indeed a document which we rightly be proud that the facts placed therein makes us exactly what you've said, people of a fortunate island.

These islands have acquired as you have rightly said a new nickname, not the islands that time forgot but today they are called and rightly so the fortunate islands. And the beautiful part of it all, Mr. President, is that I am a part of these islands and its Government. I pledge my every effort to see that these islands remain this way and I am prepared to bear any burden and oppose any foe to see that these islands continue in the path that they have been going.

With our new style of Government with a year's experience behind it I am indeed proud of its accomplishments. I think it is working smoothly, I think it is working well. I think that a great job is being done.

The Members in Executive Council are there because the Members in this Chamber have placed them there. They are there to do the job that we have placed them to do. And until they do any less they will continue to have my full support. There is one thing that I want to addthat I believe that would add to their image and that is I believe more informal meetings with the Members in this Legislature to keep them more informed of what is going on. This I truly believe is the cry of every member in this Chamber.

I am glad, Mr. President, that this Government can stand questioning.Even though alot of effort is being placed by people to make people to think that everything is wrong about this Government. That its functions are dictorial and what have you. But I agree that this is good for Government because it keeps Government on its toes. I believe in the free expression of people but I believe that our criticisms of Government should be constructive in nature and not to follow one's own cause.

I believe that if I could divert or reflect your own words in this Chamber addressing the C.P.A. Clerks and Delegates and I believe I am using your words, Parliamentary Democracy might not be the last words but let us use it until we find something better.

It is a great honour to be here today again as I've said to debate the Throne Speech given by Her Majesty's representative to these islands a few days ago. Outlining Government's policy and ambitions for the year 1974.

During the past six years these islands have gone through a time of great changes. We have had some stormy sessions in this Chamber. We have endeavoured, Mr. President, to enact legislation that would protect the people of these islands and to see that these islands progress in an orderly manner. We have had to take some unpopular decisions but this is something that every leader has to do at one time or another. But the overwhelming support and the confidence that the people have placed in within me I took that to mean two things one they were with me now and two that even though there were times when they would

MR. JOHN JEFFERSON: (CONT'D): disagree with my decisions they had confidence to believe that in the ultimate that my decisions were for the best interest of the people of these islands as a whole. Mr. President, I do not feel that I have ever betrayed the confidence of these people and I can assure you with God's help, Mr. President, that I shall never betray the confidence the people have placed within me.

I have said my whole ambition was to protect the people of these islands from outside pressures, to see to it that citizens of these Islands do not become second-hand citizens in their own country and I feel humbly proud of the accomplishments that we have made in this respect.

Today I am particularly interested in providing things that are tangible, things that they can see and things that they can enjoy.

Mr. President, I welcome the change of our new Constitution. I come back and I say I think that it has given us, and as far as I am concerned me and many people throughout these islands all I believe that we want. Because I believe we today have the best of two worlds. I believe to move forward would only foster, would only help a few while the mass of the people would suffer.

Mr. President, let us reflect for a little while. In the past six years we have seen Her Majesty's representative move from an Administrator to a Governor of these islands. We have moved from having two Elected Members in the Executive Council and one Nominated Member to no Nominated Members having four elected Members in Executive Council. Previously the two Members only was associated with subjects, today we have four Members that are charged with full responsibility by you. Because we have been intelligent enough and enlightened by God to lead us we have benefited by the mistakes that other people made.

While a peaceful land like Bermuda which as far as I am concerned is a model to the world in Tourism, one day Bermuda was rocked with riots because of foreign power known to us as Black Power. I believe if I read the records clear Bermuda had no legislation to deal with such a problem. Today we have legislation under the Public Order Bill. But if we never need it nobody gets hurt but if we need it it is there for the benefit of the people of these islands.

I agree with you, Mr. President, that we have a businesslike Government. We cannot expect like the Lady Member said yesterday, I am sure of the reference she was using, that Members of Executive Council have only been a year in their new roles, we've only just began to see what they will be able to do. We have every confidence that they are going to be able to do greater things and move on to greater heights. With our support and God's guidance I believe we shall as an island benefit by the role that this new Government plays. He says this is a business like Government subject to the checks and balances of a Parliamentary Democracy. The question that remains is a vital one how does people feel about it. I believe that the people of these islands are slowly learning that this is the best that we will hope to have. I believe that the people of these islands are happy with the progress that is being seen. And I believe that time will prove itself that Caymanians themselves realise they too have never had it so good. But a great responsibility of this rests upon us as the representatives of the people, not to accept every foul rumour on the street but it is our job to fight rumours with truth. It is our job to educate our public. It is our job to set the facts before the people.

I pledge, Mr. President, to you my wholehearted support in this respect.

My time in politics in these islands as a representative goes back slightly over six years and I do not like to blow my own trumpet for I believe my records speak for itself that I am

MR. JOHN JEFFERSON: (CONT'D): humbly proud of it.

The people of these islands are very quiet and easy going. The people of these islands are people I believe that are ambitious, has proved down through the years they can work, they want to work, were it not for that we wouldn't be where we are today. But make no mistake about it - I've said many times before that all we need to do in these islands is to lay the facts before the people and the people themselves are capable of coming up with the right answers. These people have gone through great changes in the past six years. Everybody knew what they had but they weren't sure of what they would get in the ultimate. But I believe with all confidence the people of these islands realise that this Government is working for the benefit of every citizen in this land of ours.

The people of these islands were in grave danger years ago, Mr. President, when the West Indian Federation was being formed, but God in his wisdom and because there were people that would take up the torch these islands remain today and are the fortunate islands - the Cayman Islands.

I believe that the Christian heritage that the people of these islands have had is the greatest reason why we today can be called the fortunate islands of the Caribbean. We must never forget, of course, the scripture which says: "that righteousness exalthed a Nation but sin is a reproach to any people". I trust that we will never forget the God that made us.

Mr. President, in our debate yesterday the First Elected Member from Bodden Town struck out a note in the ending of yesterday's debate. I respect the Member's political views. I realise and I appreciate the free expression of people. I would dare to give my life to guarantee this free expression. But I believe the Member must have read into the Throne Speech something different from what I saw. Because I thought that you dealt in a very diplomatic and orderly way in which you spoke of Opposition. The good book says: "grievious words stir up anger but kind words turneth away wrath". But nevertheless there are sometimes when there are a few things which we need to set straight for the benefit of the records.

The Member said yesterday that he was in favour of full Internal Self Government. That he was in the previous election and that he still is for full Internal Self Government. But he said he had informed the people that this decision would have to come from them. There is only one thing I cannot understand and that is I thought in 1972 the people throughout these entire islands voiced their opinion very strongly at the polls. There is one thing about saying about Internal Self Government for these islands and that is that it is so easy politically to get into a snowball and bally state of affairs. When once we move into full Internal Self Government a date is always set for Independence and eventually we find ourselves beyond the land of no return and a few people in these islands would benefit and the mass of people would suffer. I am prepared in no uncertain terms to use every effort to see that these islands remain a Crown Colony as long as God gives me breath. I believe that this is what the people want and I am prepared to heed to the call of the people. Not only to let them lead me but I am prepared to help to lead the people.

I shall never forget, Mr. President, if you will permit me - remember the story - I went in 1970 to the 7th Regional Conference in the beautiful island of Grenada where we were so warmly greeted and we had such a warm reception and we had such a wonderful Conference. But just weeks ago that little country was taken into Independence and that country was rocked with riots and what have you. I want to say as Leaders let us be true to our convictions and let us seek to foster the things

MR. JOHN JEFFERSON: (CONTD): that are best for the people of these islands.

Mr. President, as I will change and move on I am not happy about the way Work Permits are dealt with in these islands. I am convinced, as everyone knows, that the door to every country is the Immigration. And I am convinced that some people can come to these islands and in a matter of days or weeks they get Work Permits, while other people have to go back out make application and wait for a month and then their Work Permit is granted. Now this is not good enough for me because I have never believed in partiality. I believe that alot of things happen that do not go to the Cayman Islands Protection Board. I am not blaming the Board at all. I believe alot of things go by the Board. I think it is worthy being looked into.

I am convinced that there is alot that is being done in the various fields but the most noticeable are that of Education, Medical and Health Care, Roads, providing of accommodation and for this I am greatly and humbly proud. In spite of all that has been said about the school system; it has had alot of bugs, it has had alot of problems and I add my ten cents worth along with the Lady Member yesterday which she says I believe that when we took the strap out of the classroom problems came in to compensate for the strap.

I see renovations, new buildings, what have you at the Hospital, Nurse's Quarters, we see the Dispensary under construction, we see various ways in which a real effort is being made to provide a medical service for the people of these islands to which they can be proud. Mr. President, this is what we have been fighting for for years.Money dictates, most of the time what we get and how soon we get it.

I am happy to see the improvements on the road and see that every effort is being made to improve the functions of the Public Works Department. I think that these Members deserve a real show of confidence in us for the efforts that they are placing.

We know about the accommodations being provided. We have seen the Police moved into their new Headquarters all built by British Aid funds. We see the new Government Offices which has began. We know that the Natural Resources Study is going to begin shortly, which is very necessary. We find Government looking into the social aspect which is a necessity and a must. Mr. President, these things all point to progress; that these things all cost money and this is why sometimes we don't see all we would like to overnight, is because it takes time and it takes money.

Mr. President, you spoke about law enforcement. I am hoping that we are going to be able to see more law enforcement in these islands. I am hoping we are going to see the image of the Police of the Cayman Islands lifted until the people can rest assured that they have a Police Force to which they can respect.

Mr. President, I too am asking you in view of the previous informal sessions that have been held with Members which I believe was very useful and could do great things - I am asking, Mr. President, that these informal meetings be conducted on a monthly basis. That would enable Members to feel more a part of the whole machinery of Government. And this is all we are asking, Mr. President, to be able to be more of a part of the whole programme of this Government.

We must see to it that where there are skilled jobs that Caymanians must get an equal chance. That people aren't able to pull something under our eyes; and Caymanians apply for a good paying qualified job and somebody else maybe

MR. JOHN JEFFERSON: (CONT'D): that is less qualified slips in to work.

You spoke about the ideologies. I am glad that we grew up in a land where we never knew what colour was. A man was an intelligent man, he was a hard working and ambitious man or he was a lazy man. Nobody ridiculed him because he was white or black or yellow. I can assure you that we in this Territory have not until now and we are not going to permit any society or any foreign elements that would come in to these Islands to change this with God's help, because as we look back these are things that have only destroyed other countries.

In the country, Mr. President, we have a great influx of expatriates. I am not anti anybody, I never have and I never will be, and I am pro Caymanian and I believe that any person or anyone that comes within the shores of these Islands that they will find the people of these islands, with exception of a few, warm, friendly and sincere. I heard someone say the other day, they say what I see building up in the island is something that doesn't look good. They say a new Rhodesia. It distresses me to hear people say things like that. I don't believe that we have any makings of that nature, but what I believe, I believe that the people that come into these islands must make every effort to mix with the people and not have one group parting off at one part of the island and other people living at the other. In our districts we have very respectable families, people that are friendly, people who have won the confidence of their neighbours. I trust that every effort will be done and made and I trust that every person coming into these islands will feel that they are wanted, they are appreciated and they in turn will respect the Cayman Islands people and I am sure they also will receive the respect of these people as a whole.

Now I can move on to hotel accommodation. One hundred and ninety something room hotel is being proposed. Mr. President, as you rightly know I've been in the hotel industry for a number of years. But the thing that we must realise when we say that we want some more large hotels in the islands we must think of the work force of these islands. For when we build a hundred and ninety four room hotel it means that there is going to have to be about two hundred people probably that is going to be brought in to service a hotel of this size. Because at present our work force is not capable of doing so.

I feel that we should make every effort to see that the pace is set and we don't develop at a pace any faster than we can keep time with, because any development that does not benefit the people of the Cayman Islands as a whole is development that we don't need.

It is discouraging, like the Lady Member from George Town said yesterday, to see the lack of interest displayed by our people when it comes to the functions of Government and when it comes to the enacting of legislation and what have you. But yet like she so vitally said if there is something dealing with a little strip of land or something of that nature the House is crowded because people want to foster their own ends in my opinion.

I feel, Mr. President, that we as Members within this Chamber have to use every effort to help our people to be able to awake and realise that they must become involved in this Government. Realise that theGovernment is each and every one of us.

Trauancy; there are so many children on the streets that are not being educated. And the section that the First Elected Member from Bodden Town spoke from yesterday where he said a dagger had been thrown in his back I think makes your point very

MR. JOHN JEFFERSON: (CONT'D): clear. Because we find that parents are working, they are neglecting their effort. They are not using their full responsibility to see that their children are educated. So since they are in their way neglecting their responsibility the responsibility rests upon us to see that no minority group is left to roam these lands without being educated that later on will pose problems for these islands. We must get these children off the streets. We must get them in schools now. We must see that the police enforce the law where teenagers are allowed to drink in bars and clubs in these islands. And we must make the penalty for the seller of liquor to teenagers so strong that they would dare not to sell a youngster under age liquor in these islands.

Mr. President, Communications. I vote for a radio communication station in these islands because I believe it is a must. I don't care whether it is privately owned as long as it is operated under the control of Government. But the thing that is vital in my opinion is that we are able to get facts and truth to the people of these islands, which is vitally important to keep these islands the way they have been.

On Agriculture I vote that it is time that we spend money on Agriculture in these islands to try to help encourage and foster Agriculture. It is time that we begun to see what can be done in this respect.

There is also one other thing that I want to bear note of and that is as I look back over my few years I see that we have provided funds for a sports centre years ago, $20,000 that lapsed nothing was done about it. We provided money for public toilets nothing was done about it. We provided money for the regrading of our school fields, the sports fields very little if anything has been done about it. Now, Mr. President, we are not prepared to wait any longer on things of this nature, because these are amenities that our people need. These are amenities that we want to provide for our people. We want to give our youngsters an opportunity in good clean sports that will enable them to be able to not have to get involved in social drinking and drugs and what have you.

In closing, Mr. President, I want to thank you for this able Address so ably given. I realise that there have been weeks, no doubts months have gone into studies, facts have been prepared in this document. I wholeheartedly support every effort and can be counted on at all times to support any movement in these islands that is for the best interest of the people. With this and with God's help, Mr. President, I shall endeavour to do all within my power God helping to live so that I might be able to be counted on by the people of these islands as one who truly has the people at heart. With this I thank you very much.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Mr. President, Members of this House I want to pay compliment to the Governor for the Speech delivered from the Throne and I feel that only one in this House has any speech come near to equalling that one. The other speech was the one which came from the Executive Council Member from Cayman Brac yesterday.

I want to start my speech now because it will be very long and I am hoping that the coffee break will give me time to catch my second wind.

Another reason why I'd like is I am always ....(INTERRUPTION).

MR. PRESIDENT: Could I just check on your wishes Mr. Bodden? You'd like the coffe break to take place half way through would you?

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: About half way through, Sir.

Mr. President can I indicate when I would like the adjournment?

MR. PRESIDENT: You could ask. Certainly.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Another reason why I like to speak in the morning is because I am a very early riser and I am usually at my best behaviour in the mornings. And I would like to be very pleasant in my approach to the Throne Speech.

Now I noticed yesterday when the First Elected Member from Bodden Town was speaking there was no end of note taking and I am afraid the points have worn off the pencils, but I hope that they were resharpened last night because they maybe needed.

Some parts of the Throne Speech were to my mind rather contradictory. Because in the outset it is made clear that the policies of Government must be good enough to stand questioning and that Government welcomes criticisms, of course, only when it is constructive. But in the latter part of the speech the Governor bewailed and bemoaned the fact that criticisms have been levelled at certain facilities provided by Government. Facilities such as the Airline, Hospital and so on. We must realise that these facilities have been improved considerably because of the criticisms which has been meted out to them.

There has been, according to the Throne Speech, some controversy in this House. And I would like to deal at some length with the role of the Opposition in a Parliament. Because it is only if we understand the role of the Opposition that the Opposition Members will be looked upon with a measure of respectability.

The primary purpose of the sitting of this House is to control Government. But because a part of the House is the Government, the full responsibility for the control of Government rests upon the other Members. And there is no other way to control a Government but by criticisms. This was recognised hundreds of years ago by the Mother of Parliament. Lord Randolph Churchill made a famous phrase which is often quoted, "the business of the Opposition is to oppose". But the real functions of the Opposition are more suttle and if Members would like to do some reading I suggest that they read up in the encyclopaedia of Parlaiment by Norman Wilding. In that book he sets out four reasons for having an Opposition. The first one is to act as an outlet for criticisms. The second, and one not heard of in this island, is to act as the incorruptible searcher for scandals that need to be exposed. The third one, although tolerated is not too well accepted, and that is for the expression of grievances. How can one know about the grievances of the public if they are not expressed by the Members of the Opposition. And the fourth one, which I hope we never have to call into play while I am here, is the Opposition must be prepared to take over the Government if the people should lose faith in the Government.

So Government has no right at all to stifled criticisms or even to attempt to stifle criticisms. Apart from that the Opposition helps the workings of Government, we give them all the aid they need in the non-contentious matters. Let us look at the happenings on Tuesday in this House. Four Bills were passed in rapid prior succession because they were non-contentious in a record breaking time. I don't think if you searced the reports of Parliament the world you will ever find any place where four Bills were dealt with in such a rapid

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: (CONT'D): and expeditious manner.

Do not lose sight of the value of the Opposition. And of the good results which have come because the Opposition dared to criticise Government.

And before closing on this matter of the Opposition in future I would be happy if Members do not refer to us as the Opposition; but since we are a part of Her Majesty's Government that they give us our full title of 'Her Majesty's Opposition'.

I did not intend to touch on the matter of Self Government but since it is mentioned in the first page of the Throne Speech and since another Member has seen fit to do so, I will make a few small comments.

I read, 'a new style participatory Cayman Islands Government has been established'. A new style participatory Cayman Islands Government has been established - now this is in form in my opinion a kind of Self Government although it is very far removed from full Internal Self Government. It is the beginning. And the Governor goes on to say 'that I am not sure', speaking about the new style participatory Government, 'that this is fully understood by members of the public', and he might have added 'I am not sure if it is fully understood by all Members of the House'. But we have it and it is working well and I am happy with it.

The Governor also did us a big favour on that first page of that Speech in which he set out in glowing terms a description of the new style eight man Government. But I wish he had even done more. I wish he had gone on to section 9(2) of the Constitution which says that 'Executive Council must report in the Legislative Assembly any decision of Council'. And to go further I wonder how many people in the public understand the implications of Executive Council Members supporting in the Legislative Assembly all matters of Government. Whether the individual Member believes in it or not. It would be good to make this clear and I think you would create a better image abroad for the Executive Council Members because they are often criticised for doing things and they have no alternative but to do them. Under our present Constitution if a Member of Executive Council does not want to come out and publicly support in the Legislative Assembly any matter he must get the prior permission of the Governor to disagree or he would have to resign. There is no alternative in the Constitution. And the effects of this has been that every matter that has been brought forward by Government has gone through. Why, because before it comes here it already has a seven man block vote. This is as it should be. I dare say if Mr. Harold Wilson has such a good thing going he would have no trouble forming a Cabinet.

The public must be made to understand this that when the Executive Council Members come here and Government puts forward a Bill all of the Members are bound by the Constitution to support. And it has been working just like a party system. Only thing it is a unilateral party. A one side party without any opposition at all. Because the other Members on the other side of the House, with all respect to them, has never voted in a block against any thing put forward by Government.

Now one very touchy subject is that of the expatriates. And I have my views on it but I am not going to put all of them forward. But I would like to mention a few little things, because I feel that we cannot understand the expatriates and they cannot understand us unless we have some knowledge of each other.

I have been searching my mind to find out why do they come here. And two things keep recurring. One is the

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: (CONT'D): economy of our island and the other is our laws. Let me take the laws first. We have very good laws although some of them are quite indulgent. But when somebody comes here from abroad immediately our indulgent laws protect them; they stamp them with a symbol of adoption and they guarantee that as long as they are here they will be free from the crime and the violence and the black power and all the other things that plague the other Caribbean Islands.

They come here because of the economy. It is true they bring their skills, if they didn't bring their skills the economy wouldn't do them any good, but they come here because we have a good economy. They are amply rewarded for their labours. When a person comes into a small country no matter where he comes from whether it is from China or the most populated country in the world, when that person comes into a small country he requires a different pattern. Out there among the masses of civilisation even if he were a Prince he wouldn't have much standing; but when he comes here if he is somebody right away, and it is only right, he can reach the top in the social ladder and in every other field because there isn't that much to go around.

And so I feel that when they come here they are coming not for their health but for their own material well being. At the same time they must realise that if it were not for us they would have nothing to come to. If we were like the people in some of the other Caribbean lands, I don't need to go any further, they wouldn't be coming here. So the respect which is due them and which the Governor mentioned in his Speech is a two way thing because we can only respect them if they respect us. And I do not want to respect any man for his skills or for his specialised knowledge, I want to respect him because he is a well-mannered and a well-behaved man.

The Throne Speech touched on inflation, but it did not offer any solution. Yet at the same time it was quite emphatic that price and wage controls are radical measures and are not the answer. I will be arguing this later on in this Session when I come to a certain Private Member's Motion, but I would like to say from the outset that price control is not a radical measure, it is a remedial measure taking together the other measures which have been adopted in other countries and which have proven their worth. And no effort should be made to put it down without first examining all the good points and the bad points about it.

I will not continue with inflation because I am going to treat that at length sometime next week I suppose.

The Throne Speech dealt at length with the fuel crisis and what it said about its not affecting us is true in part. But I wonder if that is also true in Cayman Brac. Sometime last month I was over in Cayman Brac and could not get a car to rent because there was no gasolene. And I would have had to walk if it had not been for the benevolence of my good friend in Executive Council from Cayman Brac. And only last week I talked, in Goerge Town, to the Manager of Cayman Brac Power and Light Plant, and he told me, and he is a truthful man, that when he left Cayman Brac on Wednesday the light plant only had enough diesel to last until Saturday. But he got on the telephone and by great expense to himself making calls to New York he was able to obtain sufficient fuel so as to avoid a shut down. Imagine Cayman Brac having a black out. So the fuel crisis is with us whether we know it or not.

Now I know some of the problems in Cayman Brac and the fuel crisis alone may not be the only contributing factor. It might just be a matter of transportation from here. At the same time we have to examine the fuel crisis to ensure

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: (CONT'D): that Cayman Brac and Little Cayman have their full share of fuel.

To my mind the greatest note touched on in the Throne Speech was that of diversification of the economy. And I am proud that our Government realises this. We have a good thing going here in our tourist industry, thanks to our Minister for Tourism and to our Director of Tourism who laboured long before they were given these flamboyant titles. They had worked to build up the tourist industry.

And we have a good thing in the Tax Haven thanks to our Financial Secretary whose picture appears on the front page of magazines around the world. We have a good thing going but do not forget that these things are transient or can be.

There is much talk about Cuba opening up full relations with the United States that could have an effect on our tourist industry. Economic factors abroad could affect our tax business and our tourist business. The point I am trying to make is no matter how hard we work here, no matter how much the Minister for Tourism burns the midnight oil he cannot guarantee that the tourist industry will last. And so we need to look for diversification. And I understand by talking to a certain gentleman that he will soon be making a proposal to Government for something that will bring some diversification in our economy. And it will not only bring diversification but will provide employment in a sphere where we are qualified to accept the employment. And I am only hoping that when and if this proposal is made that our new self styled Government will accept the proposal; because as I have explained before unless they come to us from Executive Council, unless they are put forward by Government there is not a chance for the proposals to be accepted. They must be handed down to us by the party in power. Or they cannot go anywhere. Of course, if the party in power fails to bring forward a proposal I am sure the motions mover from Bodden Town would bring a motion about it, but that would not put the proposal into effect.

Now the good elected Member from West Bay touched upon the matter of more information to Members. I can only say that in the last month I have had just as much information as I could digest. So this here again is a result of direct criticism. But we don't only want to know about actions that have been decided upon we would like a preview of the things to come. I can only refer to the changing of the parity of the dollar; and to say that I consider that one of the decisions of Government that should have come to us. Perhaps, there were reasons why we couldn't be trusted with it or why it couldn't be given to us. But at the same time we should have had, in my opinion, due notice. And there is one sphere in which they could give us notice. They are always drafting new laws why not tell us what is in the pipelines so that we will be prepared for it and we will not make dunces out of ourselves bringing motions to say you should do this and you should do that when legislation is already in the embryo stage.

One line in the Throne Speech says that Agricultural possibilities are worth exploring but seem likely to be small in scale. I disagree with this. I can't see why this should be small in scale. One man, with one man's effort, is producing I understand alot of vegetables which are being sold. If Government would put into Agriculture half of the money that is put into Tourism this year and half of the money that is put into the Natural Resources Survey farmers could develop their land. We know the problems with agriculture here, you have to plant crops, you have to wait for them to grow, you have to hope they will grow and you starve in the main time unless you have another source of support. But with a little help from Government I

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: (CONT'D): think conditions can be improved. And I am looking forward during the coming year for the Minister responsible to give as much emphasis to agriculture as he is now giving to Tourism. And if he does this I feel certain that we will be exporting vegetables just the same as we are leading the Caribbean in the increase in tourism this year.

Loans for students took up one line or a part of one page in the Throne Speech. This is the most commendable thing. Loans to farmers should not be too far removed from that.

Now I am not going to criticise the hospital, because page 18 of the Throne Speech will make me wary of what I criticise from now on. But I am definitely going to criticise Government for putting the Natural Resources Laboratory on the hospital site. And not only that for the Governor for putting in the Throne Speech something about developing a comprehensive plan for the hospital site. I don't know what plan or what planners could develop anything for that site when it has been crowded to the limit with not only the Mosquito Research building but quite recently with the new lab. And I think that this was done in protest from the Medical Department. If I remember the conversation in the Finance Committee - to use the words of the First Elected Member 'We were pleaded with to save the seven acres for the hospital'. Yet this marine biology lab which has come into being, as I mentioned in the last sitting of the House, in a railroaded manner, has not only been forced upon us but has ursurped the little land that was left for the comfort of the hospital.

So I don't think that that part of the Throne Speech carries much weight with me, because I can't believe any expert can do anything with a site that is already filled. Unless they pull it down like they did the toilets in North Side.

I would like to see the Member of Executive Council for inter-island relations also charged with responsibility for the forgotten eastern districts, Bodden Town, North Side and East End. We know that the island ended at Crewe Road up until just a few short months ago, but now we want to see greater developments; we want to see that we are getting our share of this fortunate island. We do not want to be left out. I have only to mention one or two things and you will see what I am talking about. In the Throne Speech I read that the number of Nurses has been doubled. What has happened to the eastern districts? Many years ago we had at least one fully trained Nurse, now we have a trainee, although she is doing a very good job. This is not good enough because we must remember that you can't get the doctors out of the hospital for love nor for money. If there is a case like a serious accident in which the person received a head injury and should not be moved without a doctor's attendance you couldn't get one of them there no matter how you tried. If a child needed first aid or suppose there was a bad cut obtained in one of the schools, the child would bleed to death. We never hope to have a doctor there. We would hope to have one or two trained Nurses. Suppose a woman was having a baby in the Hut in NORTH Side - how long would it take to get her to the hospital? Years ago we had a proper mid-wife well trained, one of the best this island has ever had stationed in Bodden Town. Now she is gone and we are told that the number of Nurses have been doubled. And we are also told that we are a part of the fortunate but forgotten islands.

Does anybody look at the Town Halls. The one in Bodden Town has no door now. It has a very sophisticated set of toilets which I think have been put up as a memorial to some Member. Because in the Finance Committee this matter of

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: (CONT'D): the toilets came up and we were told by the Member in charge of Public Works that he would stop the work on the Bodden Town toilets, but no man was ever laid off.

I will have to give the House the full story. We feel, that is the Members from Bodden Town, that these toilets were put up at an astronomical cost far beyond what they should have cost. All we needed was one little rest room attached to the Town Hall. Here we have the most expensive toilets - I am sure they don't have such an expensive toilet in Buckingham Palace. The money that was spent on that toilet could have built fourteen.

Not only that. It is put out in front of the Town Hall, it is an eye sore, but the pathetic part of it is that it has ruined forever a piece of Government land worth approximatley, in my opinion, and I am not a Realtor, $50,000.00. Why this waste of Government property and this waste of Government funds to provide one little amenity when the Town Hall itself has no door? When the termites have taken control of the walls and the ceiling or has clambered up the walls to the ceiling? When there are no chairs in the Town Hall - I remember in November of last year the Governor was invited to a meeting at Bodden Town and on that very night there was also a school breaking up concert and we went to the trouble to get chairs from the Town Hall in Goerge Town - they sent them up to us the day before and on the evening of the meeting at six o'clock that evening a Public Works Truck came and took the chairs out. And the Governor would have had to sit on the floor if it had not been for the generosity of the neighbours. And we, that is the school teachers from Bodden Town and with us Members from Bodden Town, were lucky to get a few chairs by hiring a truck, paying for it out of our pocket so that the Town Hall was not empty.

And coming on to this week, although I understand this was a misunderstanding but it actually happened. We had advertised for a meeting in Bodden Town and on the day of the meeting we were told that the chairs had been taken out of the Town Hall. But through the co-operation of some good people they were put back. They had been ferreted away to George Town. I don't want to make a political issue of this but I want you to note that in the last two years the chairs have only been moved out of the Bodden Town Town Hall on two occasions. In the last two years the chairs have only come out of that Town Hall and that was the time when the First Member from Bodden Town and I were having a meeting. It maybe a coincidence. If it happens again we will bring a Motion about it.

MR. PRESIDENT: May I bring one now that we stop and have tea, please for fifteen minutes.

HOUSE SUSPENDED
HOUSE RESUMED.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: (CONT'D): Mr. President, I think I have finished with the subject of the toilets. The little that was remaining was dealt with in the refreshments room.

The Throne Speech mentions the fact that it is the responsibility of the elected Members to let the public know what is happening. It mightn't be put in those exact words but I think the thought is there and I agree. At the present time we only have two ways of doing this. One is by public meetings the other is by the Press. Unfortunately I have never been able to communicate through the Press. Because I feel that the Press in this island is not doing as good a job as it could do. I have talked with members of the Press and I have said to them, 'why don't you come to our meetings, why don't you

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN:(CONT'D): do this, why don't you publish this?'. They say boy you don't know the controls we are subjected to. Now I don't know if these controls come from within the Press, within the Company itself, from Government or from some outside source. But freedom of the Press is really not here.

I would like to see the introduction of radio and television as a means of communication. The Press is good but there is nothing like the power of the spoken word. If you send a man a letter it is not the same as going and seeing him face to face. If you send a woman a letter it doesn't have the same effect as whispering in her ears. So the Press is not a substitute for radio and television. One of the leading authorities on television in the United States wrote quite recently, he says, 'he does not know how people learn; but he knows that they learn from television'. And it is quite time that we look forward to having radio and television brought to this island. I am not going into the details of who should own it or how it should be set up. But as a means of communicating with the people; a means of educating the people not only politically but otherwise. Because as bad as I am when certain things are explained to me I can agree even with the Members of Executive Council. But when there is no communication there can be no understanding and when there is no understanding there is always trouble.

For the last few days we have been watching a drama in real life being enacted right on the door steps of this building. I refer to the slow down strike of the Cable and Wireless employees. I am wondering if Government is contemplating taking any action since at the present time we do not have a properly organised negoitating body. It is not enough for us to sit here and believe that this strike does not affect us. Do you if this strike were shut down entire communications we would have no more tax haven business; because all of these offshore companies depend on instant communication - telex, telephones, cables - and it is a very serious matter. And I would like to see a hastily summoned meeting of some body to deal with this; to intervene and to find out what is wrong. By what I hear on the streets the grievances are not very much. If there was some effort to meet the employees half way or quarter way or even 10% of the way I believe that things could function. A little patch work job would do the trick. But if one does not listen and if one does not communicate there will be trouble.

This is not for Government to do but the time has come when we need a body for negoitating between labour and between employer.

One thing that disturbs me when I read in the Throne Speech about people being recruited, is that I am not satisfied that sufficient emphasis is being placed on the people already in the Service to give them all the promotions and all the training they should get, so that we would only have to recruit perhaps the very top man in the field.

If I remember right in the Finance Committee we were asked to approve the recruitment of certain Police Officers from abroad, when many of our own officers have already been on courses and perhaps could go on more. And if it is not immediately possible to have our own trained officers will it ever be possible if we do not start the training process now.

Sometime ago in this House the First Member from Bodden Town and I attempted an amendment to the Cayman Protection Law. I believe that it is time that this law should be re-written. Everybody says it is a farce. And its sister law the Trades and Business Law is only a revenue earner and really has no effect on Trades and Businesses with the exception of extracting some of their profits. So both of these laws should be re-written or better still should be scrapped and replaced with new ones.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: (CONT'D): One thing that worries me in this island more than all the other things put together is that of monopolies. And apparently Government is not concerned. There is a threat of a few people owning everything. They come in masquerading under the name of a bank or some other holy institution and like an octupus they start reaching out their tenticles- a little piece of land here and a little shipping there and a little bit of this and a little bit of that; and I understand that there is even a move afoot to get special appointees in the Government Service. I hope this never comes about.

Most countries have laws against monopolies. If ever a country needs such a law we need one now.

Under the Trades and Business Law you can get a Licence for practically anything. I heard a man say the other day, he was going to apply for a licence to process ganja and see if they could refuse it under the law.

I hear that there are in this island certain fiduciary institutions that refuse, absolutely refuse to publish their balance sheets. When these Companies are doing business with the public,tampering with the well earned capital of the man on the street and they absolutely refuse to show a balance sheet these are things that this Government must look into. We must not be blinded by the revenue to be derived . There must be a limit.

It is quite possible that within another few months one outfit on this island could be employing as much as 40% of the labour force in this island. Can you imagine what a strike by 40% of the workers in this island would mean. It would paralyse the country's economy.

Now I have one small idea I would like to leave with you and that is on the matter of workers. It was touched upon by another Member when he referred to the new hotel which is contemplated, and the Member rightly said it would impose a hardship on the work force. But I believe one of our problems here is that the work force needs re-distribution. What has happened is that all of our development has more or less been in the George Town area and the seven mile beach area, and while there are many capable people in say East End, North Side and Bodden Town; very capable people that could manage hotel work transporation is a problem. A public transport system could ease the work load in the concentrated areas; if people could move freely back and forth at little cost - it is true such a system if it were run by an individual might even need a Government subsidy. But what is wrong with that? You have other countries far bigger and far greater provide services which are heavily subsidised. We need to look into this.

If your development is to be concentrated in one area people in the other districts must not be excluded because of lack of transportation.

I have three or four more points in this speech but I am not going into them because they were touched so ably by my fellow Member from Bodden Town.

But I would like to close with again complimenting Executive Council on putting forward their least controversial Member and saving the big guns for the last. But again I would like to remind them that the role of the Opposition is to criticise and the role of Government is to provide us with policies to criticise.

HON. A.B. BUSH: Mr. President and Members I note there are only two Members left over the other side left to speak while there are three of us here, who I am sure the other two will speak as well as I am going to do now.

HON. A.B BUSH: (CONT'D): First of all Mr. President, I too must add my thanks to you for the wonderful Throne Speech and to compliment you, not only on the composition, the formulation of it, but also on the delivery. It was very well done indeed. And no wonder your throat was somewhat hoarse afterwards; I was sure that when you got through with it your vocal chords would have some temporary affect from it.

Members I know are somewhat hesitant to speak before hearing the Executive Council Members; but as has been outlined in speeches such as this Members of Executive Council now play a great part in the making of those speeches. And it is no more than right that the Members should be the last to speak to clear up any misunderstandings , misinterpretation of what has been said in the speech. And so I want Members - let us refer to them as the other side which is always done here now - that it is because of this that the Members of Executive Council do this. Not because they are afraid to do so but as we are part of the speech we cannot but add praise to it. We cannot do proably what you all would want us to do, to criticise it.

I know, Mr. President and Members, there has been alot of rambling around from this Throne Speech, and I would much preferred to have heard Members stick to what was said in the speech instead of going elsewhere. I think they can thank you for your tolerance in allowing this.

Now I don't intend to do that but I will, Sir, as I go on ask for your indulgence to permit me to clear up what seems to me a few misunderstandings on things outside of the Throne Speech.

First let me say that I congratulate you for giving the islands a new name, "The Fortunate Islands". And I believe all of us here regardless of how we criticise realise that we are indeed the fortunate islands in these times of world crisises in many places. And I knew from many years ago when we were titled "the islands that time forgot", and as I went around I realised that it wasn't going to be long before we are going to be discovered; and indeed we have been discovered and we are no more considered the islands that time forgot. I realised that there were too many people in other places and too few here to let it remain that way for very long. So we have got that part of it settled - we have been discovered. And indeed we've got to be careful that we don't be over discovered.

The Constitution which you mentioned again - to my mind is something that suits us. Regardless to what Members may think or say of the type of Constitution that we have I consider it something that suits us. And I have said this time and again and I consider the timing also for bringing in this type of Constitution has been well planned. I believe to have had this years ago as was contmeplated by some might have proven disastrous. Today we have reached a stage of political maturity which enables us to handle the type of Constitution that we have. I am not saying that we are going to stay as we are all the time. No doubt there will be advancements in it. But I would say to Members think well of what you have now, make sure you understand it and when you are about to move make sure you know where you are going. I would say to you be content with what you have for now and think carefully before going any further.

There has been a little criticism, not so very much not as much as I might say as I expected that would be levelled at this Throne Speech, and I suppose if we didn't have a little criticism we would all become complacent and stagnant in everything that we do. So it is good mabe that we have especially the two Members from Bodden Town to stir us up - good. But I feel sure that taking everything into consideration that

HON. A.B. BUSH: (CONT'D): they realise that the Government is working well and that there isn't after all so very much to growl about.

One only has to look at what Government is doing or attempting to do in the field of Education, Medical and other things to realise that these things are being seriously considered by Government. I would just invite Members to go up around the school premises, look into the buildings that Government has put up and see if Government has given very serious considerations to the education of this island.

Also the Medical. We know there is much to be desired almost in every department. We realise that there is more improvement to be done, but Government has all this under consideration; and I don't want to ursurp any of the authority from the Member who is responsibility for all this, but I think I should add my compliments to what he has undertaken to do and inform Government of his plans to do it.

We need alot more, we want alot more but as was mentioned in your speech, Sir, and you have been told this, think of the days gone by when things were really hard. When we didn't have a hospital, when we had only one little school in George Town -one little building. So haven't we gone a long way? Twelve thousand people with no taxation what really do you expect? Do you expect everything so sophisticated that you will have no complaints about anything at all? I say no. I think we are doing well and we are going on.

In particular, Mr. President, do I like the phrase you have used about the islands having moved out into the world. Sure we have moved out into the world and I am happy to know this and I am happier still to know that I happened to have been in a position where I also contributed to moving them out into the world. God knows we have been locked behind doors long enough and we have moved out and I hope no one here will ever want us to go back where we were before. There is no doubt a lot has to be done to keep us moving out and I am sure that Members here and maybe Members to come will make sure that all this is done.

The undertakings of Government especially within the next four years, which is the term of this Legislature,- has undertaken many big projects. You all know about this I am sure. It was mentioned in the speech. The Administrative Building is well on the way; we hope that it will be completed sometime this time next year. This will be a great day I am sure even for the Members in Bodden Town. The Port project although disappointing that it hasn't started already, that is the construction of it, it is moving on towards it and as was told you in the Throne Speech it is in the consultants stage and we hope to have this settled not so very far in the future, when we will be able to choose the right consultants to make the final drawings and present the final plan for the construction of this project. There was a man in here yesterday who is assisting us in making this decision as to who should be the Consultants on this particular project. And as he said to me I am sure that when this project is completed you are going to have an excellent docking facility in your island. I told him I hope so, I was looking forward to it and as he could see we need it very badly; and surely we couldn't have anything worst it must be better.

If you look out there even this morning you will see there are six ships waiting to get into the docks, while there are two now into the docking facilities which we have here. So you cannot criticise Government for not at least trying to do something in this particular line.

As was told you the Airport is also being given some attention. The freight shed has been ordered. This we

HON. A.B.BUSH: (CONT'D): hope will be erected not later than sometime in May. We have, of course, before doing this to purchase some land, which I think also was mentioned in the Throne Speech, and this is right now in the negoitating stage. We hope to have this cleared up in the next couple of weeks.

As was also mentioned in your Throne Speech, Mr. President, and you informed Members that in regards to land and the purchasing of land by Government and the attitude taken by owners of land it seems as if they would prefer to sell their land to some private individuals for speculation purposes rather than give it to Government for purposes which are very badly needed for the islands. This seems to be the attitude of people who own land. I hope that this will be changed in the future. We have had this ever since we have attempted to do something to improve the amenities for the islands - we have had this problem of land to contend with. And I do hope that the attitude of people in the future will be that they will prefer to sell to Government for a good purpose rather than sell to private individuals maybe for a bad one.

The terminal building we hope will get under way by the end of this year or not later than early next year. Again this site will have to be purchased for this building in order to place it far enough away from the existing runway so that we won't have to move it in the next ten years.

Mention has been made, Mr. President, this is really outside your Throne Speech and this is where I said I will crave your indulgence to permit me to maybe explain to Members some of what maybe they really don't understand fully at this moment.

A radio station was mentionned yesterday by the First Elected Member from Bodden Town. Maybe he has seen a little something about it in the papers, but Members will remember sometime ago this came up and it was to have been taken up by this Government. The British Government was to have given the cost of the station under Technical Aid. But because of the implications and the recurrent expenditure I think this thing was put aside because Government didn't see fit to do this; they didn't see fit to work this recurrent cost into the Budget. Government has now asked for a technical adviser to come here, and he is here and this is probably what you're seeing the publicity about. He is here giving Government his views, he is here to examine, re-examine the whole matter and to see whether the situation has changed. I can assure you that when his report is made to Government on this Members here will know about it. Government, therefore, will consider whether we should have a radio station at all and whether it should be Government owned or Government controlled. This is as far, Mr. President and Members, as I will go with regards to the radio station.

The Utility Company was also mentioned of the high rates of electricity. Again, Mr. President, I'll ask your indulgence here for me to explain this. I am not denying this but do we ever get anything for nothing any more? Rates of electricity is high as well as the rates of everything else. Telephones as well. You know some of the reasons for this as well as I do - high cost of labour and what not. But I don't think Members should really criticise Government on the cost of electricity because if Members realise - if Members knew just what was asked for from this Company you would realise that Government played a very important part in trying to protect you and the people from higher rates of electricity.

HON. A.B. BUSH: (CONT'D): Government went through the accounts of this Company very carefully and they have given what is considered a reasonable rate. This is not, of course, satisfactory I might tell you to the utility company and I think they still want more. In fact I think we are going to have some tough bargaining to do with them.

We have a franc as you know, with this Company and I thihk the Member mentioned of allowing them something like 8% on their returns; this should read of not less than 8%. At the same time it also states that Government should not withold any reasonable profit from them in order that they should expand their business. This I don't think Government expects to do. And I want to assure Members that Government has looked over this very carefully and will do so from time to time. I realise that it was left alone for too long. That profits were being made which should not have been made but when this was really brought to Government's attention due to the energy crisis Government I can assure you have looked into it and I feel sure will do their best to control it in the future.

Again mention was made of rest rooms in Bodden Town. I think the Member is somewhat mistaken. I really gave no guarantee in the Finance Committee that the rest rooms which were started in Bodden Town, much to his dislike as to the locality of these halls, would be torn down I gave no such undertaking. I simply said that I would look at this because I had not seen the locality. The Public Works Department was to have gone and done this, I didn't go on the spot and do this. So they went and did it. I had a look at it after my attention had been called to it in the Finance Committee. I did this and I was satisfied that it was in the right position.

I think what the Member mentioned was that it would block the entrance to the land in the back of the Town Hall. This I found out was not so because it was equally the amount of land on the other side of the building which acess could be had through from that side. So I am satisfied that the building is properly located. I am also satisfied that they are something to be proud of in Bodden Town and I don't think the Members should feel that Government really has wasted money on this because I believe it is something needed and something that will stand up for many years in the district even though it may be a memorial to me or to the Public Works Department.

And one which we may hear come up again and one which we had trouble with was in the North Side District. This I found, when it was called to my attention, was sited wrongly. I went there and I stopped it; and today I am sure the Member for North Side is quite satisfied with what he has there where it is sited, the type of building and everything else.

On the whole, Mr. President and Members, I feel like you should feel like the Members of Executive Council, although not perfect, are doing their very best in a new situation. With the limited amount of money which is at the disposal of Government to spend on the various things which are needed in the island I feel like you should appreciate the effort of the Members of Council. What they are doing, what they hope to do. And also the Government, our Financial Secretary for trying in every way to provide these funds for us to work with.

There is much to be done, no doubt, about it but I am sure as we go on that we will have this all done. Not all at one time but each year we will accomplish something which I feel sure is going to be a credit to all of us as Legislators when our term is ended.

Thank you Mr. President.

MR. PRESIDENT: Well I feel sure at this stage we shall have some technical manoeuvring so we'd better leave the rest of it I think for the afternoon.

HOUSE SUSPENDED

HOUSE RESUMED.

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members please be seated. Debate continued.

MR.CRADDOCK EBANKS: Mr. President and Honourable Members of this House after listening to the Throne Speech I made some notes in connection with it, but it seems somehow that other speakers have sort of robbed me of what I was intending to say. So in light of that I don't suppose that I will have very much to say. But I would say in these few opening remarks that we are here to speak our mind in keeping with the Government and Parliamentary procedure and what not. Whether our criticism be constructive or destructive I will say as one of the elected members for eastern districts but as has been mentioned that all the good things seem to stop Crewe Road, I'll say to myself and to my people I am prepared to do as the Israelies put up a fight.

On the end of World War II when two soldiers were fishing on a little bridge an American on one side and a Russian on the other the Russian discovered that the American soldier was getting alot of bites; so he finally said to the soldier, how are you getting so many bites and I can't get either one?. Well he replied, they are not afraid to open their mouths on this side of the bridge. Neither am I afraid to open my mouth or say what I have to say on behalf of my people, on the island as a whole, on the Government where I feel it is right and it is justice.

From the Speech the President said that in 1976 the people would express their opinion. I agree; and it is being given alot of thought even from today. There will be some changes undoubtedly, how many or how far they will reach I am not prepared to say. I may not find myself in here either but as we keep growing, as we keep developing we must expect changes. Not only in the outside, not only in the private sector, not only in families or surroundings but in Government, in the House among Elected Members, among the Executive Council and everybody concerned. I am hoping that if we do make a change or if there is a change that it will continue to be as it is today - improving, growing on good ground. But however, good things maybe there is always room for improvement. And arising out of the Speech that statement was made that it could be questioned or not. Well it could be questioned because if we are doing good according to the English language or the dictionary it is good, better and best. So if we are doing good we can still do better.

We have much to be proud of, we have much to be thankful for, we are still free people and I hope that the free movements of the people of this country will continue and not be harnessed in any way. We have alot of people that are coming into our country as visitors; some for gain, some for employment, some to stay and undoubtedly these people will bring ideas of their own that will be past out and as humans all over we accept certain things .

It was stated by the first Elected Member of the Executive Council that Members speaking in connection or on the Throne Speech that they had somewhat strayed away from this Speech.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: (CONT'D): I don't know if I could agree with him all the way, because if one followed this Speech down paragraph by paragraph and went into it in detail it would undoubtedly reach out in all of these fields and the different directions that the Member mentioned that didn't appear in the Throne Speech. I can repeat again what I said it was long hours of hard work to bring this to the House and to the public - to know how our Government is working, to know how stable it maybe, what are the plans for the future. So if we launch out in that we would more or less have to take in every field and direction that would involve all of these things.

It is quite true that this island is not the island it was one hundred years ago or even fifty years ago. It now has a new nickname, which I suppose will soon reach the end of the world, that means things are changing. We have on our doorsteps now what we didn't have fifty years ago - a group of employees striking for whatever reason I don't know. But all of these things will come about as we go along. And whatever maybe the reason for this, even though it is a private enterprise, Government has given the approval of a franchise for such an operation on this island; and we are now hinged on communications as one of the fast pets of business life on the whole and movement and what not, so I feel that within a few days if the Company cannot probably solve the problem, which I don't know what is the reason, Government may have to get in and try to help solve this for the Company. Because we just cannot let this sort of state of affair continue. It will leave a bad taste, a bad example setting - so the sooner it could be solved the better it would be. As I say these things will keep coming in; what we didn't have before we are getting now. Some of the things we wouldn't want, we wouldn't hardly expect that it would come into this island, but it will. For its size it is one of the wealthiest islands in the Caribbean - and money can do alot of things. I am not trying to say that the Government is buying its way through any place or trying to pay for something I don't mean that. Money can be pushed around in a thousand directions to reach where it wants to be, - and get what they want done. This we have to be careful about.

We do have a new setting of Constitution as it were that we are working under that we feel as the Member said it probably came in in the right time. I don't know, we probably could've got the Members better prepared for it if we had had it a few years hence. But as to talking about Internal Self Government or Independence or anything else regardless to what we may have in our minds or what the public may think or what Members may think we cannot grow and remain in the same place. That is impossible. If it takes ten men to do a job at this stage and when the business develops by fifty percent to one hundred percent then the same ten men can't do the job, you employ another ten or fifteen because it is growing.

I am hoping that we will be able to keep our country under control in the constitutional realm or field as more or less as it has been going, but don't say that we just will have to remain or just be satisfied at this stage of it. We will soon find that this don't reach all the demands that this Government is being faced with constitutionally.

I am even thinking that the Head of State that is an appointment made by Her Majesty the Queen to this country, like many other countries or Crown Colonies, probably it may not be too far away when we will have to have our Constitution that we can decide something for ourselves in connection with the appointment of it. We ought to be growing and getting to the place where we ought to know what we want and who we feel will serve us better or do a better job. With no insinuations to anyone. But I am just thinking in the terms of growing. The

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: (CONT'D): time may come when we might have to have six Elected Members to the Executive Council. We might have to have twenty Elected Members for the House instead of twelve. So if the matter of looking and following the growth in every field - we have been told recently by the Financial Secretary and by Government that the Honourable Member cannot carry on alone he had to have somebody else, we accept this because it is too much for one - its a growth and so we go.

Under the Constitution the Elected Members on Council are given responsibility in the different fields. And I told the Members and I told this House I am prepared to go along with them, work with them, wait on them until they can be established in their undertakings, but I would like to see them do a job without fear or favour. When its the right of the people they should stand for the right of the people.

Now recently as far as I know the Elected Members got a notice that the Second Elected Member of Executive Council had been given further responsibility of keeping the Elected Members informed with the information. Now if the type of information that I received on one occasion is what they the Government or Executive Council feel should be sent out to Members as first hand information according to this as far as I am concerned it doesn't worth the paper nor the time print it. Because this is not what Members is expecting from Executive Council. We realise that there is a certain amount of secrecy and confidence that should remain in Executive Council but if they are going to divulge anything to the Elected Members it ought to be something to the Elected Members in confidence before as this reads:'Please find attached information being released to the Press". Then it isn't worth us having it if it has gone to the Press. Why waste this paper to send it to us. All of us buy a newspaper and we can see it in there. We are expecting the information before it reaches the public, not when it is ready for the Press. To me, as I said, it doesn't worth the paper its on. And if that is the kind of information that we are going to be informed with I don't need it, because I can hear alot of those things in the public before it even comes to this and that is just what we were trying to get around when we asked for a closer relation with the Executive Council.

As I said, let me repeat there are a certain amount of secrecy that should remain only in the Executive Council, but when you are going to give it to the Press don't send it to me too. That looks like you have children just sending them out to school and you are trying to teach them starting off at school age.

Mention was made in the Throne Speech of political controversy. Yes, we do have that. That's why so many people who are non Caymanians who are clamouring for Caymanian Status; they want to become a Caymanian and this will cause some political upheavals. We find people come to these islands to reside they'll want to get into the affairs of running this country and how far that will go or how far we will be able to keep that off we don't know. But we can expect this as one of the changes as we go along as well.

Violence - the world seems to be in a turmoil of voilence. While we yet seem to be the rose untouched it will reach our shores and waters. We regret to think of this but if we expect other things we have to expect this as well.

The Honourable Member from West Bay in speaking this morning made reference to the little island of Grenada. I saw aclipping from the news in London two days ago when they were asking for this million and a half or something or the other for this painting that has been stolen for food to go to this little island - it has been said in London we refuse to accept

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: (CONT'D): such as that. And the time is at hand when the limit must be carried out to stop this. Don't be afraid to do what is right to curb this to save further such things as that. We hear of it nearly daily now - kidnapping, hi-jacking and what not - asking for these millions and millions and what not. Is the world going to still go on and let this and the people suffer for it? I well realise when I make some of these statements what we should do when dealing with wrong that I have a family. I well realise that it can come into my front door. But if we are to curb, if we are to stop the evil then we must do it by force, not by being partial, sympathetic and what not.

Even in our island today things are happening that we never thought would happen. People are becoming in their way, particularly some of our young people, nearly lawless; they just want to do things the way they want to do it, how they want to do it, when they want to do it and all that. We must try and bring some of this to a halt. We see so many of the things that are happening in our island today and Government should be taking some steps and stand in some of these things.

It was mentioned by one of the speakers this morning about the teenagers drinking the way they are drinking, carousing and what not - blame the bartenders, they can't blame the bartenders all the way. No bartender can tell when that boy is twenty one years of age. He might guess at it. But if Government made some ruling, some regulation that identification cards be imposed and carried then this could be somewhat controllled. We know that they will get it through the hole some of them, but it would reduce alot of what we are experiencing today. I say well that would come under the Liquor Law - we've been looking for that for a year now, nothing has been done apparently about it. When we ask for some of these things to be done then they are dragged on to time and eternity with other things coming in in priority - but to me many of them have never been essential or important in many a place many a times as some of these things that we have asked for.

The disciplining of our people today is a task, its a job - and it comes back to the point of money, because they can get a good job - they just forget about so many other things - as much as to say let everything take care of itself. We are glad that we have parents that ambitious to work - mother and father as the case maybe - but when a parent let their children go to ruin for the sake of a $500 job a month they will reap their return in due time, and in most cases it is regrettable.

It can well be said it ain't the days it use to be and neither the islands that time forgot - when all of this was different. We tried to bring things in a manner or in a way that would help protect our young people because they are easily drawn away. We got the movie business that they have been endeavouring, most of them, to get pictures shown on Sundays. How many young people would not rather go to a picture on Sunday evening than stay at home or go to Church? They will say 'You know I've been at school all week Sunday is the only day I have off why not'. It won't do any good. We will reap sorrow for it. We have many businesses in the private sector that will do anything for the sake of a dollar. A dollar means more to them than the principles, the standards and the good quality of our people. They are not particular about whether it destroys the future of this country or not. These things Government should look seriously into.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: (CONT'D): We always refer that our tomorrow hinge on the youth of today.

Mention was made in the Speech of schools, education. The First Elected Member to the Executive Council made mention of the beautiful buildings that are being prepared on the comprehensive compound. A beautiful building doesn't do the job. I agree 100% that we should have the best of facilities, buildings, furniture , equipment and what not placed before the children to give them a good education, but I think there are some other things lacking in that field that needs to be gone into, taken care of and better discipline established in the school - children go when they want to go, do what they want to do as it were - its pathetic. As I said I agree it is a good building, good facilities.

It was stated further in dealing with education that not too far in the future Government will not be sponsoring scholarships, but a loan is being looked into to finance this. I am wondering how the poorer parents will be able to tie in with this. They have a bright child who could probably qualify for a scholarship but because Government is discontinuing this - that they can get a thousand dollars or a five thousand dollar loan but it has to be backed by somebody, somebody has to be responsible. Then if the parents are not in the position to be responsible for this I don't know how it will work out; or what does Government have in mind as to dealing in this field then with it. Whether the loan will be granted or given to a child and if on completion they would have to pay this back in terms and time and what not. I just don't know how this is proposed to be worked out by Government. But I would say that if we have pupils that are qualifying for a scholarship - if and where and when - the parents might be in a position to help bear some of this expense it should be done and I think it could be done - but I don't know as I said how it would work out rather than that which if and when we get to it we will get the pros and cons of it.

The Governor spoke of the possibility of exploring the agricultural field. The Agricultural Society has been working quite hard for a number of years and it has always seemed to have been sort of suppressed in some manner that it was barely able to get off the ground. Nevertheless they have been struggling along with it - while I admit that most Caymanians are salt water tarts and not fully agriculturists, in fact we don't have I suppose any of those in the islands except maybe the Head of the Agriculture Department that has had some training in this - but we realise that the old way we used to plant don't produce anymore what we would want, like the way we would want fast production.

From a few years aback we had some expert come in here to take some soil and do some tests and make some recommendations and I don't know anymore about it. I did understand that it came back to the islands but as to what was the results I don't know whether it proved that it didn't grow or produce what he would like to produce I don't know.

We have a chap in the district of North Side who does quite a bit of farming - hand farming - he has a patch of tomatoes presently and Sunday gone here that boy picked one tomatoe weighing two and a quarter pounds; and he has them there hanging to be picked weighing from a pound to two pounds each. Now just rooting in the soild and throwing in a little bit of stuff can produce that then it looks like some of us must have been sleeping when we thought that this soil couldn't produce. And to the best of my knowledge this island until the end of World War II was self supporting from the soil and even further back nearly everything that we ate and drank was from what we did. With knowledge and experience I think there is no problem for this island to be over-self supporting and maybe a small export of maybe tomatoes, cabbages or lettuce or something or the other like that. But there is no question

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: (CONT'D): that we couldn't produce enough to take care of our needs. And as has been said this morning if Government has embedded into the Estimates that we will give $50 or $60 thousand to help promote agriculture we would have been doing a good job as well.

The problem of inflation - that's the world's disease now as well- but I think we are paying a bigger price for it than anywhere else since we are not self-supporting in what we maybe able to grow in our islands, we don't have any factories, we're living almost on imports. Many people are complaining that Government must look into this matter and enforce a price control; I've told many people who have approached me on this matter that that is one side of it, they must think about the other side as well. To have one you have both price control and labour control and you wouldn't want anybody to control your labour. It is not as easy as alot of people think to set up a price control system. But I will say this that the somewhat daily commodities that Government has exempted from duty it appears that once in awhile that Government should look into some of these once every three months or every six months and see if something could be done. For example I walked into a shop here one morning a few weeks ago there were a number of cases of butter on the floor being unpacked and put in the freezer shelf- I said to the clerk what is the price of butter - 88 cents per pound. A half an hour later I walked into another store and saw the same activity going on - apparently it was a shipment of butter that had just arrived for everybody concerned - I said what is the price of your butter - $1.42 per pound. Now there has to be something wrong. If at 88 cents you are making a profit of 3 cents 5 cents then where does $1.42 come in.

This is not duty free but I said to one hardware dealer what is the price of an 8ft. aluminium ladder? $71.95. I asked another the price of the same type of ladder, he said $30.50. Something is wrong some place.

Can Government be content and happy to let these things go on. As I said I know it is difficult and I am not thinking in terms of setting up price control but when one knows that these things are existing a look should be made into it and some reminder sent to the importer in connection with it.

We have an industry in the agriculture field from the Caribbean Farms milk - everything that comes in in connection with that is duty free and they are just following the trend of imported milk. I thought their intention was to come in here and to develop and set up a business to supply this country with milk to cut the import and keep prices down to the lowest level with a profit. But when you can buy imported milk for 60 cents a quart and a local produced quart for 65 cents it isn't very encouraging. These are the things that Government need to look into.

Medical we have understood that there is alot of renovation, improvements at the hospital compound. This is another that a beautiful improved building with good beds and what not is not all the answer either. It must have other good conditions attached to it; people that are willing to work, people who are willing to put themselves out a little bit for the sake of the sick. There are two places on earth that no living individual that has a good sound sense wants to go,those are in the hospital and in the graveyard. But unfortunately, we have to expect that sometime that if we go to a hospital it is not because we want to go, it is because you have to go there. We're glad that medical science has reached the stage that it does help many of us to enjoy many more years on this earth.

The facilities for the hospital ought to be considered one of the first things in making the accommodation

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: (CONT'D): for the sick as comfortable as possible in every way; and just make one happen to feel like they are somewhat really being cared for and not to be lying there and just overlooked sometimes as it seems to be happening.

We have the garbage problem. I feel ashamed sometimes when I find myself in a place and see strangers to the island looking around and looking at things, making remarks about - I don't know it is upsetting - I am wondering what Government really intend to do to try to clean up and clear up some of this mess. I suppose the Member responsible would say well we had two or three garbage trucks on order for twelve or fifteen months ago. That is not an answer to it. We have dozens of trucks in this island beside Government trucks, why not get a half a dozen of these trucks and put them island wide and make a clean up for once at least and see if we can have a starting point. But that is the answer we have garbage trucks on order and they haven't arrived yet. We are going to let dirt pile up in our communities , in our island on the streets, on the sidewalks, in the front of the stores, in the front of the hotels and what not until something happens. That could be avoided.

If one was to look into the little circle between the Market and the Merrens compound and the Barclays Bank in that area in there one could only term it as a garbage dump; it stinks, it is dirty, it is filthy, every imaginably thing is right into that little circle in the centre of George Town. I mean if we have people working for this Government, for the people of this country being paid by taxpayers money they don't see these things? They don't have any interest? They don't know their job? Or what! I mean then taxpayers money is just being wasted when we bring in people here and these things are to be done and they can't find ways and means, they can't propose something to have it done - we were better than that when we didn't have these people because we saw things that had to be done and we knew something about what to do about it and we went about doing something about it. Now we have to wait to get a Sanitary Engineer to come in. Right! It will take him six months to formulate a plan, by th at time flies will be going over the top of the buildings and I hope so. It is ridiculous.

I am again saying I am ashamed to be found in some places and people looking at me and see that I am a Caymanian and facing what they are facing and making remarks about it. It ought to be a reproach on this Government and anybody else connected with it.

According to reports the Tourist Industry is growing in leaps and bounds. And I agree that we should do everything that we can to promote and keep our growth of the Tourist Industry going. We should provide for them in every way the best we can to make them happy while they are in our island, but we just can't look on them as has been said this morning by other speakers, as our main resource forever - that can collapse tomorrow then we will have to turn somewhere else. We will have to turn to something else - we will have to go back to the Mosquito Cay days.

But it seems that some Members may think that if we don't support this in preference of so many other things we will lose. There are so many visitors to the isaands that you approach them and say to them how often have you been here? This is my first time. Others may say I have been here a half a dozen times - I like it that is why I come here. They're telling somebody as they go along about this place that they have visited six times a dozen times, I am planning to make my future here. Why do we have to think so far and wide of spending

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: (CONT'D): so much money in advertising when individuals as visitors are advertising as they go when we have so many other things that need to be done. And as always the Financial Secretary is wonderful in regards to keeping the money under control. I must pass that to him - he really likes to know where it is going to be spent before he let the last end go - I don't blame him for that. But I think we need to spend some more on our own affairs to get some things done and don't just try to pile up all of our roses on the tourist industry.

We have the Police. They are doing a good job, I suppose they are doing the best they can. When somebody does their best well then what - the angels only comes next. But for the years that we have been trying to build a Police Force we should be getting more too than what we are getting. The time that they spend fooling around with petty things if they were to put that time and ability in other major things, more important things it would be better.

As we know there are forever complaints from every angle about our road situation with speeding and what not. This is becoming more and more unbearable; people are being afraid to leave their homes, people don't want to go out anymore as they used to do. I know the Police can't do all but if they would do a little more without fear or favour I think somethings would be better. I have stated in this House more than once that these things would have had to be better if Government and the insurance people were to do different in dealing with these people. When they smash up two, three and four cars they still continue to insure them, Government still continue to give them a driver's licence - who is to be blamed for it but those two. To save one life or to attempt to save a dozen more is worth more than anyone losing a driver's licence or an insurance agent losing $300 for a policy. In the private sector Government is giving them a licence to operate they will fleece to the last because it is a dollar to grab regardless of who they hurt or who they kill or what home is deprived of a loved one.

I hope that my days on this island maybe many, but however many they maybe or however few they maybe I hope I never see in this island what I saw on the 27th evening of February. I didn't know one automobile could do that much destruction. Anything that anybody tells me now that an automobile can do as to destroying property I can sort of believe it, because I didn't think it was possible for a small car to do what that one did. If the driver of that car had been taken in possession that day as police talked to him,as has been stated, that might not have happened. That is the thing I can't see why they fail to do what they ought to do when it is time to do it. Nevertheless as I said I hope I never experience smmething like that in this island again - it cut me nearly to the floor.

Airport facilities - with our growth in the movement of traffic, tourists, freight and all the rest of it, undoubtedly, we do need our airport facilities improved so that it can better cope with all that is coming into our island today. And I am positive that the Immigration, Customs, Airlines' Staff and everybody are having a difficult time working in such surroundings that they are now working under. And I do hope that this will get off on the start as has been somewhat stated in the Speech in the very near future the first phase will get underway and the second in early 1975 or roundabout. Because it is desperately needed. The surroundings of the present terminal are somewhat unbearable the same way - they'll grade it today and tomorrow you have a shower of rain and it becomes filthy and sloppy that people can hardly move around and what not. The surroundings on the whole we realise is not now meeting the present

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: (CONT'D): demands. But we have similar demands that same to be dragging along the same way. Our roads from what we expected fifteen months ago that we would have had two or three miles of road completed and it doesn't even appear like they will get started this year. Things just same to be dragging along, dragging along.

When the House settled for a Contractor doing the roads it was talked out somehow by somebody, then hitched to the Public Works Department and we will never know when we will get to the starting point why think then when we'll get to the end.

Motor Insurance is another problem. They are just exploiting, skinning the people alive in the twelve o'clock sun. Government can easily say what can we do about it, they have a business they're selling policies - there is plenty that Government can do about it. Will Government continue to let an operation such as some of them are doing for the sake of a $50 or $100 to buy a licence to operate and continue to fleece out the people they way they are doing? Rates going up monthly not annually for no reason. You don't have any claim, you don't have any accident you go, your rates have gone up sky high.

We understand from the speech that Government is doing something about it or hoping to have something to be brought to the House sometime in the near future, but when will this near future be - three years from now, five years from now!

I am saying, Mr. President, that I am going to have to do one of two things either quit having any use for a motor vehicle and go back up in the bush where I used to live one time or go back to sea or take my stand against these insurance people. Because I am not prepared to just work and hand out one thousand dollars a year for Act Policies and no claims and somebody go - When my policies are up on some of my vehicles in the very near future I am going to challenge it and I am going to the Police Department and tell them my policy is expired and I am going to operate my vehicle. I am going to get the worst of it but something has to be done to bring some head or some tail to something.

I will repeat again, Sir, on your remarks coming into office that there will be insurance over your dead body. It is going to be over somebody else dead body too even if it is mine.

We talk in terms of jobs to Caymanians. We would like for Caymanians to fill as many jobs as possible and become Heads of these departments or wherever they maybe working. But I can tell you, Mr. President and Members if I take off my glasses I think I could see just about as far in that direction as I can see with them on. That's a long way off for Caymanians to get into the positions that they ought to be for a long, long time to come because they are just being battled around too much by too many people that come in here to hold a position over alot of them. If we don't encourage and give justice to whoever is occupying the job then we don't expect Caymanians to be interested or to get what should be coming to them.

I am making mention of the Agricultural Department. There is a young man there who has had training in this field who was an Assistant for a few years; the Director of Agriculture then went away and he has been acting for three years, and still no appointment can be given. Is that any encouragement! When the young man gets up and walks out then you'll say they're not satisfied. I agree they're not satisfied because they are not treated fair. Civil Servants who have worked for Government for years and years then all out of a blue sky they start getting beat about like a football and expect them to be satisfied, expect them to fill a respectable place in our community then. They can't because they have been

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: (CONT'D): mis-treated. Giving them a sort of a fat salary don't do the job. Small salary and good treatment could do a better job. When somebody is satisfied that covers a multitude of sins; but when you are dissatisfied, unhappy, unwanted then all of these things creep in.

The First Elected Member of Executive Council said that Members had been wandering away from the Throne Speech. He mentioned about utilities - I am glad someone wandered away and he was able to divulge what he did. According to what he said then if Government hadn't taken a stand against what they were asking for as an increase then most of us would have had to go back to our little lamps. If Government was satisfied that what they were prepared for them to go was giving them a profit then God help us if we really knew what they were asking for. And that is exactly what is existing. Then when they come in to do a business the first thing is I want the franchise for the island, then they leave other people suffering for years and years - then turn around and have to ask Government to give them a hand to help reach the others.

Telephones are the same way. When will East End and North Side get telephones? Never know.

I am sure if this House had the figures on utilities over the last eighteen months we would find that they are not losing anything. But they just want to make fast dollars regardless to how much we suffer. Then when the ordinary person say they can't meet their bill they come and cut it off. What are we going to do, who are we going to turn to? Turn to Government they say what can I do about it. You can't pay the bill they cut it off.

The growth of the island will bring in things as they said in the beginning and probably things will come in I wouldn't like to see. I am not a great believer in Unions but I am much afraid that is not too far away - when a Workers Union or something is going to be established and from every side it is not going to be just that smooth - and I am not just a believer in Unions they have their good, they have their bad too the same as most anything else, but I was hoping that we could keep away from that for a long, long time to come. That we would continue to operate in a friendly get together manner and iron out odds and ends and settle minor things before coming to dispute or major things and further to ward off such as a Union being established in this island. But further things have to be so I suppose that will have to be too.

The First Elected Member from Executive Council made reference to the facilities that had been mentioned - he disagreed with somewhat and he wondered if I would challenge what he said. I'll challenge it to this extent, if a qualified individual experienced in knowledge and know what is best for the people do what was done in the first stage then I could have done better - so why shouldn't I have a job. That mess is still in front of the Town Hall and the job will not be completed until that mess has been cleared up. The one on the side yes I give credit that it is a well laid out, laid back something not even, as it were, noticeable unless you look for it. But when you see the other dump down in front of the door of the Town Hall - if that is what we are paying for then -

As has been further said we must criticise to get something, to get some place and to know something. We mustn't believe the Press, we mustn't rely on what that says, then if we go to Government, go to Executive Council they don't tell us, if we read something in the Press then we mustn't believe that. Where must we go then to the graveyard ask the

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: (CONT'D): dead?

I saw in the Press recently where files have been missing from the Police Department in connection with cases in Court. Nine out of every ten people on the outside has said that that is not true. It isn't missing it has just been removed. Somebody moved it, not something that got lost. I can agree. You have a half a dozen or a dozen files pertaining to court cases and have a cabinet to keep these things in and only one can so easily disappear - lost,no man,tell that to the birds. Then it is gross negligence going on some place. Something like this why should it be left around for every Tom, Dick and Harry to pick it up and expect somebody to pick it up and put it somewhere else. Those things are of great importance they should not be left where anybody could find them. But as I said I have heard dozens of people talking about it and everyone said "we don't believe that you know". Neither do I.

Mr. President and Members it is time for me to go to pick up school children. I'll be honest if it wasn't for that I would continue some more. I quite realise that the more I say the less I will get out of it, but I will have relieved my chest because I am not going to keep something on my chest and not say what I feel about it whether it be - I know it wouldn't be acceptable to Government all the way or all that I say would be right everybody has their thinking, their feeling, but there are alot of things in our country that could be better if those responsible for carrying out and doing their duty do it without fear or favour we would be enjoying much better - then the challenging question could be put before us "could we find any fault?" Well we will. As long as we go on we will find fault because these things are never perfect. The best of apple trees will have a rotten one on it sometimes, so as we go on we will find these things and we try to do our best to cure them and make the best of every good thing or every bad thing and hope for the better.

So, Mr. President, as I thank you again and I commend you again for the hard work you put in on this Speech. And it is with regret that Mr. Farrington is still unable to be with us to have his part in this debate but we wish for him, for I am sure I am speaking on behalf of other Members, the best of a quick recovery from what might be the flu that he is sick with.

Thank you, Sir.

MR. PRESIDENT: We'll have a break for tea,but under the circumstances we'd better make it ten minutes flat.

HOUSE SUSPENDED

HOUSE RESUMED.

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: Mr. President and Members I rise to give my contribution to the debate on the Throne Speech delivered by Her Majesty's Representative.

The Throne Speech,as has been noted, is a very, very important document to any Parliament. It containe a summary of what has been achieved in the past year and it gives an indication of proposals for future development. Any picture has two sides. There is always a positive and negative side. In the Throne Speech on the positive side the Government's position in these islands seem to be very, very prosperous. This to us is very good, this is the positive side of things.

What has elated me more than anything else is the fact that in this prosperous position,as has been indicated by the Throne Speech,there has been no mention of any Tax legislation.

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: (CONT'D): When a small Territory the size of the Cayman Islands with a population of less than 12,000 people can achieve the many major developments that has been outlined, the many developments that are on the Planning Board and on the other side of the picture there is no sign of additional taxation I think that when His Excellency uses the term "the fortunate islands" it can very well be justified.

Now this situation as has been presented has not been too very heavily criticised. I have not heard one Member standing in this Chamber criticise Government's policy in respect to the ways in which these developments have been attempted or implemented - those that have been.

This morning in this Chamber I have learnt quite alot of things. I have learnt that we now have an official Opposition. I have also learnt the role of the Opposition and I've also learnt that the Government has started a party system. I think that alot of this is a bit confusing. Opposition has its rightful place; on the other hand I can't very well understand Members of the House here in one breath they're saying you're keeping too many things from us, we want to be in, we want to be a part of it. On the other hand they are setting themselves up as Her Majesty's loyal opposition. How are we to operate, because certainly if there is an official opposition formed in the House the chances of having information will be less. No Government is going to give the Opposition all of the tools. If this is the idea I think we are getting away from the idea that I thought that we were trying to get more of a coalition Government where all the Members of this Legislature would be taking more part in it.

I was very glad that the Throne Speech mentioned the role of Members of the Executive Council, because it seems to me that on the outside and on the inside there is quite alot of misunderstanding as to the role of the Members of the Executive Council. I am not going to repeat what has been said previously but what I would like to say is this; that a little over a year ago a special tailor made Constitution was provided for this Territory. It was not my wish, it was not the wish of any individual person here. What came out of this was discussions with Members of the Legislature, members of the public, members of the Civil Service and a Constitutional expert came up and produced this tailor made form which he thought, which the British Government thought and which the then Members of the Legislative Assembly thought that was worth trying. It provided for Members of the Executive Council to have responsibility for certain subjects, it increased the Members of the Executive Council. This form of Constitution has been working for one year. I am not pretending to say that it is a perfect one, I have not made my opinion on it and I am not going to at this time. What I am saying we have a Constitution so far I think it is working well, so far responsibility that has been delegated to Members has been taken up and taken up with a sense of leadership. I can assure Members that my colleagues and I have no easy task, and I am not here pleading any sympathy from the Members, I am here stating a fact.

It is,as the Throne Speech said, a good thing to criticise when something needs criticisms; when someone can come forth and offer a better way. But just to criticise for the sake of criticising this I can assure you does no good. Because apart from influencing people who don't know the situation it does tend to break down the interest of the people who are criticised.

I feel somewhat guilty this afternoon. I am not in my best form - I thought that the debate would have stuck some pins in me. I was anxious to get on my feet if that had happened; so far a few of the pins have stuck so lightly that they hardly

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: (CONT'D): woke me up. What I heard from the other side, and I have to say thank you as far as one of my responsibilities is concerned in fact that Tourism now is wearing a crown. Tourism in the last year debate - the criticisms of Tourism really got me on my feet. I was hoping this year that it might have been the same.

I assure Members that there is not all flowers as far as tourism is concerned, even though much criticism has not come from that side. The Government is conscious that this can be a flighty economy - very conscious of it, and this is one of the reasons why that Government has put on so much emphasis on the development of tourism. There is no reason why tourism should not continue for years and years to be the most important part of our economy. Some islands have had tourism for upward of eighty years. There is no reason at all why we should not have the same success. Mr. President and Members it depends on each one of us, not only on Government, not only on the Member responsible, not only on the Director, not only on the hoteliers but it depends on every Caymanian or resident to see that the environment in which tourism grows and can flourish remain.

Tourism is not the actual sale of a product, it is a service. And despite the fear of some Members that if the association with the United States and Cuba is returned to normal conditions as years ago this should have no affect on us whatsoever; because we feel here in the Cayman Islands that we have a product that most people in the world want. We are conscious that that product is here and we want to guard it carefully. We are selective. The clientele that would go to Cuba or would go to the Bahamas or would go to other parts of the Caribbean are not the clientele that we desire here. We are advertising for a special kind of bird, and there are alot of them in the United States, alot of them in Canada, alot of them in Europe - and if we can get this across to everyone concerned I am sure that tourism will be with us for many years.

I agree that it is a bit unwise to put all of one's eggs into one basket, but so far we have one basket and I think it would be very wise for us to be sure that we do not break any of those eggs that we are putting in that basket.

Some question has been raised about the Natural Resources Survey. Here again, this is why Government is so conscious and so anxious to have this Natural Resources Study carried out. It is for this very reason, we want to ensure that this Natural Resource when we identify it and when we quantify it that we use it and not ill-use it.

If I asked questions around the House today or around the outside, 'what do you think our greatest natural resource is?' The answer would be 'Our waters.'. I feel sure this is one of our natural resources; our diving, our swimming, our snorkelling, our fishing in clear blue Caribbean water. This is the concensus of people and this is the reason why the Government considers that a survey of the marine natural resources of these islands is of paramount importance and it is a priority.

Much has been said about opposing where this Lab is going to be placed. The Lab had to be placed some place; the Lab had to be sited where capable supervision could be maintained. The Lab is not encrouching or will not encrouch on any future expansion of the hospital and this probably the Member for Social Services and Medical Services will tell you. And I would like to clear the air once and for all that there was no railroading of any resolution or anything through this House. We have the Standing Orders here that dictates and regulates our functions. A Motion was brought and this idea of a marine natural resources survey was no hidden secret from all of the Members of this House and the Finance Committee; they

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: (CONT'D): knew this was coming up. They were invited to talk and discuss it. They agreed with it and all of a sudden they voted against it. Was it the Member? Was it the Head of Department? Was it the professional advisor who was coming in? I don't think that that is the attitude that one should take. I don't think that is the attitude we should take here in Cayman. If we are satisfied that a survey is good for these islands presently and in the future we should support it. And this brings me back to representation. I stand here as a Member of the Executive Council, an elected member, I stand here as the elected representative of the constituency of East End and there is no denying the fact that in my role as a constituency representative I represent East End. When I stand here as an elected Member of the Executive Council responsible for a subject I represent the Cayman Islands. There is no favouritism one constituency to the other.

If a marine natural resources survey is good let us get on with it. I am happy to say that the building is being erected and that we look forward during the month of May we will have the experts coming in to do the survey for us, and I would hope that the result of this survey we will always find it of immense value in any future planning.

I would like to touch briefly on Agriculture. I think when the Throne Speech referred to agriculture being on a small scale I think this is true. Any agriculture in Cayman would be more or less on a small scale. And before there is any misunderstanding of this I would like just to take you back to population. When you think of twelve thousand people, when you think of a farm as such four farmers in this island could supply all the tomatoes that could be used by us; four farmers could supply all of the vegetables I think totally. And when the remark is made on a small scale it was meant a small scale from an employment point of view. How many people would be employed if there was a diversification of our economy? Agriculture would only provide a small number of jobs for people.

One of the reasons why I am so interested in tourism is the fact that it is labour intensive. It is normally held that to have a good service in an hotel there should be one and a half persons to each room. We are operating in Cayman about 80 or 90% to one room, so we are left - and what is normally accepted as being an ideal situation. The part about tourism being so labour intensive it spreads out so widely, the taxis, the boat operators, the grocery man, the milk man, everybody. That is why we should try to ensure that it is maintained. If we went to agriculture it would help a small number of people but it wouldn't help the whole country.

Another point I would like to make on agriculture is this. The standard of living that is generated on an agricultural economy is not as high as one generated on the type of economy that we have here. And when people get accustom to using - they get accustom to being here and they have to step down that is when you could have discontent.

I agree with what His Excellency said that we should exercise alot of care with this golden egg we have in Cayman. We should spend it wisely. And I think, Mr. President and Honourable Members, it is our responsiblity to take the leadership with this to educate people and to encourage people to realise the responsibility of maintaining the situation they have.

One speaker referred to the Government does not - if the Government had supported agriculture 50% on what we spent on the natural resources survey then we would be some place. Well at the present time I don't think the Member is really conscious of the amount of assistance that the Government does give agriculture.

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: (CONT'D): Annually the budget is more then 50% of what is going to be spent on the natural resources study. Apart from that Government assist farmers by allowing all of their seeds, all of the fertilizers, all of the medicines to come in duty free; the duty on that would have been quite a sum if it had been charged. Another thing the Government has done brought in bulls to improve the livestock, where farmers can have the use of these bulls. Government allows day old chickens to come in duty free. So when you add up all of these incentives the agriculturalist is not too bad off; not when you think that he can grow one tomatoe that weighs two and a half pounds and he can sell that at 50 cents a pound. It is a good business.

We have an Agricultural Society in this island and I just recently had a meeting with them and I said tell me what you want, tell me what assistance Government should give? Agriculture today in this island we can grow the stuff, we can sell the stuff and you can sell it at a good price.

Most Governments today subsidise industries where there are low profits or no profits at all. But a viable business - private enterprise - once the Government has laid the foundation, the atmosphere in which agriculture can thrive where people can go out and plant the Government has done this. They maintain a department to advise people on the type of manures, on the type of feed, on the type of plants, they waive the duty on these things as such. So what we have to do is to encourage people to go into this business. But our greatest deterrent in agriculture in these islands, Mr. President and Members, is the fact that people can go on the outside and make more money from construction work - this is the greatest deterrent. Not that people don't realise that you can grow the stuff and not that they don't realise that you can sell it but the fact remains that there is more incentive, they can get back that $20,$30,$40,$50, $70 a week every Friday and if they planted a tomatoe they will have to wait for four weeks but if they go to work with McAlphine they could have that Friday.

This is a situation that is happening in so many countries. While we regret that it happens there is hardly anything that Government can do about it. I can assure you that the Government is very conscious of agriculture and I would go on further the President himself is very keen on agriculture. And he has encouraged people, he has debated this with people and even with that has done much to change the situation. Be that as it may Government will continue to encourage agriculture in any way possible. We hope that in the not too distant future we will be able to employ a Vet. This has been partially impossible for the last year or two because of the salary. The salary that was noted was too small to attract a qualified Vet, there is no doubt about it this has been the case. The salary has been increased and I hope that in the not too distant future we can have somebody here who will be qualified to take over and develop our livestock industry. Because I feel today that in our livestock industry is the place to make a start. I think this is where we will begin to see the beginning of an agricultural community. We are going to be able to produce enough meat to supply our needs. We have an animal free Territory as far as I am aware and we want to keep it so. If we can succeed then there is no doubt that we will be self-sufficient in meats.

I would like first of all to say that I don't want to throw all bouquets at ourselves here for what has been accomplished, there is alot more to be done. There is alot of hard work ahead I am very conscious of this and it will take encouragement, it will take the support of not only the Members

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: (CONT'D): of the Legislature but also of the majority of the public of these islands in order to have these accomplishments made for the benefit of all people.

One point on Communications which I know is a sore point with certain Members - communications between the Executive Council and Members. This I think could be relieved somewhat. This with a bit of co-operation could be managed differently as far as I am concerned. We are as you will very well know presently housed under very poor conditions. Members of the Executive Council have one room - we were content, we were satisfied in order to get things going under the circumstances we knew proposals were for a new building and all this but presently we have work to carry on and we are doing this under very adverse circumstances as far as space is concerned. Nevertheless Members of the Executive Council are available to members of the public and Members of the Legislature at any time. This I am afraid has not been too well supported. Some Members feel a bit or think themselves a bit aloof, while other Members and some members of the public do come,do discuss and make their points, make their suggestions, find out certain facts and I believe that alot of times alot of misunderstandings have been corrected and people go away with a different feeling.

The Executive Council which has been harped on cannot - Members of the Executive Council cannot tell members of the public or Members of the Legislature what is the finding on any paper until the Council has decided. And when the Council decides on a matter then it is put out for the implementation. So if Council decides on something then it has to be transmitted (And I think the Member this evening misunderstood the situation a little bit, because it is after the Council has decided on it was transmitted to him). And it cannot as far as I am concerned be transmitted before, because it is not what I say or what the other Members say it has to be a decision. A Bill can come before this House but until the Third Reading when it is passed it is not final. And a Committee of this House goes in and until that report comes out and is accepted by this House it is not a Committee's report. So until a paper has been examined and studied by Executive Council and decided upon it could not in any case be made public because so far it is not a paper. It is not a decision of Executive Council.

I would like Members to note this point and to use the facilities that are available. I would like to say that the Member responsible for Communications and Works under which the departments that are most heavily criticised falls is doing his best, but we must consider that in projects of the nature that we are attempting; dock building, airport development, roads their development will take a long time in the preparatory work. Sometimes one seems to get discouraged no matter who he is - taking so long before it begins.

Fortunately for us a lot of talk in here, alot of paper work out there, but we are seeing the result of some of these talks; we are seeing the result of some of this paper work - we have a beautiful Police Station and we have the foundation for the Administrative block going up so in turn we hope that all of these will become realities.

The Member responsible for Social Services, Medical, Education this is a much more trying job. A little bit of money in a few months can give you a new building; a little bit of money and a few months you can put up a new structure, but when you are building the education of a child it takes years and years. We may die and don't see the fruits of labour. It is a trying exercise.

As I mentioned first we are not claiming any

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: (CONT'D): sympathy; what I am saying is this that we are fully conscious, we are fully conscious of the responsibility. We are doing our best under the circumstances, we are subject to mistakes and shortcomings, we are subjected to alot of things, but I think being only human in a small community like Cayman we at least desire and we at least deserve support. I am sure that alot of words were said here, I didn't call it criticism because I - I just call it debate on our functions and what is going on, but I think deep down in the hearts of every Member of this House he realises that we are doing our best out here and I would like to assure Members, I would like to assure the public that the Government here, the Elected Members of Executive Council have not started any party system we are individuals and I feel we are individuals with enough backbone, with enough self-will to speak our minds and our opinions. On the other hand what has been batted around section 9 of the Constitution subsection 2, I think it would be ignorance for a person to agree to something in Executive Council and then come down here and disagree with it. That wouldn't be right. The Constitution doesn't mean that, what the Constitution meant was this that if a person agree to something in Executive Council then he should come here and support it. That is all it meant, and I can assure you knowing the men I am working with and I can assure you of myself that if I agree to something in Executive Council I am not going to come down here and disagree with it just for the sake of disagreement. If it can be proven that it is wrong I am sure all of us - we bring legislation, the Government brings legislation and the legislation comes and Members on the floor of the House in the Committee if a suggestion comes from any side top, bottom, sideway it is taken it is weighed and if it is a good suggestion it is accepted.

Don't convey to the public - it is wrong because we are supposed to understand the Constitution whether we do or not we are supposed . We the Legislators, we are working in a Company we ought to know how the Company operates and it is our responsibility to correct these things in the public.

Fair enough if I disagree with something in Executive Council, I disagree and I'll tell you more than this. During my time in Executive Council if we opposed something in Executive Council you wouldn't see it. Well whatever you read in the Constitution I don't know what is written there or otherwise but I am saying in practical terms. So I don't think you have anything to fear about anything being thrust down anyone's throat.

I was trying not to be long but I guess I am long-winded anyway. Mr. President and Members, I will just close by saying what I stated in the first that to me the most important thing in the Throne Speech was the fact that we are so fortunate as to present a Throne Speech and over the two years this island was so fortunate that there was only a little increase of tax on rum and tobacco. I would hope that the months ahead continue to be what was stated as good and I would hope that when the Throne Speech next year is read that it may continue with the good tone of this speech.

Thank you, Mr. President.

HON. B.O. EBANKS: Mr. President like my colleague who has just concluded I will have to say what I heard a lawyer tell the Judge in Court recently when he was asked if he was representing a client. He said My Lord I was suppose to represent this Lady but I have not been sufficiently provoked to do so'.

I really have not been provoked by much that has been said on the Throne Speech so I am not fired up to speak as one might call it. But Mr. President, I think the closing chapter of the Throne Speech would be lost, it would've fallen on barren

HON. B.O. EBANKS: (CONT'D): ground unless someone put a few matters straight in this Session. That is to quote where you said,"A very great part of your job (meaning the job of Legislators) is to see that people are helped to understand what is happening around them and to help to be helped to adapt to the changing circumstances".

Mr. President, I believe in calling a spade a spade and if it is one thing that riles me it is to see people who should know better manipulating situations and persons to their own end.

We were given a lecture this morning about the role of the Opposition in a Parliament and I think we were even referred to an encyclopaedia on Parliaments and were quoted passages therefrom. But I have a fairly good memory and I am not completely ignorant of political activities either, and I would challenge the self-appointed Opposition in this House to show me another instance where an Opposition exists out of its own design. And by this I am referring to the fact that during the campaign for this Assembly it was stated emphatically by certain Members who now considers that they have been placed in the Opposition by the Elected Members to Executive Council, that they pledged to their constituents that they would not accept a seat on Executive Council. It is obvious, Mr. President, that by their own design it was their intent to play the role of the Opposition and to criticise. Criticise in a constructive way, yes, and this is acceptable. And, Mr. President, it is easy to criticise. What I gather from the fact that one admits that he does not want responsibility is that that person is content to criticise and to reap the benefits that might accrue therefrom.

It was said also that in this country we have minority rule because the Elected Members of Executive Council could not go against a decision taken in Executive Council when it is presented to the House. This is true and as my colleague pointed out I agree it would be irresponsible for a Member having agreed to a matter in Executive Council to come to this Chamber and disagree with it. But the situation is not completely unlike the position that exists where you have full representative Government without any officials. If a Cabinet Member oppose his Prime Minister in Parliament on a vital issue he would be fired and in a hurry. But what the Members who belaboured this section of the Constitution failed to point out was that there are limited areas in which His Excellency the Governor can act without seeking the advice of the Executive Council. And furthermore that it is even in a more restricted area in which having asked the advice of Executive Council he can go against that advice without first advising the Secretary of State. This is an important point in the working of our Constitution. The point that I am making here, Mr. President, is that in the year that we have had this Constitution in action no occasion has arisen where His Excellency the Governor has found it necessary to go against the wishes of Memb ers of Executive Council, therefore, it must follow that any Bill that has come to this House within this year has had the support of Executive Council, the elected Members.

We are not living up to our responsibilities when we quote half of a situation and allow people to go away with wrong impressions.

As far as personal ideologies on constitutional advancement is concerned and who will push what and when I still have a couple of publications left from the 1972 campaign, Mr. President, and I know what was said in those and they were never refuted. And as I said that is history.

To come on to the few matters in my sphere of

HON. B.O. EBANKS: (CONT'D): of responsibility that were touched on. I would first like to clear the air about the siting of the laboratory, Marine Laboratory, building. The point that is to be remembered here is that is not sited on hospital land. At some point and time a section of government's property was divided betweeen hospital and M.R.C.U., use, and the lab is sited on the Mosquito Research and Control Unit section of the property.

Secondly, Mr. President, Members complained about the lack of communications between Members in Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly. I do not, Mr. President, work for fame or personal aggrandizement in my position but what I really object to is my hard labours being used by others to their own end.

It was said during the course of debate that if ever an area of Government activity needed a consultancy it was the hospital. Mr. President, Members were told during the Finance Committee debate that Government was employing the services of a well-known hospital consultancy firm to do the planning for the present renovation stage and a detailed overall plan. Yet the Member has attempted to sow the seeds that this is his idea so that when it comes about next year after the Throne Speech they would get up and say that they are glad to see that Government has adapted some of their measures. Mr. President, I am too wide awake for that and I am going to clear the air on those at least those issues.

It was indicated that Government for example had given no consideration to the relocation of the hospital; that there was insufficient room for expansion. Mr. President, we have had preliminary discussions with the Consultants. My advice is that it would be foolhardy for Government to attempt to relocate the hospital. As Members know the thrust this year is on the rehabilitation of the In-Patients department and the Estimates for the cost of doing a proper job on that building alone, the original estimates are in the region of $6000,000.00. Now to produce a comparable building from scratch would cost $1,600,000.00. Remember, Mr. President, that this does not include the ancillary services of the dispensary, the lab, the offices, the doctors' consulting rooms, the cistern and storage areas and all the rest of it which we already have there in tact. This has been gone into very thoroughly and I am satisfied, Mr. President, if when the move is made to raise the money it receives the support of this House that the facility that can be produced will be a credit to this Territory.

Further there is ample room on the site for the additions of more services. We have not lost sight of this. I am not saying that it would be undesirable to purchase land to the West or South of the present compound if it is available and we can afford it, but I have been assured that even if we have to fit our facilities into our existing compound that it can be done. That is the preliminary finding.

Now the other thing, Mr. President, the Member mentioned the situation at the Dental Clinic. He understood that there were appointments up to April. This is a fact. I think he said that he wouldn't like to have a toothache for that long. Well I can assure the Member that if he has a toothache he won't have to wait that long: at least one hour to an hour and a half is reserved every morning for persons suffering from toothache or emergencies, so he can go and have his removed without an appointment during those times.

What is even more disturbing to me, Mr. President, is the fact that this Honourable House made provisions

HON. B.O. EBANKS:(CONT'D): for a second dentist in the 1974 Estimates. Surely the Member must know that this was done. And for the equipment for the second surgery. Yet, Mr. President he would come and say this is an area that needs improvement. Sowing the seed to reap the fruit, but, Mr. President, the seed was sewn when the Estimates were being prepared last September. At the moment we are pricing and get delivery dates on the equipment for the surgery so that we will know when to indent for the dentist. But I think the days of bringing a dentist to Cayman and expecting him to work on a wooden horse is past. So we won't recruit the second dentist until we have the second surgery. But the money is there.

Now mention was made of Professor Lockhead's report and the fact that it was hoped that I would take a leaf out of the other Executive Council Members book and railroad this through the House so it could get going. Mr. President, again this gentleman must know that in our Estimates we have made provisions for whatever monetary obligations that could be encountered under that policy for this year. We have the position there.

The other thing that really astounded me, Mr. President, was when it was said that it was hoped that this report would not be left to gather cobweb. Yet the Member quoted from the report and what is more quoted inaccurately. The Member stated that one of the pet subjects of the two Members from Bodden Town a Police Cadet School had been recommended in the report. When the report is accepted and made public I would challenge the Member to point this out in public. No mention is made of any Police Cadet School in this report unless it is a different report from the one I have.

Mr. Chairman.....(INTERRUPTION).

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: On a point of order, Mr. President, the Member should refer to you as President.

HON. B.O. EBANKS: (CONT'D): Mr. President I am correcting myself every time I make the mistake, and I would think that is a very trivial matter. I think what is hurting a little more is when these eggs are getting back.

The other thing, Mr. President, I might appear to be nip picking here but I am only doing this to show why there is so much danger in Elected Members passing out information before they really have their cake baked, because from what I have seen here you could get a good batter prepared and somebody would come and turn off the gas so you wouldn't get the cake baked. At least I am going to try to bake my cake.

Mr. President, reference was made to the statement in the Throne Speech regarding the statement made on the student loans and the scholarships. For clarity I woul like to state or re-read what the passage said, "it is envisaged that this number will increase sharply over the next few years and it is fair to assume that Government will not be able to continue granting free scholarships in all cases as was the practice in the past". The point to be made here, Mr. President, is that the terms of the agreement for this money are very generous as stated here; and no hardships would accrue inasmuch as repayment of the advance would not commence until many years after the borrower had returned and commenced work and then it would be drawn over a very long period.

Mention was made, Mr. President, of increasing the number of nurses, doubling them, and yet there was no midwife in the out-districts. Persons have a right to their preference but I would have thought that in this day and age

HON. B.O. EBANKS: (CONT'D): Government's attitude should be to encourage children to be born in the hospital and not in districts.

On the question of garbage one Member quite rightly predicted that I would say that we had two garbage trucks on order for over one year. I am glad to say that we have at least received the keys and that the trucks I understand are in Miami on their way to Grand Cayman.

Again on the matter of communications between Members. It is a bit upsetting to find for example that a Member is upset about the sanitary conditions of a particular area in town and I have seen this Member many times during the last few weeks and he has never mentioned it to me, but I believe it brought tears to his eyes in the House.

I can say quite honestly that in the case of another Member it was brought to my attention by that Member on at least two occasions and that I as a result put the department on it and as far as I know Government's land in the area is clear. Much of the unsanitary situations that exists is on private property.

The other thing is about one good clean up - Members must remember the clean-up campaign that was carried out on the public beach about two years ago. The place was left sparkling and within two weeks pans and bottles and boxes were as plentiful as before the clean-up campaign. What is needed, Mr. President is some civic pride by each individual and not rely so much on Government. Every person has a responsibility in this regards, but it appears as though once it can be said that that is a Government's responsibility people are happy.

Mr. President, I would not - I am not going to carry on any longer. I took the opportunity to speak this evening because I don't know that I would've been here early enough tomorrow morning to have taken part in the debate and I wanted, as I said, to clear a few points of misunderstanding that might have existed.

I thank you, Sir.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Could I crave your indulgence just to clarify a point being this is being reported in the Press, Sir?

MR. PRESIDENT: No.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Thanks.

CAPT. A.A. REID: Mr. President, I have every intention of speaking but the air conditioner seems to have gone off and I want the Members of the House to be comfortable while they listen to me. I would move therefore to make my speech tomorrow morning if you agree or somebody seconds.

MR.JAMES M. BODDEN: Second.

MR. PRESIDENT: I would much prefer to finish this debate this evening, but I am in the House's hand.

CAPT. A.A. REID: O.K., Sir, well - Mr. President and Honourable Members of this House I am happy to be here, glad to be here today. I feel somewhat like the Czar of Russia who only three days before he died said, " it is so good to be here - to be alive and be here". And that is how I feel. It is so good to be alive and I hope for many years and alot more elections to come.

Mr. President, I must commend you on your speech, Sir. It was well written and well read. And I must say

CAPT. A.A. REID:(CONT'D): that I know you must have put alot of thought in it and alot of time.

I am sorry that protocol does not give me the same privilege, Sir, as I could write my speech and read it. Because I am known through the length and breadth of the West Indies as one man who speaks and writes the way he thinks and feels.

You will notice, Sir, that I was successful in smoking out the other side. I did this for two reasons, one is that I am a very disciplined officer having had sixteen years of discipline by a strict father (God bless him). And having five and a half years of strict discipline in the Navy. Although alot of people don't think so, but the U.S. Navy is a strict institution. And as I saw my name down at the bottom of the list as it usually is whether by design or coincidence, I said so shall it be, I shall be the last to speak and even if I had to put fire under the whole I'd get the others out. This is one time I don't mind being left out to the bottom, in fact I am not thin skinned sir.

Mr. President, I am sorry to say that I am really a bit backward with my home work. I was not able to read your speech five times as my colleague and the First Elected Member for Bodden Town, but you all know that I was unfortunate in having to be in Canada with my wife who was quite sick and had a very serious operation for nearly three months, the half of December, all of January and until the 25th of February when I brought her back here. I am glad to say she is in good shape now. And right away I had to rush off to Jamaica just after being here a week and then my colleague before I got through in Jamaica, I didn't intend to return to Cayman until the Sunday, but my colleague the First Elected Member from George Town asked me to come back something important. I don't know if you know it, Sir, but I have to sort of act as laison officer between the two sides. My shoulders are broad and I am able to take the clubbing they give a little better and so I am the mediator - the self-appointed ofcourse.

Now, Mr. President, as I said I am sorry protocol doesn't allow me to read my speech; but even if it did I wouldn't be able to because I can't see well enough with my glasses on to read and if I take them off I can't see how the other side is reflecting - re-acting I mean.

I am afraid that I have to take umbridge with you, Mr. President, only on two points. The first one being the Police. I am not saying anything in regards to the new Commissioner, nothing disparaging about the officers or the men but I shall take the blame for the Commissioner or the praise for the new Commissioner for next year. We'll give him a chance either to praise him or to condemn him. But I do feel, Sir, that the Police in this little country could do more than they are doing to stop the inflow of ganja. And I feel that they could stop this speeding on the West Bay Road particularly, because that is where it is rampant. Any evening you go, in fact all day, cars are speeding up to 75 or 80 miles an hour on that road. And it only takes a little time and a little exertion for the Police to stop them. If a Policeman has been in this country for six or eight months I am sure he knows the driver of every car - I almost do and I am not paying much attention to it but that is his job to know his people.

I have been in and out of the airport more times than any other man in Cayman barring Mr. Rayal Bodden, I believe he goes as often, and I haven't seen the two dogs that we paid so much money for snuffing around but once. So I say what have we got the dogs for and where are the police. We know what ganja can do, most of us do, all of us should know. And I say that in

CAPT. A.A. REID: (CONT'D): a country as small as this people chat alot and there will be no trouble to get information if the police would exert themselves I am sure they would be told who is smuggling ganja and who is selling it and catch the culprits.

Then again if the people don't stop driving the way they are driving and having the amount of accidents they're having I say that the Insurance Companies should refuse to insure their cars and then they wouldn't be able to drive them. If the Judges are not prepared to give a strong enough sentence to deter them they certainly could be deterred if they couldn't get a licence. But fining them don't seem to do too much - I say they should be fined and suspended. We don't want this country to be considered a grave yard for car drivers.

You have nicknamed the islands "the fortunate islands". Yes and I admit we are fortunate but we've always been a bit fortunate and I am sure that will stick just as the House of Lords has stuck to the other side. I called them the House of Lords the first time I stood up here and it seems to have stuck.

We were fortunate years ago, Mr. President, when the coconuts died in this country the people left. There was an exodus in about 1890 to 1900, and whole families left and America opened her arms to us, they welcomed us. And when I was 16, 17 when we had the exodus in Cayman Brac after lethal yellowing visited Cayman Brac all the boys and girls I went to school with went there too - and indeed whole families uprooted themselves and went there. So we have always seemed to have had some outlet and we were so much wanted and at that time no restrictions, no consular papers,no visas - all you had to do was to go down to a dock and speak to a Captain or a Chief Officer and say I am a Caymanian - oh yes you want a job come on I have one for you. In those days we were really recognised as the best. And I hope these youngsters coming up today will stick to the tradition and remember that they have something to do to make themselves wanted, and remeber that they can't get too much out of their country if they don't put something in there. And it would be a good thing if alot of them would keep out of the bar rooms and do some good hard work rather than be drinking and be drunk along the road throwing bottles and cans out as they go. It would be a good thing if only they could have some civic pride. They can't expect the Government to go along this road picking up bottles and cans for them, they should have the decency to think that much of themselves and their country and refrain from doing such filthy acts.

It ain't what the country - it isn't what the country (I mustn't use too much slang) can do for you it is what you can do for your country or what you should be willing to do for your country.

Immigration, Sir. Now I know that the minute I open my mouth about immigration I am going to be labelled. And I have been told that I have been labelled a racist, I refute that. I repeat, Sir, I refute being called a racist. Some of my best friends many of them, many a good friend are from a completely different ethnic race. And I hold a certificate issued by the dictionary of Caribbean Biography,with your permission, Sir, I'll read it, "This certificate of merit commenmorating the publication of the first edition of the Dictionary of Caribbean Biographer is awarded to Captain Alva Ashton Reid for distinguished service to the promotion of understanding between the various people of the Caribbean and was issued in London, England by the authority of the editorial Board 7th March, 1970. London England.". Now, Sir, the Chairman's name I cannot make out and I don't know him but the Lady editor her name is Georgianna - Georgina Reynolds. And it was the covering letter was signed by no less a person than that

CAPT. A.A. REID: (CONT'D): great Trinidadian cricketer Lord Learie Constantine. So that is proof that I am not really a racist. But I am a realist. And while I admit that the immigration is doing their best I am suggesting, Sir, that we are going to have to change our immigration policy. This is our country and we have the right to say who can come in here and what for. And we also have the right to say this man's character does not fit in to our concept of life; the way he thinks, the way - we must have a police record on anyone coming in here. And if anybody comes in here to teach other doctrines we must have our laws written so that we can send him out as persona non grata forthwith. We must revise our immigration laws. We are not the only ones, all the Caribbean Islands are as strict as they can be now on immigration. Canada last month when I was up there revised their immigration law and it is almost impossible now for anyone to get into Canada; they've got to be needed, they've got to be professional and they've got to have a job to go to. You can't just walk in there and do as you like. And if every other country does that I don't see why we should be left like the Californian gold rush for everybody to come in a covered wagon. No, Sir, it is something we have to think about and the sooner the better.

Like our water problem the sooner we think about that the better. Because sooner or later we are going to have trouble. I have spoken several times about it and I hope that it will not fall on deaf ears too long. If anybody believes that the water in South George Town is really safe and good for you he is very much mistaken. It cannot go on much longer. It was alright, I agree it has been alright so far. Fifteen years ago when we had six thousand people in the whole island today we have about fifteen or maybe sixteen thousand and it is time for us to think about this commodity. Moreover everyone should have a decent garden and I don't care how large your cistern is you can't afford to waste it on garden. And the only how you can have a garden is to have a pipe water.

Now much has been said about the Caribbean Utilities and I have to say my piece too. I don't feel sorry for them, not in the least. I think they have a very lucrative business. As one who burns current in this country and uses it in Jamaica I have an office that has three air conditioners in Jamaica and my bill has never been above $30 a month and I can assure you that two of them or the three of them are used not less than ten hours a day and the one in my office is sometimes used sixteen hours a day, because that is how I have always worked. And when you can get by with $30 for three 3ton air conditioners plus two lights that I use when I am in the office after six it is reasonably cheap and I don't believe the Jamaica Public Service is losing money.

Then I have another strong point to give you this evening. Mr. President, I was away from the island with my house completely locked up and thank God I didn't even burn a light outside and I didn't have a watchman just my son's two dogs they were nearby, and when I came back to my utter surprise my electric bill was $35 with the house locked up. When it goes to $50 or $60 and I am in it I can understand it because everything in the house is electric. But I cannot see how one ice box could use that much current; the answer to it is they are getting a big price for their use, for their kilowatt hour, they are getting too much for it. So I don't blame the Members who complain about giving them a raise. I think they've been getting by for a long time with lucrative profits and it should certainly be some time before they get an increase - many years I should say. It is no use coming to me about the fuel price

CAPT. A.A. REID: (CONT'D): because I know that like I know the fingers on my hand. Fuel in Cayman is only costing $1 a barrel more than it cost in Jamaica, that is what Texaco Company quotes me anyway. So that is all nonsense to talk about the cost of fuel, we can tell them to jump in the ocean.

Now Cable and Wireless I don't shed any tears for them either. I am very fond of their personnel - some of them, very fond of the Manager - but I don't feel sorry for him financially. In the first place - you see I know too much about these things. I was sending cables and using the telephone everyday of my life in Jamaica and Cayman cost me thirty shillings when all those little islands a thousand miles away were costing me seven shillings and sixpence. To talk to Trinidad was one pound two shillings and sixpence before the conversion to dollars and Cayman was thirty shillings.

Now I ask you how is it possible for them to lose money or not to be making good money. Surely their cost of labour isn't all that different, their isn't that disparity in the wages they pay in Cayman and those they pay in Jamaica.

On a call to Antigua from here was thirty shillings while in Jamaica in the last six or eight months it did go up a bit I think it went to one pound - to ninety cents or ninety five - but certainly alot of difference.

Some of these people out here came to me this evening, although I shouldn't discuss it perhaps, but I know what their complaint is. People working in offices are not getting as much as gardeners that is what they say. So evidently it isn't the cost of labour that is causing the Telephone Company not to make a good profit if they can substantiate that statement. My opinion is that they are making excellent profit ; in fact I have heard it said that this is one of their best businesses and one of the most progressive and I can beleive that.

Mr. President, I have spoken many times about garbage although I represent Cayman Brac and we don't suffer from that, but then I live in Cayman and I think I have the right to speak for the country, for the islands not only for the district I was elected in.

You can go, Sir, any day a ship is in here with containers and you will see at certain supermarkets containers discharged outside, the cartons are torn apart the stuff is taken out and taken into the store and the paper is thrown all over the place. I think it is criminal for supermarket owners to expect Government to clean up that sort of garbage for them. I don't know what they are paying and I don't know if they pay at all. I know that in January we make sure that the eight houses we have are paid for. But even that is small I think we are getting by with =as the saying goes - with murder. I think when you get your garbage removed for a dollar a month it is exceedingly cheap, too cheap, and the Government needs money. If I could fix the price for the suprmarkets, if we have to remove those cartons for them I would make theirs one hundred dollars a year. It is worth it. I think they should pay at least one hundred dollars a year to have all that garbage removed. And, Sir, some of them is a perfect disgrace to this community - the cartons are piled up there 6 feet high and if you go there you'll see rats running around playing cricket all day. Something must be done about it, we'll have to get at the cleansing department and see that they clean it up and we will have to charge these supermarkets more for removing their garbage.

The other thing that I was going to take umbridge with you on is the score of Black Power. I'm glad you mentioned it but I was a bit sorry to see you've said you thought it wasn't as bad as it was made out to be. I can assure you, Mr. President,

CAPT. A.A. REID: (CONT'D): that it is alot worse than you think. It is alot worse than you could imagine. You would have to live in the country where it is preached to realise how bad it is; and you won't have to go too far, almost every other island in the West Indies except this one and to some extent Montserat and Anguilla I don't believe they've got it yet, but any of the other ones you go to you'll hear about Black Power. Now I have no objections to the black man or the yellow man or the pink man or any other colour having power so long as his concept of power is progressed for himself that he earns a decent living, that he is not kept down by anybody, but when he is coming to dictate to me or to break into my house or to beat me on the street because I got on a clean suit that is the concept of Black Power that I am objecting to and that is why I say we must be careful in this country whom we let in even to visit us. And I can assure you, Mr. President, that every time that plane comes in here people come into this country and get lost in the crowd. Now I say that for us to cure that cancer we have got to make the contracting companies these builders and everyone who employs labour en mass responsible to this Government that their employees are licensed employees,that they have license - a Work Permit and that this Government is not kept out of that fee. And they should have to send in a list every month - every six months. Every six months every contractor, every builder should do that - every store keeper should - every baker should and every propane company should. I mean everybody. And when their time is up they should go back home and break the spell so as to avoid this country being taken over by them. Some of them have said that pretty soon we are going to take it over and I believe it. In fact I know one man did say it because I got it from a very truthful man.

Mr. President, I am going to give a word of warning to the expatriates. Now that is a nasty word where I am concerned and I don't believe in it - I don't have any chip on my shoulder and I don't envy anybody of his job - I am doing my own thing and if I had my life to live over(what a wonderful thing it would be if I did) I would go back and do exactly what I have done. With the exception I would make one more sacrifice I would put myself through University as well as High School no matter how many years it took, but that is water under the bridge.

You spoke of the prosperity of this island - let me tell you that we were raised with a silver spoon in our mouth but fate kicked it out, and we became as poor as Job's turkey overnight. I don't know if you know how poor Job's turkey was, well he had one feather in his tail and a peacock picked it out. But we lived it out - but in those days we were rich and we used to employ these poor people from Cayman. In Little Cayman alone I think we had 35 from the North Side helping us with our coconut farm and we had six if I remember rightly from Bodden Town and 3 or 4 from East End. Of course, we kept the best. Now we quit at that time as I have already told you, so this is history repeating itself. Now Cayman has the edge on us its rich and its progressive and they have no unemployment - only a few who are unemployable, they sit on that fence out there and do nothing but drink beer and throw the cans in the streets. They are what I call the unemployable.

I am gld to see, Sir, that you mentioned the Bluff Road, because that is my pet subject. I know that Cayman Brac will never be anything - will never have any progress I mean, it is a big mountain compared to Cayman now in height - I mean it will never have any wealth come there until we get that road on that bluff and get in to our good arable land. Now we have at least one third of the bluff is super good arable land.

I remember when I was a boy my uncle's schooner took ninety tons of yams from Cayman Brac to Colon, I think it

CAPT. A.A. REID: (CONT'D): was about 1912. 1913 - she was launched that year 1913 - so it was about 1913. But I have seen the Georgianna go over there with a full load and I think she carried 100 tons. So Cayman Brac is a fertile land and it abounded in fruit in those days - so don't worry about Cayman - Cayman can grow too. The trouble is that the older ones got too old to climb that bluff - there is one up there now 82 years old and the last time I was there he told me he had been on the bluff that day. Now it is alot to expect a man that age to climb that bluff and to bring a basket of vegetables down, it is inequitous. And when I look at it and think that people like us let it defeat us for three hundred and odd years - because steps could have been built - concrete steps could have been built to make it easy to come down at a very small cost when cement was costing about two shillings a bag. But, of course, they were so tough, they were so hard they didn't think of it. - It was no thought in those days about a motor car road simply because we didn't have the money and simply because those who had the money didn't want to put it on a road and as I say the men were able - but today we got a different breed of youngsters. Perhaps if they could get in a car with their arms around the neck of their girlfriend they may drive up there and look at it and they may pick up some food and bring it down for their father if he had it grown and cut and pulled in the basket.

People came here the other day there was a bunch of foreigners here and some Guyanese and I said what do you think of it. Does it appear to you the way I know that I always think of a country when I know I am going to it and I try to imagine what it looks like. Now how does this country appear to you? Reveal itself to you, does it look like you thought it would look? And he said, oh I thought it was a barren country. So I said to the man, you haven't read any books that is all. You've never read anything. How could you think that I said - if you want to find a barren island you must go to Aruba and Curaco, St Martin and the little flamingo one Bonaire they are the barren islands and Antigua getting barren now too - but this island is lush got a lush foilage beautiful I would say.

Then, Mr. President, the road is one thing and that is a must for 1974, Sir. I am not taking any excuse for that. We have got to get the money to build that road this year, because I want to build a house up there. I am not asking you to build the road for me to build my house but I am asking you to b uild the road so that I can get the trucks up there - so that I can get Cayman Brac to start and I know that when that house is built - I am going to duplicate the one I have at Snug Harbour - that that will put it on a brochure and boy Cayman Brac is going ahead. I am glad you mentioned it.

There is one thing more that we have to have for Cayman Brac not too much in the distant future. I am asking this Government to blast a channel in that reef for us. Now I know it can be done for one hundred thousand dollars and that is not too much because it is going to bring progress to these people. Remember we have about 16, 17 hundred people. If we get um back it will be about two thousand - and alot of them want to come back - all that is here are dying to get back. And I know, Sir, that that reef channel can be dug as I've said 16 feet for about one hundred thousand dollars and the basin can be dredged out and the sand will be sold, the aggregate - there will be some rocks too that can be crushed but all of the aggregate will be sold for more far more than the cost of the dredging - so that you can forget about the dredging. And I say that one hundred thousand dollars will dig our channel for us, and I am going to undertake to raise the money for the rest of it if it doesn't. If we get that much from Government we

CAPT A.A. REID: (CONT'D): shall do the rest the good old Cayman Brac style. But we've got to get it because we can't exist this way any longer. Imagine paying forty cents to land a bag of cement - they're asking that anyway - they asked that the other day - it is a terrific cost to land goods there and indeed some days it cannot be landed because it is rough on both sides - when the wind is east northeast it is rough on both sides. But if it were a great job and expensive I wouldn't ask for it but I know it isn't that big. Now some will say where is the money. Well we are living in a lovely little island , and Cayman Brac is a beautiful place. When I look at that bluff I think look at that mountain - you know being here in Cayman for six weeks after I left Jamaica of course it looks like a mountain.

Now we have umpteen things from which to get more money and the Treasury needs it - let us don't be too complacent and say oh we are making enough, we have enough, let us collect and put it in the kitty while the collecting is good. And if we get a surplus we can lend it out and get good interest - that is the way I do business.

Take my gun for instance. I have always had a gun in Jamaica ten dollars a year licence - two of them I had , I brought the shotgun here and I pay $1.50 it is ridiculous. I would rather have paid $5.00 for the licensing of that gun because then I know irresponsible people wouldn't have them perhaps. And if I was paying $5.00 I would feel alot happier than paying $1. I think it is stupid for us to collect $1.50 for a gun. And I pay $84 a year on my Cadillac in Kingston and I pay $36 a year for a Volkswagon. Now the Volkswagon could remain at $24 here but I ask you, Sir, which country in thw world do you see labourers,common or garden labourers, not skilled men but labourers driving around in a big American automobile tearing up the road. The day has come, I think, when they should pay more. In most countries labourers go by bus. I am not saying that I begrudge them the car but I say that we can afford it - what I am trying to bring home to you, Sir, that the car owner can afford to pay more and I say Caddillacs should pay $50 a year - I am bringing one here in the next two months and I am prepared to pay $50 a year on it. The Ford should be paying $45 and leave the $24 tax to the small English cars - it would probably encourage people to buy more of them.

Now it is not very often a politician will get up in public and say that but I couldn't care less. I know that the Government needs money and I don't want to hear about Income Tax and I think indirect taxation of that kind is the one. And as I said before new cars should be priced $40 for dumping them.

Now speaking of the expatriates, Mr. President, I classify people coming to this country in two categories; the expatriates they are the bankers and the Trust Company officials, the Lawyers, the Doctors - the Doctors they are not really they're Public Service people . They are coming here to enjoy our country and then there is the immigrant who is coming as a labourer - I make two categories out of them because one sneaks in and does his tricks and nobody ever finds him out; and the others they come in and if they comit a misdemeanour the Company will kick them out fast enough except for a little social disparity maybe they won't get kicked out for that.

But I am going to give a word of warning to the expatriates. I see the monster raising its head. I see three societies being created here - Cayman, English and to some extent American - but I will say that the American seem to have better communications with the people, with the small man than the expatriates. Now I am not telling the expatriate he should

CAPT. A.A. REID: (CONT'D): invite me to his cocktail party if he doesn't want to. I wouldn't invite him if I didn't like him either; but what I am telling him is that he mustn't hold his head up so high that he makes people feel oh! he is a snob. He must get down to earth like I have been right down to the grass roots and smile with people, it won't hurt him; forget the fact that he is an Oxford blue that is in the past, that don't count any more - you've only got to be educated or to speak correctly, you don't have to be an Oxford blue. It is like me I could go back in the past too - my grandfather was a son of the Reid Iron Works, but what good did it do me - when he went home, unfortunately he was drowned, and the rest of the greedy animals didn't even recognise my father who was six years old. So the background of that kind its phony to live it.

They have a part to play in getting down to the Caymanians. They have a part to play in getting communications with him. Now I am not one who says oh he is a Limey and he thinks he is better than anybody else; I don't feel that way. Of course, I've been rather fortunate in my life and as a matter of fact I think I am more fortunate than the Banker - I wouldn't want to be a Banker because I am not good at taking orders and for the last 36 years I have given orders - Now why should I begrudge the Banker as I've said I wouldn't be a Banker if I had just come out of College I would go look for a ship, it is an inherent quality in me - and I know that most Caymanians are doing their own thing and getting along well enough so I don't see why they should worry about Bankers or Trust Company officials. I know that they brought prosperity to this island and I am prepared to admit it. And I know without them we wouldn't have the prosperity. And my advice to our people is you break the ice. Don't feel inferior to him, because if you do that makes you inferior to him. But you be nice to him and maybe he'll be nice to you too.

As one told me only this week - I am not saying who now - I am not even giving the time because I might have been spotted - but he said oh they think themselves superior to anybody else. I said no, I don't agree with you and I tell you this that you can thank them for the prosperity because we didn't have the money to develop this country and we know it. Americans but first of all the English old Greenall came here and started the hotel going and the Americans helped and we didn't have money - which Caymanian wants to put his money in a hotel? None. I have had some interest in something the guest houses and I know what it gives. So without the Trust Company people and the Bankers and to some extent the Lawyers - because if the Lawyers weren't here the Companies couldn't be here - they are necessary evils.

Now my advice to the Cayman Islander stop grousing, stop talking nonsense about expatriates because they are a part of us, alot of us are a part of them, a good many of us shouldn't even think of it. Get educated. If you want a Banker's job go and get educated - don't go in a bar room and drink beer. The school is there and if you study hard enough you'll be fitted to take a bank job - or if you get enough education you can be a Lawyer, be anything. My idea of life has always been that if you set a goal you will arrive at it. If you work hard enough you will make it. But nobody owes you a living - you owe that to yourself. And if the parents would take a little more interest in their children and see that they got to school, that they did go to school and encouraged them to learn it might help too. But never bite the hand that is feeding you. And I think we can thank the Banks and the Trust Companies for doing alot of our feeding. It is making us alot better off. I am not profiting anything by them, but I am glad they are here because I like to see others profit.

CAPT. A.A. REID: (CONT'D): Now, Sir, alot has been said, Mr. President, about price control. And I am not advocating that this Government should set up an office - cause you may get your head broken if you did it - to dictate the prices of goods, but you can say to the merchants - put it in the what you call the little paper here Information Paper - no no the Government puts out - Well just tell them that you expect them to keep their prices down to the best of their ability and that ability must be correct. It must be honest and sincere.

I haven't been in that kind of business to know what the mark up should be, but I was thinking that 35% would be plenty. If a shopkeeper can't make a profit out of a 35% mark up then he is not running his business the way it should be run - and I know that is the case in many cases or the aause in many cases. I know that they just clap on any price and especially when the others are out - when one supermarket has something the others have none then that is when they really put on the screws and screw down the lid on us, on the poor consumer. Now I know you can go to Cayman Brac and buy any item that you wish to buy for a minimum of 25% less than you can in Grand Cayman; and yet the landing charges in Cayman Brac are twice as high - they are paying anything like 20 cents I think they had to pay to land a bag of cement. Now that is 20 cents extra you know that is put on the rocks. I know two of the fellows pretty well and the third one is now my colleague here - he is a shop keeper and I don't think he is stupid - but two of the others were Captains with me and I found them very shrewd and as a matter of fact kept the best books of any two that I have had in 36 years. And I know they are smart enough to be making money in fact I've been told they're making good money. So if they can make money and sell it at 25% cheaper then the man here is charging too much. It is as simple as that and it doesn't take Einstein to figure that out.

So we can say, Mr. President, to the supermarkets Manager or whatever he maybe - whoever is selling an article - that you have to consider the public, you must have some sympathy for them and we are saying to you that your mark up should not be above 35% or maybe 40% or maybe somebody will say no that is too much make it 30%, I don't know. I am not professing to be a shop keeper or to know what the mark up should be. But from my layman's point of view I think 35% would be reasonable. And then, of course, we could say to labour you fellows are getting good money, you're getting the best money of any labourers in the entire Caribbean almost equal to Puerto Rico where they have a huge industry, manufacturing; and you standard of living is good if you keep this up you will kill the goose so we must control labour, you must not be asking for too many increases too often. But until you control his food bill you cannot hope to control the labourers' income.

When you think of it today a house is costing about $25 a square foot to build. I am afraid the industry will soon cease, because not very many people can afford it. I am going to have to strain the point - may have to borrow some money from my friends over there to build that house in Cayman Brac, but since I know they all want to see Cayman Brac proceed and progress I don't think I am going to have any problems.

One more point I would like to touch on, Mr. President, is Education. I know we have a good school, as a matter of fact it is equal, it is better than anything I went to in the Cayman Islands and equal to the one I went to in America too. It is really a lovely school. But there must be something wrong because there are so many complaints and I think the problem is teachers and equipment. No school can be a good secondary school without a proper lab. You must teach biology

CAPT. A.A. REID: (CONT'D):you must teach science - but I have two grand children and I would certainly hate to send them away I'd hate to lose them and I would like to see - particularly that boy he is very bright and I would like to see him obtain a proper secondary education - one as good as his father got in Jamaica whereby he got into an American University and answered his questions 185 of 200 correctly.

Now that school today is the best in Jamaica and the only - it is even better than the Catholic Schools - St George's. Because Jamaica made a mistake and I understand Cayman is making it too - now mind you I am not speaking from authority I am speaking from what I hear through the scuttle butt - Jamaica tried to educate everybody and that is where her failure comes in - you get dumb duds in the schools and the bright boy is kept down to his level and the same thing I am told is happening here. I understand you have two hundred nearly two hundred backward children, I don't know - backward I suppose is the set word because they maybe retarded and I think there is a little difference between retarded and backward. Retarded is when you can't - you really don't learn at all; but they maybe backwards through being neglected. And that they are keeping the better off school children back, and that is a bad thing. So I think we will have to provide some special school for these backward children.

I would certainly, as I've said, like to see the school improve and better teachers. But another word of warning - Jamaica is alive to everything that affects her today. And she has got some brilliant men in her Government, make no mistake about it. And particu-larly in this party there are very brilliant men, I mean the party in power; and they are not going to let one teacher get out of Jamaica to come here if he is a good teacher. They're going to keep him there, they are going to force him to stay there. So don't think you can go to Jamaica and get teachers. And, Mr. President, the same thing applies to Barbados. They're not going to let any of their good teachers come here either. They are all in the same boat, they're looking for good teachers too.

So if we can't get um from England but it seems to me that those that I know here you couldn't shoot them back in big bertha, some of them. And I don't see why if you treat the teachers right they couldn't develop the same feeling. I don't see any reason why we can't get English teachers and as I said if you can't get them get Canadians. Because when you ask Jamaica or Barbados or Trinidad to send you teachers you're infliciting them, you are an enemy of theirs if you take their teachers away. They need them, they need them as much as we do. And I think that our concept of life can be better taught to our children by Canadians than it will be - or English teachers - than it will be by any Caribbean teachers today, because the type of Caribbean teachers you'll get is not the best. As I said their Government is going to hold them and you will probably get what they don't want - the Black Power rebels.

I know it is getting late and I have someone coming to my house - I could go on there is alot that I would like to say but I'll leave some for another time - there'll be another day.

I was going to take a turn in the Honourable Member from East End about tourism but I am leaving that for a while because it is no use of your having food in your house if you don't have a pot to cook it in. And we haven't got the hotel yet - but he hasn't done any advertising for Cayman Brac - and not a word has been said about that.

And another thing we can do since we have so much money we don't want to raise taxes then the Government can

CAPT.A.A. REID: (CONT'D): and this bill too - but people coming from America to Cayman Brac should not be saddled with the extra $25. It should be absorbed in the passage from Miami to Cayman Brac and back to Miami. It should be the same as from Miami to Cayman and back. The same as from Jamaica, you have that concession for Jamaica - you're leaving Jamaicans they can go to Cayman Brac and go back the same rate they can come to Cayman. Well I say that the same thing should be applicable to the American passenger, the American tourist because the minute he hears about $25 extra for passage to Cayman Brac it discourages him.

Now when we get our other hotel which I hope is coming, I've got some people gradually building up a little enthusiasm in them and I believe it is coming. They say it is the chicken or the egg who comes first and I know that the Airport has kept us back, I know that when the airport is completed and we then can talk about a better plane because we know, we believe, we say, not everyone believes it, I don't myself feel there is any risk but you see there are alot of really sophisticated people in the world coming here who want to come here - and the first thing they hear about a plane that is forty five years old - thirty five years old - yes nearly thirty years old now and they are scared of it. Well I know that the DC 3 has had the world's best record and during the war that's what the Navy flew me in. The one time that I know that I felt important because I know they didn't want to lose me. I am not so sure about the House. And they flew me in nothing but a DC 3 when I went for examinations. So I feel quite comfortable about the DC 3 but I think that we have now to think about the Avro, a bigger plane it holds 48 passengers - beautiful little plane that is the plane that we should aspire to get for Cayman Brac. Of course, when these big things happen, when we get the hotel because the DC 3 will not be able to manage it.

Mr. President, I know you must be tired. I tried not to put you to sleep though. I did try to inject a little humour. I am not going to say anything about the hospital. I am going there to have a look see first. I don't like to attack unless I am sure that I am going to win, and so I am not going to say anything about it until I have a good look at it.

Mr. President, I close again saying I am proud of your speech, I congratulate you and I wish you all the best and you are assured of my support so long as you are right. Mr. President, I will act, I will go along with any Member of the House. The Honourable Members from Bodden Town if they bring something forward that is that I agree with, that I think is right I will go along with them in spite of whether the other Members think so or not so long as I think so. I am always guided by my own judgement and I am not a yes man.

I thank you, Sir.

MR. PRESIDENT: Very well we've had a good go and its taken a long time. I have a motion for the Adjournment I think, so the House will adjourn until ten o'clock tomorrow morning. Thank you.

HOUSE SUSPENDED.

DOC #137



C A Y M A N I S L A N D S

L E G I S L A T I V E A S S E M B L Y

M I N U T E S

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OFFICIAL REPORT

F I R S T M E E T I N G

O F T H E

T H I R D (1974) S E S S I O N O F

T H E L E G I S L A T I V E

A S S E M B L Y

FRIDAY, 15th MARCH, 1974

PART IV

FRIDAY, 15TH MARCH, 1974

PRESENT WERE:-

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, MR. K.R. CROOK	PRESIDENT

GOVERNMENT AND OFFICIAL MEMBERS

HON. D.V. WATLER, O.B.E., J.P.	FIRST OFFICIAL MEMBER
HON. G.E. WADDINGTON, Q.C.	SECOND OFFICIAL MEMBER
HON. V.G. JOHNSON, O.B.E.	THIRD OFFICIAL MEMBER
HON. A.B. BUSH, J.P.	SECOND ELECTORAL DISTRICT GEORGE TOWN (MEMBER FOR WORKS, COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT)
HON. TREVOR FOSTER	THIRD ELECTORAL DISTRICT LESSER ISLANDS (MEMBER FOR LESSER ISLANDS CO-ORDINATION AND INFORMATION)
HON. B.O. EBANKS	FIRST ELECTORAL DISTRICT, WEST BAY (MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES AND LABOUR)
HON. W.W. CONOLLY, J.P.	SIXTH ELECTORAL DISTRICT, EAST END (MEMBER FOR TOURISM, NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, M.R.C.U. AND SURVEYS)

ELECTED MEMBERS

MR. JOHN JEFFERSON	FIRST ELECTORAL DISTRICT WEST BAY
MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN	SECOND ELECTORAL DISTRICT, GEORGE TOWN
MR. CLAUDE HILL	SECOND ELECTORAL DISTRICT GEORGE TOWN
CAPT. A.A. REID	THIRD ELECTORAL DISTRICT LESSER ISLANDS
MR. JAMES M. BODDEN	FOURTH ELECTORAL DISTRICT BODDEN TOWN
MR. G. HAIG BODDEN	FOURTH ELECTORAL DISTRICT BODDEN TOWN
MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS	FIFTH ELECTORAL DISTRICT NORTH SIDE

ABSENT WAS:-

MR. T.W. FARRINGTON, C.B.E., J.P.	(DUE TO ILLNESS)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

FRIDAY, 15th MARCH, 1974.

10 a.m.

Confirmation of Minutes of meeting held on 27th-28th November and 11th December, 1973.

1. QUESTIONS:-

(i) MR.JAMES M.BODDEN (FIRST ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE DISTRICT OF BODDEN TOWN) TO ASK THE THIRD MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION, MEDICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES:-

WILL THE MEMBER STATE WHAT PLANS HE MAY HAVE TO CONTROL AND SUPERVISE THE DISPENSING OF MILK AND ITS ALLIED PRODUCTS LOCALLY?

(ii) MR.G. HAIG BODDEN (SECOND ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE DISTRICT OF BODDEN TOWN) TO ASK THE THIRD MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION, MEDICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES:-

IF HE WOULD STATE WHETHER LEGISLATION IS PROPOSED TO APPOINT INSPECTORS TO INSPECT CATTLE AND TURTLE BEFORE BEING SLAUGHTERED AND TO OVERSEE THE SALE OF SAME TO THE PUBLIC?

(iii) MR.G.HAIG BODDEN (SECOND ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE DISTRICT OF BODDEN TOWN) TO ASK THE FOURTH ELECTED MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RESPONSIBLE FOR LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCES AND TOURISM

IF HE WOULD GIVE THE NAME OF THE BUILDING AND THE ADDRESS OF THE LOCATION OF THE TOURIST BOARD OFFICE IN CHICAGO.

(iv) WILL HE STATE WHETHER GOVERNMENT WILL TREAT THE DYNAMITING AND CLEANING OF THE CHANNELS IN THE REEF AT FRANK SOUND AND ISLAND AS A PRIORITY, THUS ALLOWING SMALL BOATS EASIER ACCESS THROUGH THE REEF AREA?

(v) IF HE WILL STATE WHETHER A PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL CAN HIRE THE MEMBERS OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT LAND SURVEY TEAM TO PERFORM A SURVEY? IF SO, WHO RECEIVES THE MONEY, THE MEMBER OF THE LAND SURVEY TEAM DOING THE SURVEY OR GOVERNMENT?

2. PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS;

(i) TO BE MOVED BY MR.JAMES M.BODDEN TO BE SECONDED BY MR.G. HAID BODDEN (MEMBERS OF THE BODDEN TOWN DISTRICT)

WHEREAS due to the large amount of newly black-topped roads, particularly in the Seven Mile Beach area, on which large quantities of loose gravel is placed
BE IT RESOLVED that these areas, for at least two weeks after the gravel has been placed, have a reduced speed limit of twenty-five miles per hour, and that Police be stationed for enforcement.

(ii) TO BE MOVED BY MR.G.HAIG BODDEN TO BE SECONDED BY MR. JAMES M.BODDEN (MEMBERS OF THE BODDEN TOWN DISTRICT)

WHEREAS the rapid increase in the cost of vital commodities affect every day living
BE IT RESOLVED that Government set up a committee with a view to instituting price control on the essential products.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS CONTINUED

(iii) TO BE MOVED BY MR.JAMES M.BODDEN TO BE SECONDED BY MR. G.HAIG BODDEN (MEMBERS OF THE BODDEN TOWN DISTRICT)

WHEREAS illegitimate children have been deprived of certain testamentary and intestacy rights that a legitimate child has
AND WHEREAS it is unfair in a modern democratic society to deprive a person of such rights for a status for which he is not responsible
BE IT RESOLVED -

(1) That an illegitimate child be given the right to succeed on intestacy of his parents
(2) That parents be given the right to succeed on intestacy of their illegitimate child
(3) That there be a presumption that in the disposition of property references to children and other relatives include references to and to persons related through illegitimate children
(4) That the meaning of child and issue in Section 28 of the Wills Law (relating to gifts to children who die leaving issue living at the death of the testator) include a reference to an illegitimate child and persons related through illegitimate children and also a reference to issue shall include illegitimate issue
(5) That a provision be made for the protection of trustees and personal representatives dealing with transactions relating to distribution to children without notice of the existence of illegitimate children
(6) That if and when an Inheritance Family Provision Law be presented to this Honourable House that no distinction be made between legitimate and illegitimate children.

3. GOVERNMENT BUSINESS:

BILLS:-

(i) The Sppplementary Appropriation (1972) Law, 1974
(ii) The Estates Proceedings Law, 1974
(iii) The Aerial Spraying Protection Law, 1974.
(iv) The Arbitration Law, 1974.
(v) The Tourism Law, 1974.
(vi) The Currency Law, 1974

4. TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE.

(i) ACCOUNTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1972.

(ii) ACCOUNTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1972.

FRIDAY , 15th March, 1974

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FRIDAY, 15th MARCH, 1974

10 A.M.

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members, please be seated.
Honourable Members, before we start on questions, I think we have some minutes to confirm. First Official Member.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 27th-28th NOVEMBER AND 11th DECEMBER, 1973.

HON. D.V. WATLER: Mr. President and Honourable Members, on the Order of the Day you may have the note of the confirmation of the Minutes of the 11th December only, but there are two other sets of minutes, minutes of the 27th and 28th of November, should also be confirmed.

I move that the minutes of the Legislative Assembly held on the 27th November, the 28th November and the 11th December be confirmed.

HON. G.E. WADDINGTON: I beg to second.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. MINUTES CONFIRMED.

MR. PRESIDENT: Questions - the first of which stands in the name of the First Elected Member for Bodden Town.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN (FIRST ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE DISTRICT OF BODDEN TOWN) TO ASK THE THIRD MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION, MEDICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES.

WILL THE MEMBER STATE WHAT PLANS HE MAY HAVE TO CONTROL AND SUPERVISE THE DISPENSING OF MILK AND ITS ALLIED PRODUCTS LOCALLY?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: Before answering the question, I would like to apologise for a clerical error, in the typed version of the question, in that Minister should read Member, and Agriculture should read Health, Education and Social Services. This partially arose out of the way in which the question was supplied in the first instance.

ANSWER
PROVISION IS MADE IN THE PROPOSED NEW PUBLIC HEALTH BILL TO INSPECT THE PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ALL DAIRY PRODUCTS.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Supplementary Mr. President. I'm sorry we didn't give him all the titles that was necessary, but my next question is, are you satisfied that the water content is not more than it should be?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: Mr. President, I think the member misunderstood the statement I made earlier, I was not at all quarreling about the titles which had been attributed to me, the fact was that the question was addressed to the wrong member; and unfortunately in my haste to prepare it for myself there was a clerical error in which the word Agriculture was left in the question.

Mr. President, the question asked, what plans one might have to control and to supervise the dispensing of milk and its allied products locally. I have indicated that the new Public Health Bill proposed will embody provision to make regulations in respect of this matter.

HON. B.O. EBANKS (CONT'D): I am not in a position to say that the water content of milk or any other dairy product sold locally is acceptable or not, and as stated on another occasion in this session, the department is not in a position at this moment to analyse such things, but we are hoping to be in a position to take care of this in the reasonably near future.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Further supplementary, Mr. President. Is the member telling us that there is nothing in the law that can control this, Sir?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: In the present law.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: But Mr. President, milk has been sold here commercially, from local cows for a long time as a commercial enterprise. What I'm trying to find out is, if there is anything in any of the laws that will govern this, or whether it's just done haphazardly?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: To the best of my knowledge, Mr. President, other than the broad provision under the heading of nuisances or things which constitute danger or threat to health, there is no specific legislation or regulations that would enable Government to deal with this matter effectively, in its present legislation.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Another supplementary. Well, under the legislation that we do have now, would it be possible to check to see that milk is not being sold from a diseased cow?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: Certainly, Mr. President, I would suspect that it is possible to stretch this general provision in the law to this extent. Whether the Department of Agriculture is equipped to determine what is suckle diseases in animals, is another matter.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: A supplementary question, Mr. President, in relation to the member's statement about the question being addressed to the wrong Minister. Has there been a break down in communications between the two Ministers?

MR. PRESIDENT: Out of order, nothing to do with the question.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Further supplementary, Sir. Could the Minister in charge advise us then whether he, or any of the doctors.....

MR. PRESIDENT: May we get our terminology right, please, we're talking about Members.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Respectfully Members. Could the Member advise us whether he, or any of the doctors, particularly those who may be associated with Public Health, whether they have visited either one of these facilities that dispense milk to the public?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: The answer, Mr. President, is yes.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: A supplementary, Mr. President. When was the last visit?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: Mr. Presient, I'm unable to state categorically the date on which the last visit was made.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Further supplementary. Has the Member or the doctor visited this in the capacities of which they're assigned for by Government, or on a social matter?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: In official capacities, Mr. President.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Further supplementary. Have you seen anything that could be detrimental to health?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: Mr. President, it is my knowledge that on at least one occasion the Medical Officer of Health stopped the sale of dairy products from one institution until certain matters which he considered detrimental to public health were rectified.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Can the Member state when the new Public Health Bill will come before the House?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: Mr. President, this question was asked in the last session, and answered.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Has the Public Health doctor made any recommendations to this proposed new law that would cover the dispensing of milk and its allied products?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: Mr. President, that answer is contained in the original answer to the question. The Medical Officer for Public Health has veted the Public Health Law.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Further supplementary to this. Has that been recently done, or has it been for several years?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: I could not say, it has only come into my possession very recently, Sir.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: A supplementary - but there must be files that attach to this. Have you seen them?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: The Law certainly is in a file, Sir, and I have seen the file when I got the law.

MR. G.HAIG BODDEN: Can the Member say how old is this file he's talking about?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: No, that was of no interest to me what ever. That I imagine would contain information from a way back.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Further supplementary. Well isn't it true that this proposed new Public Health Law has actually been drafted for about three years, and just been sitting there?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: It is a fact that various attempts at drafting this law have been made, even now it is discovered that there are certain other matters, or at least one more lot that must be rectified before the present proposed law would be of any use to us, Sir.

MR. PRESIDENT: Next question.

MR. G.HAIG BODDEN (SECOND ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE DISTRICT OF BODDEN TOWN) TO ASK THE THIRD MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION, MEDICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES.

WILL THE MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES STATE WHETHER LEGISLATION IS PROPOSED TO APPOINT INSPECTORS TO INSPECT CATTLE AND TURTLE BEFORE BEING SLAUGHTERED AND TO OVERSEE THE SALE OF SAME TO THE PUBLIC?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: Again Mr. President, I must ask that Members in the written version of this question change Agriculture to read Education, Health and Social Services, due to a clerical error.

ANSWER

PROVISION IS MADE IN THE PROPOSED NEW PUBLIC HEALTH BILL TO APPOINT INSPECTORS OF CATTLE AND TURTLE BEFORE BEING SLAUGHTERED AND TO OVERSEE THE SALE OF SAME AFTER SLAUGHTER TO THE PUBLIC.

MR. G.HAIG BODDEN: A supplementary, Mr. President. Has any inspection been made of slaughtered turtles at Mariculture?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: Mr. President, I'm unable to answer this with any degree of certainty, Sir.

MR. G.HAIG BODDEN: Another supplementary, Mr. President. Has any shipment of turtle meat been returned from the United States as unfit for human consumption?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: On rumour, Mr. President, I would say I've heard that this has been done.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: A supplementary, Mr. President. Why did the Member not check into this rumour?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: I did, Mr. President.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Further supplementary. Could you tell us the results of your checking?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: Yes. Mr. President, I was informed that the condition that existed in that shipment, at least is not uncommon in any meat that is slaughtered under certain conditions. That is, it could exist in any abbatoir. There was no question of the meat being diseased, or even that the abbatoir was unsanitary, it was purely a technical matter, or a matter of the technical way in which the turtle was handled; and for the further information of the Member, I have been responsibly informed that Public Health Officials from the United States have since inspected the mode of handling of this exercise. There has been subsequent shipments that have been made and passed freely through.

MR. G.HAIG BODDEN: Supplementary Mr. President. Why did the Member tell us in answer to the previous question, that he had heard on rumour, when he had actually checked into it?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: Because I was acting on a rumour, I was officially advised.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Further supplementary. Certainly the Member realises how dangerous matters like this could be to the public, and as long as this present plant has been in operation, has there been anything done to supervise the inspection and to oversee the packaging of these products to the public?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: Mr. President, the information is that, I know that when the plant was built there was liaison between both the Public Department and our Planning Department, because the company was made aware that stringent controls were being planned under the new law, and that whatever they did would have to meet the requirements of that law. Therefore I think they not only used the advice from the local department, but they brought in experts from abroad. It might be of interest to the member to know that again on rumour, my information is that the condition that existed in that shipment of meat, would very likely exist in any turtle, that has been consumed

HON. B.O. EBANKS (CONT'D): in the Cayman Islands over the last hundreds of years. Only if it was left for as long a period in order for this bacteria to take effect In other words the condition for the development of this situation is in every piece of turtle that Caymanians have been eating for the last three hundred years or so. So much so Sir, that a completely new method of slaughter has been introduced at the institution in question, and Caymanians who consider themselves very learned in this field have questioned why go to all of this trouble to slaughter a turtle. To pin it up and all the rest of it. But this is the position. I think that the condition of slaughter and sale of turtle from that abbatoir is much more sanitary than what is done in the accepted fashion locally.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Further supplementary, Mr. President, I can quite agree with him that that might be so, but something as important as this to the health of this country, because you do have many factors that will effect the freezing of meat, and this plant has been in operation I think for probably about four or five years. With the expert advice that we have had, I wonder why it hasn't been necessary to treat this as a priority and bring this bill forward so that it can be dealt with immediately.

MR. PRESIDENT: Didn't hear a question.

MR. JAMES BODDEN: Yes Sir, my question was, really in about the second part of what I said, with all the expert advice, why has the member not seen it fit to bring such an important bill and treat it as priority before this House?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: Mr. President, the bill is treated as a priority, as far as I am concerned. But there is no use in getting the cart before the horse. And I said in reply to another question that in examining this bill we have found that another bill which is also on the spot to be presented to this House, will have to be gone into in order that this bill can be effective. The other thing is, of course Mr. President, that I don't think the member can impute laxity or unconcern on the part of Government, or me as the member responsible, when it took me about half a day to convince certain members of this legislature, that the appointment of a Sanitary Engineer was a priority in Government Sanitary control.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, I quite agree that the cart has really galloped ahead of the horse. But will this bill be coming in due course?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: Mr. President that question is answered in the original.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Another supplementary, Mr. President. Will the Member say if the Sanitary Engineer will be the one to inspect the slaughtered turtle?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: I could not say with any degree of accuracy, Mr. President, this will depend on the advice which I receive . I would imagine that this could very well be the job of a vet.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Another supplementary, Mr. President. Will the Member say if it is true that the Finance Committee approved the appointment of a Sanitary Engineer, more than one year ago?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: I'm afraid I didn't get that question, Mr. President.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: May be I'll rephrase it in a different way. Was the approval given for the appointment of a Sanitary Engineer in this Finance Committee, or was it last year's?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: It was last year's, I'm sure.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Another supplementary. Will the Member admit that approval was given for the appointment of the Sanitary Engineer more than one year ago?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: Mr. President, I would hate to say that approval was given, I would say that approval was wrung out of the members.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Another supplementary. But isn't it true as to the timing that it was more than one year ago?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: I said yes, to that Mr. President. But I would add that there was a riderthat the House did not consider this a priority, and it was under new services, which are on an if and when basis, Sir. But before the member can ask again, I'll tell him that unless may be the proposed candidate.is discouraged by some of this debate, we would hope to have him in office very shortly, Sir.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Will the member say what is the reason that has delayed the coming of the Sanitary Engineer?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: Mr. President, there are a number of reasons, but one of the chief ones being that we wanted to be sure that we were getting the right man, or at least, in our opinion we were getting the right man when we recruited one.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Were you not sure of that when you asked for the approval of the money?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: No, Mr. President, I am not in a habit of going out shopping unless I know that I can pay for the bill.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Another supplementary. Are you assured that we have the right man now?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: Mr. President, that was answered in the question before the last.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Another supplementary, Mr. President. What makes the member so sure that he now has the right man?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: Mr. President, if the tape is checked I'm sure it will be found that I said, that at least in our opinion we thought we would have the right man. I could never be sure, that will depend on the test of time.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Supplementary, Mr. President. What leads the member to believe that he now has the right man.

MR. PRESIDENT: I think these questions are getting very dangerously close to an abuse of the right to ask questions, I shall interrene shortly.

HON. B.O. EBANKS: Mr. President, I would consider that question irrelevant, and argumentative. I can't see any point in answering that question, or where this could meet the requirements of Standing Orders, that supplementary qestions are only required to elucidate

HON. B.O. EBANKS: (CONT'D) an answer given to the original question.

MR. PRESIDENT: Next question please.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (SECOND ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE DISTRICT OF BODDEN TOWN) TO ASK THE FOURTH MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RESPONSIBLE LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCES AND TOURISM.

IF HE WOULD GIVE THE NAME OF THE BUILDING AND THE ADDRESS OF THE LOCATION OF THE TOURSIT BOARD OFFICE IN CHICAGO

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: Before I attempt to answer the question, I would like to inform the member that there is no such thing as the Tourist Board. It is the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism.

ANSWER

"THE SIXTH NORTH MICHIGAN BUILDING"

THE LOCATION IS:
6 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE,
CHICAGO, ILL., U.S.A.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: A further supplementary Sir. Could we be advised by the Member, how large the office is that the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism occupies in Chicago?

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: The office that the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism is occupying in Chicago is not very large.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Another supplementary, Mr. President. Does any other business occupy this office?

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: Yes, that is correct.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Could you state the name of the business?

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: The name of the business is, The Caribbean Holidays.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Further supplementary. We really didn't get a correct answer to how large it was. But being two separate businesses occupy this small office n your estimation do we get the exposure from this that we should, for the amount of money that we pay?

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: I don't know what is meant by exposure. I think the question was, in my opinion, we get the amount of exposure that we should. Well in my opinion we are getting the amount of exposure in Chicago and the neighbouring territories as we should.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Further supplementary then. In that case, could you tell us what is the amount of rent that we pay for this office?

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: We pay approximately a hundred dollars a month rental.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Another supplementary, Mr. President. Will the Member say how many staff occupy this office?

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: We have one person in Chicago at the present time.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Another supplementary, Mr. President. What salary is paid to this person?

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: This person is paid a salary of US$8,200 per annum.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Another supplementary. Does this person work full or part time?

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: This person works full time for the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism.

MR. PRESIDENT: Next question please.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (SECOND ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE DISTRICT OF BODDEN TOWN) TO ASK THE FOURTH ELECTED MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RESPONSIBLE FOR LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCES AND TOURSIM.

WILL HE STATE WHETHER GOVERNMENT WILL TREAT THE DYNAMITING AND CLEANING OF THE CHANNELS IN THE REEF AT FRANK SOUND AND ISLAND AS A PRIORITY, THUS ALLOWING SMALL BOATS EASIER ACCESS THROUGH THE REEF AREA?

ANSWER

GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ASSISTING THE FISHERMEN OF THE EASTERN DISTRICTS BY DOING SOME DYNAMITING TO EXISTING FLATS OR CHANNELS.

WORK HAS BEEN STARTED ON ONE "FLAT" AT EAST END AND IT IS PLANNED TO HAVE ONE "FLAT" CLEARED AT NORTH SIDE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

AS FAR AS I AM INFORMED, THE CHANNEL AT FRANK SOUND PRESENTLY AFFORDS EASY ACCESS TO ANY BOAT USED BY FISHERMEN IN THAT AREA. THERE COULD BE SOME CLEARING FOR LARGER BOATS. THE FLAT AT ISLAND WILL BE CONSIDERED IN DUE COURSE.

MR. JAMES M. BODDDEN: Further supplementary, Mr. President. We continue to get "due course" I wonder if we could get a definition of what"due course" is?

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: I'm sure the member is quite aware of existing circumstances in these Islands with having something done. Secondly, provisions were not made in our present estimates for doing this job. So when I said in due course, it depends on weather condition, it depends on the availability of having some person to do the job. I take it that I will get support for the request for supplementary expenditure if that is necessary in having this done. When I say due course, I could not say exactly the day, week or month, but I hope to have it done sometime during the course of this year.

MR. PRESIDENT: Next question please.

IF HE WILL STATE WHETHER A PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL CAN HIRE THE MEMBERS OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT LAND SURVEY TEAM TO PERFORM A SURVEY? IF SO, WHO RECEIVES THE MONEY, THE MEMBER OF THE LAND SURVEY TEAM DOING THE SURVEY OR GOVERNMENT?

ANSWER

GOVERNMENT SURVEYORS DO NOT WORK ON PRIVATE SURVEYS, HOWEVER, THERE IS PROVISION IN THE REGISTERED LAND LAW,1971, FOR THE REGISTRAR TO DIRECT CERTAIN SURVEYS IN RESPECT OF PRIVATELY OWNED LANDS AND IN THOSE CASES GOVERNMENT SURVEYORS CAN BE USED.

ALL SURVEY FEES ARE GOVERNMENT REVENUE AND PAID TO THE TREASURY.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Further supplementary. Is there a fixed charge for this or is it governed under the Survey Bill by it is charged under that?

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: Charges for surveys are fixed under the Land Survey Law.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Further supplementary, then. Has any work been done by this Team under this Survey Law?

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: Yes, certain work has been done.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Could the Member state the approximate amount of money that Government has received from this work being done?

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: I am not able to state this. This is a question that needs time, because it is dealing with statistics, I couldn't definitely say.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Further supplementary. Well, could the Member say whether any money has been paid at all to Government for this work?

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: If surveys have been done, definitely money would have been paid to Governemnt. I stated that in the first question, that any money received for surveys would be paid in to the Treasury.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Further supplementary. That's quite correct, but what I'm trying to get after is to find out whether any money has been paid and I think that the Member intimated he would be glad to give us figures on it as soon as he has it available.

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: I'm not too sure if I intimated anything like that. What I said was, to ask me statistics of the Treasury Department, I'm not able to answer this time.

CAPT. A.A. REID: Further supplementary. Is the Member aware of the fact that the country is now left to one surveyor and that could cause the public to suffer great inconvience?

MR. PRESIDENT: That sounds alarmingly like a new question. I don't know whether the Member can shed any light on it.

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: I am not aware of how many surveying firms are in this Island, but I would think today that what they charge for surveys and the amount of land transaction in this Island, this should be a viable business and I could see no difficulty in having surveyors here.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Further supplementary, Mr. President. Would the Member responsible for this check and determine whether any surveys has been done by this Team and whether Government received the money which they should have received in this case?

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: You're asking me to check for my own information. I have to state catergorically that the head of the department is a person of integerity, and I would assume that all survey fees collected would be paid into the Treasury.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, I'm not questioning the integrity of the man in charge of this department at all. I'm merely trying to find out whether any surveys have been done by this department, and whether Government has received the fees which the Member assured us would have come to Government. That is my question.

MR. PRESIDENT: I'm considering the question of whether its worth while for no discernible purpose whatsoever except to satify the Member for the Member to make this inquiry - I don't think it is.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, with all due respect, I do think that it is a legitimate reason I'm asking this question, and I will persue it in due course.

MR. PRESIDENT: If there are no further supplementaries, Private Member's Motion, first of which stands in the name of the First Member for Bodden Town.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, Honourable Members, I move the following motion for consideration of this House.

> WHEREAS due to the large amount of newly black-topped roads, particularly in the Seven Mile Beach area, on which large quantities of loose gravel is placed
> BE IT RESOLVED that these areas, for at least two weeks after the gravel has been placed, have a reduced speed limit of twenty-five miles per hour, and that Police be stationed for enforcement.

Mr. President, this exists really throughout the Island, but particularly on Seven Mile Beach, in the last few weeks where we have seen quite a bit of road work being undertaken, and for that I thank the First Elected Member; and it appears that the work has been fairly well done. But we do have a lot of speed demons that are taking advantage of this gravel situation and with the loose gravel it is very dangerous to motorists, because it can create skidding, you try to break into it it's very difficult, and besides gravel is flying around the entire area as you pass through it. There is a large amount of loose gravel on this road, and with the amount of Police we have in the Island, I am sure that we would have enough that we could find to station one at each end of this, for say fourteen days. This would tend to reduce the speed limits by the effect of them being there, and by people being able to see this on the road that we do have Police on the road, other than just in the Town. And I cannot see where it would be very effective for us to just post a sign there saying, "Loose Gravel Please Take Care"; I don't think that's going to have the effect at all that we should have. And I'm stressing the point that I do consider we have enough Police that could assist in this matter, and at this point I will leave to your generous hearts to consider that something be done about this.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: I second this Motion.

HON. A. B. BUSH: Mr. President and Members, surely one can appreciate the consideration of the Member who moved this, also the one who seconded it. If their thoughts are like mine, in the sense I certainly do appreciate it. But the resolve section of the resolution to my mind is some-what impossible to enforce. I don't believe that if we put this before the Commissioner, ask him to station Police which I suppose would have to be twenty-four hours

HON. A.B. BUSH (CONT'D): a day, in sections where this particular type of work is going on, that is going to be able to do this. And I'm not sure that it is right for us also to declare particular zones twenty-five miles an hour today, and fifty miles tomorrow. I don't know just how this would work.

The Mover has condemned the putting up of any signs in these areas, which would warn the drivers of this type of work that has been done, and so I suppose he would not agree probably to anything of that sort. But this would be my approach to it, to put up some signs warning the users of the road in this particular area to drive slowly, and to be careful because of what has taken place.

I must say Mr, Presidnet, and Members that this is of great concern to me as well, and I have experienced annoyance, I must say of people using this in a very bad way. No one I don't believe have suffered more from this than I have, because when Church Street was just done just a month or so ago, around my theatre at night time more rocks was kicked up around me than anybody else. I complained about this but this was as far as I got. I also want to let Members know that I have tried to do something about it, in that I have even asked our Information Officer to put something in the press. And if I am permitted, Mr. President, I would like to read to Members just what was inserted in the press in January of this year. Road Re-Surfacing - Drivers of all vehicles are requested to drive slowly, i.e. not more than 15 m.p.h. in the areas where road work is in progress or has recently been completed. In the first place to throw up the chips by spinning tyres or fast driving is extremely dangerous to other road users. Secondly, this new surface is in preparation for not mix asphalt finish and it is essential that this new surface be kept intact. There have always been complaints about the condition of roads in the Island and Government is now making every effort at great expense to improve the condition and asks that the drivers of all vehicles do their part in ensuring better surfaces in the future. Drive slowly to conserve fuel, and walk on the right hand side of the road for safety.

So I just want to let Members know I'm aware of all of this, the cure for it is something else. Whether stationing Police twenty four hours a day at these areas is practicable. Whether it can be done, whether the Police Force will accept this and do it. The Police are supposed to have control of traffic throughout the Island, not in these particular areas. And I feel sure myself that it is going to be quite hard for Police to be stationed at places like this all the time; and to rigidly enforce the rules that we may make here on this. I don't believe that the right users of this road would use it to such a fashion. I don't believe anyone that thinks anything of himself and the car in which he's driving would drive in such a way that would kick up the gravel all over his car and probably dent it, and probably effect others as well on the road. I think it's this crazy man that we have to take care of, and we can only hope that the Police will try to do all they can about this.

But I am, as I say very concerned about this, and I do appreciate the thought of Members bringing it here, but how this would be done, is something that I am not sure and I don't feel like what we have in this resolution is going to be practicable to enforce. I think some alternative to it should be found. I feel within myself like the best way to handle this is to put a sign of some kind reminding people of where they are, and what they're driving on, and to leave it at that. I don't know what other Members will feel about this, this is my feeling. But I want to also tell Members especially in the area which is mentioned here, in the Seven Mile Beach area, I think the Member said this, that the work of this type is just about over, and in the area in particular, will start the new surface which we're going to put on. All is being waited on is the equipment

HON. A.B. BUSH (CONT'D): to do this. I think I've told Members before that there has been some delay in getting this equipment, which comes from overseas, it comes from the United Kingdom, and the reason for this is, we could not get a plan of the size to suit us anywhere else but from the United Kingdom. We should have gotten one from the States, it would have been beyond our ability to work it. And so we expected it in April, but we have been told that it wouldn't be here until May. So, this is the reason why it will not start when we expect it.

Another thing I would like to remind Members of, that I myself am not satisfied with this particular surfacing of road, and I am doing everything that I can to try to convince the department that we must change this. Members I know have from time to time spoken about the loose rocks that is wasted on the road, and I am too very much concerned about this. I have been arguing about this ever since it started, from the time I was Chairman of the Road Board. So Members will know that I'm giving it much more concern now, that I am in the position that I am in. And I am doing my best to see, as I've said, if I can persuade the department to buying something else. Every time we talk about this, there are books flung in front of me of the specifications and this is it. Well I now have some books of my own which I will argue on as well.

I know also about the clean up of this rock, I have been very concerned about this because I see a lot of it on our streets right here in George Town, right in the township. And I see the difficulty of tourist in particular have in walking this. And I tried little more than a month ago to have some of this cleaned up, and after one week's operation I was presented a bill for $1140, and this as you all can see hasn't done very much to it. And I want to say that I had to halt this because it is not every week I can get $1140 from the Financial Secretary to continue on this. But I want to assure Members that the loose rock on the road should become less, because I'm going to endeavour to see that less of this particular type of work is done. And I would hope that during the course of this debate on this, that the Member will try to modify, change his motion so that we don't have to station Police there twenty-four hours a day, and we don't have to put up a speed limit sign, which I don't see how we're going to do this. But to agree that we take this into consideration, and that some attention be given to it, and we try to impress on the Police and try to make sure to see that they don't overdo the speed on these particular pieces of road. Thank you Mr. President.

MR. G.HAIG BODDEN: Mr. President, fellow Members, this resolution is seeking to reduce one of the big dangers on our roads, and that danger is flying rocks, which are thrown up by cars driving upon a road, or a part of the road that has been recently repaired. These flying missiles are a danger to motorists, not only the personal danger of having the eye knocked out, it is also a danger to the people who ride bicycles. I have never driven on the West Bay road this year during the day but what I have passed an endless amount of tourists on bicyles, and walking. These people are in danger of their very lives, because these flying rocks are being kicked up. As far as the motorist himself is concerned, it is not only the danger of getting a little cut, or a little scratch, but he could also become involved in an accident.

As far as Government is concerned there would be a tremendous saving on repairs. More damage is done to the new surface of a road during the first two weeks than is done during the next two years. It seems that as long as we have to depend on advice from experts, we will always be putting these man size rocks on the road, despite repeated experience that the rocks which are being put are too big, they're still being put. If they were

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONT'D): only using fine gravel , I am sure that the cohesiveness of the tar would hold the rocks in place. But they are loose boulders, some of them must be at least a quarter of an inch or a half an inch in diameter, and it is impossible for the asphalt or whatever is used, it is impossible for this material to hold the rocks in place. There would be advantage to the motorists, in that the cars would not be damaged, these rocks scale off the paint, the tar itself messes up the lower parts of the side of the car, and it is very expensive to be continually cleaning a car. So the motorists themselves who would be the people that would benefit from a reduced speed, even the motorists would welcome such action on our part. To put up a sign is not enough, you would have your considerate drivers obeying the drive slowly sign, but that motorist would be in a greater danger if he drives at twenty-five miles an hour in a fifty miles zone, he is in more danger than if he maintains a speed in keeping with the regular flow of the traffic.

Now I would like to quote four accidents that happened quite recently. There is a Mrs. McCoy working in the Government department, who had the windshield of her car destroyed by one of these flying missiles. We had an accident sometime this year on on the corner of Cardinal Avenue and Church Street, when a car skidded and slammed into another car, the skidding was the direct result of the loose gravels which had been put down that week. Perhaps because of the result of this accident very early one morning a few days afterwards, I saw a Public Works truck with a multitude of men on Cardinal Avenue shovelling up the loose gravel which had been torn off the recently put down asphalt by cars. I realised that this was in the twenty five miles zone. Now if this could happen in the twenty five mile zone, what would happen in a fifty mile zone?

Another accident occurred recently, in which the rider of a bicycle received a facial injury, because of a flying missile.

The fourth accident which did not happen, and which perhaps the Members would like to have happened, occurred to the Second Member from Bodden Town. I was coming in to an intersection that had been recently gravelled, and my car skidded, it went about six feet out of the way it should have gone. But because the Gods were driving with me that day, and because I also have a clean record of driving, not having a single accident, I guess I was spared. But for a driver who is accident prone, I am sure he would have had the worse. So there is no doubt that there is a need for some control. It seems to me that Public Works will continue to do this type of road building, regardless of the cost of picking up the gravels. Eleven hundred and forty dollars per week seems to be a small fee. If they were picking up all they should pick up, it would cost eleven thousand four hundred dollars per week, and if the words of the Member from North Side are correct, and I believe every word this good man says, the Government would not be able to foot the bill for picking up the wasted gravel on the North Side road. I've seem some of this myself, and I can well substantiate his finding.

Now, some of the things the Member for Public Works told us, I want to find out when it is, or when has it come about that this House has to seek the permission of the Chief of Police to reduce the speed limit. Under the Constitution the Chief of Police,with all due regards to him, is not a member of the Legislative Assembly. He is not one in this Island intended to make laws. Of course I always believe that we had a Civil Service Government, now I'm getting it from the horses mouth.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONT'D): Further, on the placing of signs, some time ago a motion was brought about reducing the speed limit in a certain area, and as a placating bit of goodwill gesture towards the Bodden Town Members, some beautifully decorated signs were placed in the Lower Valley Pedro area. I must say that these are the most beautiful road signs in the entire Island, it shows the touch of some artistic hand in sign painting. But I can tell you that these signs are also the most ineffective signs in the entire Island, although I hear the cost might well be eleven hundred and forty dollars.

Doubtless this reduction of speed limit would be difficult to enforce, after all West Bay is not a highway, the West Bay road is the race track, we know that, sure it would be difficult to enforce but does it mean it is not necessary because it is difficult to enforce. The harder it is to enforce, the more necessary it is, and is the Member saying that it is inefficiency in the enforcement of the Laws, is he trying to take somebody a-part. Good intentions are not enough, it is necessary that we take action. And I would also close by saying that it would be far better for the Member responsible to say no we will not consider this, than to give his flimsy and useless excuses.

MR. PRESIDENT: I've no doubt that other people could have something to say, but it would be as well to fuel ourselves first. Recess for fifteen minutes.

HOUSE SUSPENDED
HOUSE RESUMED

MR. CLAUDE HILL: Mr. President, and Honourable Members, I rise to make my small contribution to this debate on this Private Member's Motion.

I would say that this motion gives us food for thought. First I would like to mention the remarks made by the Minister whose portfolio this comes under, in regards to the resolve section of this motion. It is quite true what he has said, I myself personally could not see how this could be implemented. But as a matter it should not be overlooked, if the Police in itself could not do something in regard to the speeding in the Seven Mile area, in regards to the gravel, when its new gravel placed on the roads. I think as the motion in itself states for two weeks, at least two weeks for them to be stationed there would not be too long a time while this is in a wet stage.

This concerns one and all. As a user of the road myself, personally I have found on many occasions, I am observing the notice placed on the road, Road under Construction - Driving limit fifteen miles per hour. I'm observing the fifteen miles, and someone comes behind me, and passes me making fifty or seventy-five miles an hour. I have on my windscreen signs to prove what I'm saying here. You feel like you've been pelted by a duppy. Missiles flying, gravel, people walking, I imagine what they must be going through without something to protect them from that gravel.

In regards to speeding, there seems no end to the speed that exists on the Seven Mile Beach. I must mention that the Second Member from Bodden Town in his remarks of how he almost was involved in an accident, and he was quite sure that members here would be glad, I am one member who wouldn't be glad for anyone to be involved in an accident. I know he was trying to get his case across, and I feel that he will try every effort to put it most forcibly to us the necessity or the need to have something done in regards to the speeding on the Seven Mile Beach. Most specially when road is under construction. And with that Mr. President I support this motion, to an extent if something could be adjusted in the resolution section of that motion. I'm not prepared to make any amendments to the motion, but if the mover of the motion, in the resolve section, could make some

MR. CLAUDE HILL (CONT'D): amendments there, I think I would wholeheartedly support this. And thank you Sir.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: Mr. President, and Members of this House, I rise to support this resolution up to a point. But if I had my way, I would have the maximum speed throughout the Island, twenty-five miles. I wouldn't just have it in areas where the road is being repaired, because we have seen tragedies of all description, and the answer is speeding, speeding, speeding. Now I don't know anything about road construction work, but I do know this, that I have seen in the district of North Side heaps and heaps and heaps of gravel heaped up in peoples yard, that I laughingly said, that if I had to build a new house, I would hire a truck, go to North Side have gravel scraped up off the road, and I wouldn't have to buy even one pebble, for a mansion it would be, because there is a waste of public funds. I am not saying who is responsible, but I'm saying there is a waste of public funds in the destribution of this gravel, or fill or whatever you feel like calling it. I am very confident that somebody somewhere is falling down the job, and the fact is they thoughtlessly have trucked over the gravel to the extent where anybody living in North Side area in particular need not spend one penny to buy gravels.

I feel, although as I've said, I'm not a road builder, and I'm very sure I'm looked on as the weakest one in this House, when it comes on what road making should be like. But I feel confident, and I've told the First Elected Member to Executive Council that if he is really doing his job regardless of who says what they should use smaller pebbles to fix the road. I don't believe everything I see in a book, I believe in adjusting circumstances to particular areas, and I do not know the reason why, but I'm very confident this gravel that is used now, is more of a menace than it is anything else.

Now I don't know if police could be stationed twenty-four hours a day. What I did see this morning, was on every, I would say twenty-five yards, two police standing up. The reason I do not know, but I fee that we must make some effort, and I do not agree that the Chief of Police has any authority, anything about the fixing of speed. If we have any privilege at all it is to say if the road should be used as just a means of sending people to their graves, or if it is to be used for public convenience, in people walking up and down. For I would say, if necessary we should reduce the driving limit to a place where at least people lives would be saved.

I support the resolution up to a point, that we must do something to stop this hazard to the public. Thank you Sir.

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: Mr. President and Members, I'm going to quote words used by similar members, that I support this resolution up to a point.

The idea behind the resolution is a valid one, and as Members have heard this morning, the Member who is responsible for Works has not been sitting down on it. He has attempted what in his opinion is one of the ways in which this difficulty can be overcome.

We have a problem - we have a problem of stones flying up hitting other people, hitting other vehicles. We have a problem of damaging a new road, costing the Government to expend more money, so there it is, the problem is there. If putting up a fifteen mile an hour sign, or a twenty five mile an hour sign, or a two mile an hour sign, is that the answer to the problem. I would like to say this, and I regret to have to refresh the memories, but we have had an accident one of the worst in this Island happen right in the twenty-five mile an hour zone. We had two young chaps killed,

HON. W.W. CONOLLY (CONT'D): well within the twenty-five miles an hour zone. Surely that twenty-five miles an hour zone was there, that marker was there. We had an accident, the worst in the country in the the fifty mile an hour zone, yet it is public opinion that the automobile was travelling much faster than that fifty. What I'm trying to say is that with all our attempts here to put up signs, regardless of what the number on the plate maybe, is that the answer? I think it is the general concensus here, if a member of this House, and every well-thinking person, and responsible person in these Islands feel that we are diseased with this problem of speeding. This problem of ill-behaviour in automobiles. If by putting the sign up, fifteen miles an hour, if that could end the problem, I would be only too happy to support it. And even at the present time, without even this Legislature doing one thing about this resolution, there is in my opinion legislation that can take effective measure in respect of this. But surely when a person who is in control of a car, drives an automobile without taking due care or consideration for other road users, that's what the law says - taking into consideration the amount of traffic that is on the road, or that is normally expected to be on the road. And surely when one drives up to a newly laid road, seeing the loose gravel, when one drives at a speed that is going to throw stones up that could cause damage to people and property, surely the driver of that automobile is not taking due care and consideration for other drivers.

The resolve section says to put up these speed limits at twenty miles an hour. I'm sure Mr. President and Members, quite recently as was referred to by the Member responsible, that South Church Street was surfaced by the same type of rock. That is well within the twenty five mile an hour zone, and yet in a few days that was torn up. You don't have to drive twenty five miles an hour, you don't have to drive fifty miles an hour to tear up a new road. These powerful vehicles taking off, taking off at ten miles well within the limit that one would allow , and there you see stones flying skyward.

I feel like the answer to our problem is to have the sense of responsibility injected in those who become in the possession of the control of automobiles. How we do this I am not prepared to say. I imagine we can try many things, some maybe effective. This to me is the answer. When a person has become in control of an automobile realises his responsibility to himself, to the inmates of his car, and to the other ten or twelve or fifteen thousand people living in these Islands, then we will have better road use.

The idea of stationing a Police, or Policemen is a good idea, and one may say that it is possible, it is our responsibility to make it possible. On the other hand you would have to have a police to make it effective, in my opinion you would have to have a Police sitting along side every driver, or standing. Because if a guy is driving, particularly in the night, the poor Police himself stands in the danger, if he gets close enough to catch his number, he is in danger of having himself run over. On the other hand, it's pretty hard for a person to know who is driving the car, you know it's a red car, you know it's 6975, as the case maybe, but who's the driver, it could be anybody. So to make a valid prosecution the Police has to have the number of the car, and he has to have the persons name who was driving the car at the time. So lets be realistic about it. As far as I'm concerned, as I said I am in sympathy with this resolution, I think it is something that not only the members bringing this to the House, but everybody is conscious of this problem. I take it that much criticism has been made of the way the road has been done, I am not capable to criticise the roads in that manner. I will say from experience we have the same type of road in East End. One might have said that it was some waste of gravel on the side, to me it's not a waste, to me that gravel on the side if it's left there

HON. W.W. CONOLLY (CONT'D): could provide, and does provide a filter for the water running off the road, where you don't have the road breaking out the water running in gorges and digging out the road. I have proven this on that East End strip of road, on the seaward side where it is built up very high, that gravel there protects the edge of the road from being gorged out, it acts as a filter. I am not prepared to argue whether one engineer or the other engineer or anybody puts too much gravel on the road, I'm not in a position here, I'm no engineer, I'm no road builder. But I'll tell you this, that despite the criticism on the road, the road into East End is in my opinion a fair road, it has been there some of it for about two two and a half years, no maintenance. One or two places on the verge of the road where it is not chipped that has been cut through bad irresponsible driving. People riding the verges instead of riding on the centre of the road, they ride on the verges. But we have saved tremendous amount of money, because it was no year in all history, but what that stretch of road was continual maintenance, and as far as I'm concerned the maintenance is no.

We have heard the Member say that there is a search for a different way, cause I'm sure Government is very concerned about the cost because aggregate here is very expensive. Furthermore on the Western end of the Island we hope in the not too distant future that the whole system of road building will take a new face. This can answer one side of the problem, but as far as I'm concerned the irresponsibility of drivers will still remain with us.

I support the resolution that Government should do all in its power to see that this is controlled, but I cannot agree to vote in favour of committing the Commissioner of Police tp station one or two or three, or might be a dozen Police, because it is possible that a patch of road be worked at at West Bay, there could be one in Meringue Town, there could be one up in the School Road, there could be one on the North Side road, there could be several areas at the same time going. And I feel that I would not be justified in this House to pass a resolution, or agree to a resolution that would commit the authority to something that is not practical.

The signs within the limit of the law, within the limits of existing law if the speed on these areas of newly erected roads could be reduced to much less than the twenty five. I would be happy to see it. Thank you Mr. President.

CAPT A.A. REID: Mr. President and Honourable Member of this House, I am in support of the motion, I know that something should and must be done..

Now, I've been around quite a bit, and I've seen a lot of roads built too. But never in my life have I seen that amount of rocks and that amount of gravel . I have seen them spread a thin layer of stones, but not more than one eighth in size, and it is done when the asphalt is hot, and the asphalt absorbs the stuff, and you don't find it flying all over the place, it just simply protects it just simply protects it so that by the time the asphalt is cooled, one can drive over it and you don't find any stones flying up.

Now the Public Works have made a glutton of themselves. We eat too, but you don't sit down and eat until you burst. And what is happening is that they're piling up a lot of dust on the road, and making the road more dusty. because that stuff will be there for years. I can tell yo' it is so deep in some places that you can hardly drive in it, pushed up by cars of course. It reminded me of a friend of mine who bought a lovely living room suite, but he was so darn cheap he didn't want it ever to wear out, and then he put a awful coat of plastic covers over it, and that's what we've done. You make a good road and then you ruin it with two or three inches of cobble stone. I think the system is wrong, I think they should be

CAPT. A.A. REID (CONT'D): stopped, and I think the Public Works should be told, and I think we have the power to tell them, stop it. Don't use so much, it's a waste of money.

The speeding, I'm all for stopping that, but it seems to me that the only thing that really stops the speeding in this country is death, when one is killed he got to stop then. But I've seen the Police driving too fast too, I forgot to mention that yesterday, I've seen at least two of them. And what the Honourable Member from East End has said is wrong. I don't agree that the Police if they take the number of the car, they've got to decide, there's got to be proof of who was in that car. Now the proof of who was in that car, the honesty is on the owner of that car to prove that he wasn't driving it at the time, and if he wasn't driving it who did. Let him tell the Judge, I didn't drive it, my cousin drove it. Well let us prosecute the cousin then. He must know, it's his car, and if he wasn't in there at ten o'clock last night, when he was making eighty miles an hour on that road, it is an easy matter to say to him, okay prove to us you weren't there and tell us who was in it; and if the law isn't that way that's how it should be written. We can't have people dodging the law in this manner, leaving all sorts of loop holes for them to break the law, then the law should be re-written.

I don't know if there's anymore that one can say, I say there's too much gravel put there, the stones are too big. They shouldn't be more than an eighth of an inch, if you can get them that small here. And the speeding should be stopped, and the Police should see to it. The Police should stop the speeding. I thank you Sir.

MR. JOHN JEFFERSON: Mr. President, I rise on this motion. I feel that the Member from Bodden Town has the same concern that we all share here this morning, and we have for quite some time. I disagree with some things, I think it would be impossible no doubt to expect the Commissioner of Police to stage Police there for two weeks. I think the period of time would be far too long. But stating from my own personal experience, I've seen during the surfacing of roads, I have come by - here they are pouring out the asphalt, and I've come up and there is one section of the road being done, the other section is open, and Public Works has a man on each end so that traffic wait, so that each one can take his turn through the side that hasn't been surfaced yet. And I've seen people just tear on down through the wet asphalt tearing if off the road. And I said to the fellow on the road, I said haven't you asked for Police to be on the road during this time of surfacing, because I think it is very essential. I don't think that we here today should have to sit down and vote money to have our roads re-surfaced, and have people out there surfacing the roads, and some reckless, careless, ill-respnsible driver coming down tearing the asphalt off the road before even it has had chance to adhere.

I feel that anytime during this period that Police be on the spot, and should be there directing traffic. And any driver acting so irresponsible aught to be jailed, as far as I'm concerned.

In response to the amount of rocks - gravel on the road, I'm not an expert, and I don't see many experts in here, but I see people here with good common sense, and good common sense tellsme that it's a complete waste to have all that ton of rocks placed on the road during this particular period. If the ratio is half a ton per quarter of a mile, then why put two tons; there's no reason for that, everybody can see that that's not reasonable. I don't need no engineer to tell me that that's not right. We are paying through our nose, for that amount of gravel, then see it wasted, then what are we going to do, tell people you can't take it up when

MR. JOHN JEFFERSON (CONT'D): it's finished?

Well on the motion as far as I'm concerned, I feel that it is a motion that we all have our hearts with, and we are all concerned about. The period of time will be far too long, I couldn't support that. But I feel that during this period of time, the Police should be there, and I feel also that signs should be placed during these times, yet, I've gone carefully through these areas, and I've seen a chap come by and smash the sign down, right down in front. I've taken time and get the guys number, and going and reporting it.

I feel that it is very reasonable to say that at least Police could watch over this for a couple of days, no reason about that, there's no reason why they shouldn't be able to do that. I know of course that this stage, I see where there is a tremendous amount of work being done on the road, and there's a lot of surfacing being done, I know it would probably, as it looks now, would probably mean that you would have to station a number of them, because I must say that for once Public Works seem to be at last moving out, some place, thank God. And I think that's about all I have to say on that motion, Mr. President.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: Mr. President, and Members, if I were to tell or say to the mover that I disagree with his motion, Members might wonder why. The First Elected from Bodden Town is my friend on the outside, but when we sit in the House together, I represent the people of this Island, and his friendship and sympathy don't exist in me to be handed over. That don't mean to say that I don't have some support to the motion, but while I could be lengthy, I will restrict my time a bit brief, even if it takes more than an hour and nineteen minutes.

We've well realised that most elected members have confessed that they're no engineers in here, we happen to get into the House by whim and fancies, I suppose. But, I think all members in here got enough sense to know when they see a colour whether it's black, white or red. They've got enough sense to know when something looks good from when it looks bad. If changing, in the trend of improvements, when some of these things aught to be different too.

A hundred years ago when the schooners sailed from here to Florida, the captain had to wait to get the star, he had to get the sun, the moon, he had to get something to find his whereabout. Today that becomes obsolete. We have got brain to come up with mechanism, machinery, electronics, and what not to find the way when you yourself are lost. It's improved; and if our road building has improved over the last fourteen years, then I'm getting better looking every day too. No Police can help any road construction, or road building as far as I am concerned. Our new method, or what is being used as a new method, I've read quite a bit on road building, I get a lot of literature from some of the worlds biggest engineers and road builders, forty, sixty million dollar road project, that tell how they build roads, and the way they go about and all the rest. And when you talk about five thousand dollar road job here, what is that. But nevertheless the new method that they say that is being used, if that is improvement, then we should try and soon find some chance for it.

The first roads that we had constructed in this Island, must be something like fourteen years, or somewhere around about, fourteen or fifteen years. And the way I saw the engineers carrying out that construction, when it comes to the finishing part of it, when they're ready for surfacing. Whether it

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS (CONT'D): be a hundred feet or a thousand feet, or two thousand feet or whatever it was, the road was divided in two, in its length. One half was taken care of one day, barricaded, signs put up, and the next day that was moved and the other side gone into.

The system that Public Works got in doing the road, all the width of the road must be done one time, one day. That don't make sense. You must create some difficulty with the traffic when you try to do that. Then particularly the new method that they're using, as they say, dumping the chips. I don't know if this is any law or not, but any road that is to be built, and standard of road it must carry a specification; whatever is the specification for this type of road with the dumping of the chips,

the engineers say that traffic have to travel over so that it will tie them in. Now I don't know, I don't know what speed, eighty five, fifty miles or a hundred miles, I just don't know. But that's the reason they're dumped there and left there for weeks for the traffic, to tie it in. It seems like this Government hasn't given the second thought, that the danger that this loose chip, gravel rock can cause to the public.

You know we talk about tourist, we want tourist to come in here, we've got some wealthy people walking around in this area sometime, and it will just be too bad for this Government if a car threw one of these chips and knocked the eye out of one of these visiting people to this Island. You know what it's going to cost this governemnt, for a law suit. I don't see how any government can be so slack in looking into these things. Those gravels can riddle a windshield, they have broken peoples windshields. You go out and look at peoples car that they spend three and four and five thousand dollars on, and and in six months it look like it went through a pecking machine. Picked to pieces, chipped from passing vehicles. Somebody is going to soon bring some law suits against this same Government for this type of road.

Now I am sorry for my good friend the First Elected Member to Executive Council, because if I had been in his boat, things would have been different, because I would have been out, and some other things probably happen. So I gave him my sympathy, I hope he can live under it. I mean these are the things that we see, we know can happen, many of them are happening, and still they say lets go on, this is the way to do it.

The Fourth Elected Member from Executive Council, the Honourable Member from East End, he said he saw a few places where on the verge of the road had been broken, by people not driving in the middle of the road. I don't know if that's in any law, for people to drive in the middle of the road, that's what cause some of our problems now. The roads supposed to be center lined, if you got a one lane, if you got a two lane, you got a three lane, you got a ten lane, it is supposed to be lined, and each section of the traffic hold, nobody got any business in the road, unless it is a - and I'm telling you, tell this House, tell the Public Works, tell Government I am for one try to hold, keeping knocking the edge off the bush, because the danger that is on this road, I am fraid trimming the bush myself, talk about driving in the middle of the road.

Police wouldn't help in the situation because if he's done a thousand miles on one section, and put the police there for two weeks, then the gravel hasn't been through this new method of motor vehicle rolling it in, hasn't had the chance to go over it. So it's still remaining there loose and slack and of no use, so it still have to come back after two weeks of police protection, for the traffic to get into it and roll it in. So where are we going to go then from there? I thought that was what they made rollers for. Roll the material in to where you want it, to the standard you want it, and that will do, the method of building road like building anything else, you do the things that follow, and do it

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS (CONT'D): know he's disregarded in his position as Member responsible for Works, because as has been publicly rumoured he's not an engineer, so am I not. So I don't know, he don't know. Thank you Sir.

HON. D.V. WATLER: Mr. President, and Honourable Members, this motion seems to have the support on both sides of the House, but there is this one problem in it, and that is the patrolling of it by the Police, and maybe the time limit for the roads to be patrolled. And I am wondering whether in order to get the full support on both sides, and to ease the argument that instead of the resolve being - "BE IT RESOLVED that the areas for at least two weeks" could be amended to read, "for a period of about two weeks, and therefore if it is more or less it could go on for a longer time, or a lesser time", and then when it comes to the section where "and the police be stationed for the enforcing thereof", "that the Police will use their best endeavours to see that the speed limit is observed."

Earlier in this Session, I had to answer a question about the patrolling into the Eastern Districts, and at that time I had to tell you that it was not possible to be able to patrol for twenty-four hours a day, as it was hoped in the Eastern Districts because there was lack of men.

There's going to be a number of sections of this road being worked on, at no doubt at one and the same time, and it could use up quite a number of Police, and I'm not sure that there will be sufficient Police to go around, and I would not want to bind the Commissioner by this resolution. And thus I would move that the resolve section be amended to read that - "BE IT RESOLVED that these areas for a period of about two weeks after the gravel has been placed, have a reduce speed limit of twenty-five miles per hour, and that the Police will endeavour to the best of their ability, to ensure that this speed limit is maintained."

MR. PRESIDENT: Have we run out of the supply of amateur engineers no, because if so I'll ask Honourable Member to sum up?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: Mr. President, I'm not sure, I thought I heard a motion for an amendment to the resolution, Sir. It hasn't been seconded.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: I still have my right to sum up.

HON. B.O. EBANKS: I am aware of that, Sir, but.....

MR. PRESIDENT: We have two motions before the House, I think now, one of them without a seconder. We'll have the summing up on the first one.

HON. B.O. EBANKS: No, Sir, because I'm going to speak if the.....

MR. PRESIDENT: I beg your pardon, Mr. Ebanks, yes Sir, I have just said so. The summing on the first.

HON. B.O. EBANKS: I'm sorry Sir, that it was put in that fashion, but the point was that I rose to speak, and it was called to my attention.

MR. PRESIDENT: Sorry, do you wish to speak on the first motion?

HON. B.O. EBANKS: yes Sir.

MR. PRESIDENT: Please do so.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS (CONT'D): the way it ought to be done to complete the job. I haven't seen anything else - we got something better as a road through to East End and - can't say North Side, cause North Side ain't got any yet. Got something inside North Side, but not to North Side. East End got something better than it had until two and a half years ago, but it is just far from being good road as the moon and sun are two different elements in the sky. You know we shouldn't tell but one individual the best things and one individual that they're a perfect - and that should be our mothers - don't place it on somebody else.

Mr. President, I support this motion that it's getting time to do something about the road construction, and try to find some ways and means of retaining or saving some of our money. I can't blame the Third Official Member, the Financial Secretary when he's approached for money not to argue, because it grieves his heart to know that good hard-earned tax payers money to go out and be wasted like much of it is being wasted. And it has been said by the First Elected Member of the Executive Council when they try to - it must have been for a test to see what one weeks collecting spent eleven hundred dollars plus then probably two or three thousand dollars in the waste of the gravel. So when then will we ever be able to say that we will get our road programme completed in this island. Even the major roads, not talking about the feeder roads. We hoped from what we were told this major road re-building programme would have already been started from last year in November. Now we just understood from the member that probably the equipment, the essential piece of equipment may not even arrive before May. Time is all to organise them, and say well September and October the rainy months are in we'll wait then until they're over, and then comes again what not, I suppose in seventy five we'll get started with the roads, and those roads should have been completed and others started before seventy five.

When we talk in terms of contractor, two million is too much for contractor, to do fourteen miles of road, but when it's finished it will be about seven million, and if we want a road we must pay for a road, not the types and the standards, the way that it's being built and say that we're getting good roads. A road programme was just awarded in one of the smallest islands in the Caribbean, four million for seven miles of road; and we talk about two million for twenty eight miles of road. I mean how can we get something for nothing. When we're trying to get it for nothing, or trying to get it reasonable, trying to get it done the cheapest way, then we're triple paying for it. You've got to bring in this engineer, you've got to bring in this other engineer, one to supervise the other, find accommodation, find transportation, find this, find that. Where do we intend to go?

Mr. President, I give this motion my support, except the Police sector of it. Because I say it wouldn't serve no purpose, because even if the Police was stationed there for two weeks, the traffic still have to get in and roll this. And about the speeding, one member say they don't know any solution to it. I know a solution to it, when you get an offender time through careless reckless, dangerous, and speeding. He doesn't have to have for the second a license, that don't save him, that's not a living for him. Take away his drivers license, saving one license might save others. And don't tell me you can't control it by suspending people of their drivers license. What's wrong with if being without for eight or ten years. If I had to wait on mine for that length of time I'd learn some sense by time I get it back.

So I support the motion and hope that - I say except the Police sector of it. It just don't serve any purpose, and hoping that we'll get along with this, and the Member responsible for this, I can only say again that I support his every effort, and I

HON. B.O. EBANKS: It was called to my attention that the second motion was not seconded and therefore couldn't be debated.

Mr. President, as other Members have said we're all concerned about the danger of the flying rocks when they are placed on newly constructed roads. But I cannot support the resolve section of this resolution as it stands. As I see it Sir, it's impossible under the present Road Traffic Law to undertake this exercise. I believe that if and when the new Road Traffic Law comes into effect it would be possible, but under existing legislation for an area to be put under a specific speed limit, it has to be clearly defined and specified in regulations, so that it would mean that any area of road being constructed, or re-constructed would have to be clearly defined, it would mean that the department would have to work under a very strict programme. That is as I understand it in the present regulations it must state that from point A to point B is a twenty-five mile zone, or a fifty mile zone. We could not just put into the regulation that a stretch of road newly constructed is to be be twenty-five miles an hour, and this will undoubtedly pose a problem. Because particularly if we are going to impose a two week limit on the area being controlled. So that I would hope Mr. President, that the mover of the resolution will accept the gestures already made, That the resolve section be something that can be implemented, and I fail to see how anything too specific contained in the resolve section could be implemented under the existing Law and Regulations. It maybe that when the new Regulations are being framed that something could be included that would cover our desire. I believe that the new proposed law and regulations gives much more latitudes in this respect than the existing one, and it is possible that at that point it could be done. I thank you Sir.

MR. PRESIDENT: Let me just make sure, are any more speakers for the orginal motion, please? Please sum up.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, Fellow Members, in listening to some of this debate I am reminded of the old story, of the man whose house was burning down, and he refused to let the fire department use the water from his meters because his bill had been too high the month before.

Mr. President, the resolve section, I think of this has been twisted, and maybe misconstrued a bit, because there's no place in that resolve section that says anything about twenty - four hours, And as far as stationing the police there, and what we should station them with.

Mr. President, if this motion had been brought to a similar house in the times of my Great Great-Grandfather, it would have been assumed, I'm sure by the other members that you would have stationed the police there on foot, because to break the motion he would probably had been walking on foot.

If it had been brought in my Grandfather's time, I'm sure the members would have at that time considered that we would have either station-ed the police there on a jack-ass or a horse.

If it had been brought in my Father's time probably a bicycle would have been good enough for the police to be stationed on. But in this day and time, if we're going to do anything to catch these speeders, (because I'm quite aware of the Law that we have to be certain who is in the car), then I'm sure that the members would agree with me to enforce this, and to enforce this resolve section we would have had to station them there with a car. So the point of them being overrun by another automobile should not have happened, and that is a point that we were misconstrued in the argument that has been put up on this.

Mr. President, something has to be done about these things. There's no use of us waiting until there is a serious accident, and then we say, "My God I wish we had done something before this." These things are before us everyday, we must take them

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN (CONT'D): into consideration now. And some members mentioned about reporting numbers to the Police, and so forth and so on. From personal experience I can tell this House that it is not much use of reporting that to the Police, because in the past few weeks I was a witness to an accident where a young kid, I think he was probably thirteen years of age, speeding turned over a car. I called the Police told them about it, offered to appear as a witness on two occasions, and up til this day the Police has never contacted me or even called me back. So Mr. President, do not delude ourselves, there's not much use of us wasting time to find a number to report it to the Police.

I am sorry about one part of the debate, and that was about the engineering of the road, because I'm not an expert on that, and I was hoping maybe that that would have been part of another motion, which may have now been precluded.

Now Mr. President, I think we get down to the bolts of this whole thing. Some Members say that we cannot force these signs because we would be contravening the existing Law. I will bow to the opinion of my learned Second Official friend, whether that is correct or not. In my opinion it is, and in my opinion, or to be frank with you Sir, that could be one of the meanings of us having this motion here today, is just to seek out some other additional information. Because we have debated in this House on several occasions, the reduction of a speed limit in a certain area Sir, where thirty-four seconds was involved in passing through the area that you would loose, and that motion was soundly defeated on several occasions. But to placate us, some signs were put, and the speed signs were moved. My argument at that time was this, not in this House but on the outside, that those signs meant nothing, because it did not extend the boundaries of those residential areas out to those signs, because the law was specific into the point where these signs could be. So the movement of those has only tended to wring a little bit of injustice out of what could have been justice.

Mr. President, there's usually not that many places that this work is being carried on, and some members mentioned about the press releases, I think about the roads and so forth and so on. You yourself from the chair has told us that we must be wary of this and not pay that much attention to what we hear. So if we the Legislative Members are not to pay attention to it, how is the public at large going to pay attention to it; and I see this as being no use. When we come to this House, we come to make laws that should fit all the people of this community, not as one of the Members have said the "Right Users". Who is the right user, who is the wrong user? How can we determine him? We are not making laws in this House only for the right user, or the wrong user, and the posting of signs there Mr. President is really not going to help this matter at all. Because that is like posting a sign there and ask them, please be a good boy; and as far as one other Member has said that to pass this motion would be an infringement on the Police Mr. President I know that the Police is your reserve subject, and is subject to your dictate. But I feel like this Honourable House here should also be in a position to where it should have a little bit to say about these things. And I hope that those Honourable Members Sir, are deluded because I would never like to see the day that this Honourable House would have to be dictated to by the Chief of Police. If it's going to be any dictates Mr. President, the dictates must come from this House, and not from him, If we implement this motion here today, the onus is on him to see that it is carried out, it is not on Members of this House.

So Mr. President in summing up I would like to say this, being most most of the Members seem to be in favour of this motion, and feeling that this is so important for the community, I am quite willing to become a seconder to the motion that has been put forward by the First Official Member. And I don't know whether he would

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN (CONT'D): want to just consider that a little bit farther, and put that into the twenty-five miles zones that it be reduced to fifteen; if that is going to be causing any trouble I will leave that section out. Other than that I am quite willing to second your motion, and I leave it to this House as to whether it will become final, it will be implemented. Thank you Sir.

MR. PRESIDENT: That's most helpful, thank you. Now, we have two motions, one which doesn't have a seconder. May we have that tidied up please? You said you would second.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: I should have said Mr. President, that I would withdraw mine and second his.

MR. PRESIDENT: Very Well, you have moved I think First Official Member. The question therefore is that the resolve section of the motion be amended to include the words "for about two weeks" instead of "at least two weeks", and that the last clause be amended to read "and that the Police will endeadour to the best of their ability to ensure that this limit is enforced" That I think is the motion duly seconded.
QUESTION PUT: AMENDMENT AGREED. MOTION AS AMENDED PASSED.

HOUSE SUSPENDED
HOUSE RESUMED

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members please be seated. Private Member's Motion No.2. I assume the Seconder will arrive in due course.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Mr. President, Members of this Honourable House, I feel that it is not necessary to take up a long time to go into proving the statement made in the first part of this motion. That statement is "the rapid increase in the cost of vital commodities affect every day living." That is quite obvious to every person that lives here.

I have quite a few statistics on prices which I can give the House if the ensuing debate shows that it is necessary. However Members are so familiar with the price structure in these Islands that it is not necessary again to take up the time of the House; and all Members are familiar with the evils of inflation. This motion is seeking for price control on essential products. I want you to note that it is not asking for price control to cover every consumer item. I feel that price control is not the only answer to inflation, it is only one of the few remedial measures which will help, and with that I therefore commend the motion to the House for its consideration.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: I second.

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: Mr. President, Honourable Members, I have an idea that my friends on the other side expect that there will be an opposition from this side of the House, and as the subject is mine, I think I should lead the attack.

Mr. President, first of all I will connect this motion to a section of your recent Throne Speech, page five starting from the last paragraph, and I would like to read that passage again, or a portion of that paragraph. "There are no easy answers to the problems of inflation for which the whole world is seeking solutions. What we have to consider is how best to proceed in relation to the Cayman Islands." This is a perfectly legitimate statement; the problem is not new, but as I have said it is likely to become more severe.

HON. V.G. JOHNSON (CONT'D):Government is well aware of this, and would be ready to consider proposing to this House radical measures such as price and wage control, if we became satisfied that the answers to our problems lay in such directions. But we are not so satisfied at present and we are inclined instead to favour a combination of voluntary restraint and measures to increase public awareness of the true nature of this problem. I think that statement Mr. President answers the reply to this Government Bench. Inflation is not new, it is not singular in its problems to these Islands, it is always referred to as a "monster," and a monster it surely is.

Inflation carries with it many evils, and out of those evils we have radical, spiral in prices; which I agree that there need to be some form of control over these rising but it is a matter of what measures are adapted and what course of action is best for these Islands. These Islands are considered at this stage under-developed, and therefore we cannot classify ourselves with actions, or remedies which could very well apply to developed countries.

During wartime I can see price control becoming somewhat effective. In these Islands during World War II the ssystem of price control existed under a Competant Authority, who in those days was the First Official Member here, Mr. Watler. Price control in wartime was necessary, because it must guard movement of valuable goods between one point and another, and when supplies become scarce the little there is must be controlled, and price and even in distribution. But in peace time price control has proven unsuccessful even in the big countries where the system if there was any way of making it a success could be, but still it became a failure. The United States tried it, it became a failure, Britain ditto.

In price control, Mr. President, many things must be taken into consideration, mere control in the price of commodity is not the answer. Every imaginable commodity that bears a price the consumer or the public must be controlled if it is to be effective. This is the thing that is often so impossible in any country. I am sure that members are aware because many points were made of that in various debates here in this very session that wage today is a big part of the cost especially of construction, and whatever involves wage. And if price control is not to include the control in wage then the system will be of little or no effect.

Members may perhaps ask what in Government's opinion then are the measures which the Cayman Islands could consider. Well, my reply would be that there are many, but again would this Legislature accept such proposals? Many of those proposals would of necessity effect the growth and development of this country, and I am sure that Members would take a very long time to examine these, and even to accept any such suggestions. One of them I could name right off, is a reduction in the number of work permits granted, and the number of permits to visitor residents. Another could be controlled is building and general construction. I cannot see us accepting these, although in my opinion it would be very good for these Islands in stages.

Mr. President,the resolution before us is suggesting something which has long been thought of in these Islands. I remember three or four years ago, in a Budget Address I made a brave attempt to suggest some cure to rising prices, inflation, and I mentioned then that the only solution that was looked on as somewhat reasonable was price control, and when the Legislators heard that they shot it down immediately. Perhaps it would be a wise thing for a committee to be set up to suggest means and ways outside of price control of placing some restraint on price increase. The Governor himself in his Throne Speech has suggested that this will be done by Government in any case. In fact I know the Development Committee which has just been set up is now actively considering measures which will be presented to Government in due course.

HON. V.G. JOHNSON (CONT'D): Government is quite aware of these problems, and I daresay that if price control was one of the acceptable methods of dealing with this problem, that no doubt something constructive would have been presented to this Legislature already.

Mr. President, I'm sure that everybody will want to debate this subject because it's dearly close to the hearts of each and everyone of us, a problem which we have to face day by day, and so I will not be too long in speaking on the matter. I certainly couldn't support the resolve section of this motion, I agree entirely with the first part of it. But in the resolve section a different thought will have to be given to the problem, and I hope the Members presenting this motion will not believe that opposing the motion is because we just simply want to oppose motions from the other side. It is genuinely a problem which I can assure you will take very long and trying time to overcome. I think it is for each and everyone of us to join forces together to see how the solution can best be solved. Thank you Mr. President.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: Mr. President, and Members of this House, I could never agree with this resolution. It reads - WHEREAS the rapid increase in the cost of vital commodities affect every day living." Now I do not know if when they say vital commodities they mean simply the necessities whereby we exist in the way of food, but to my way of thinking, everything more or less nowadays have become of vital necessity, because let us be realistic, people have so much money nowadays which the majority of us have never been accustomes to handle, and therefore we look at everything as a vital necessity. We do not look at anything as a luxury. Each one of us including myself wants to get everything, and we term them, that they are vital to the present day living.

Consequently, I could not support such a resolution, and if I were to support a resolution it would start from A and end at Z. I would say labour in every form, including what is called the Legal Profession, the bankers, the cook, the draftsman, the electricans, everything wiped down the line would be controlled, you could not pick out the poor unfortunate shopkeepers.

Referring to the Board that was set up in the war days, let me tell you respectfully, Sir, that then it was a hustle to get anything to eat, if you had a million dollars, both cases you couldn't buy anything. So the control board did not matter, if it had been sold for a million dollars, people would sort of put their earnings together to accumulate this million dollars to get this necessity. Now those days are past and gone, I hope forever, so we must learn to curb these extremities which we now have, and buy the vital things of life. Take for instance the ordinary thing that we existed by, and if Members will tell the truth, in the poor days of Caymanian existance most of us, when I say us I include myself, we lived on fish. You could buy then three pounds of fish for one shilling - ten ten cents. Nowadays if you want a pound of fish you pay one dollar and ten cents, and that is not exactly the best kind. So what are we going to control. We will have to control fishermen, labourers, crab catchers, lobster proggers, everybody. We can't just go and say, well Comart or Kirk Plaza, or this shop or the other shop, is selling so expensive, competition I feel will take care of that, and while I feel that everything is expensive, what are we going to do about it? Most of all that we use nowadays have to be imported to the Island. If we are to do away with the twenty percent import duty, wherewould the money come from. If we go and say to the shopkeers, you must sell milk, which ordinarily was sold for twenty cents, which is now forty two, we say we are not going to buy that, you must sell it for fifteen cents. Naturally they will not import it. We are hazarding our own way of living now, when we talk about price control, because as I say, no fair minded Legislative Assembly or the Members thereof would be inclined just to control the shopkeepers. Now I feel that they are the main targets now.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: Gasoline, and fuel the prices have had of necessity to be increased. Well if I am a motor car owner, and I hadn't got but a dollar, I must buy a dollars worth of gasoline, drive the car til the dollars worth of gasoline is exhausted and then stay home. But I can't go and ask those service station people to reduce their price just because I'm not content to walk. We must be realistic, and about Government setting up a price control, I wounder how many men and women that would entail, I know we would have to get another expert to be at the head of that position, and we always quarreling, let us be content with what we have now got. While I say people have out-grown their sense of responsibility, and they've got to the stage where we're so flourishing, thank God, that we consider luxuries to be of vital essentials to our livelihood.

Bread is an essential, but to go and buy the cakes and other things that you can buy at the bakeries, they're not absolutely essential to our welfare, but most of us, those who can use sugar and sweet things, we want the bread, we want the sweet thing, we want the candy, we want the ice cream, and we nowadays consider that they are of vital importance to our welfare. I feel that if in any way the price of commodities was so excessive that nobody could buy, I might agree to this. If you'll just look at the supermarkets, and the stores on a Friday and Saturday, I am very sure that the least ordinary little boy on the street can go to these stores bring two bags of groceries in their hands; and in those far off days, to which I refer that couldn't happen. Perhaps at Easter, some holiday or birthday, and at Christmas we would afford those luxuries, or try to afford them. But nowadays it's of vital importance. And I feel Mr. President, we better leave well alone, and I for one will oppose this to the hilt. Because if we start at the merchants, we must start from the lawyers right down, the ordinary workers, the dock workers and we'd better not touch on what they term meagre pay. The yard boy, I would say ten years ago you could employ the best bush man for five dollars a day, two pounds ten. Now if you're smart you can't get one for twenty dollars a day. And if we're going to price control, we have to go to it whole hog or nothing. Thank you Sir.

MR. CLAUDE HILL: Mr. President, Honourable Members, I rise to make my small contribution to this motion.

The mover of this motion, as he has stated seeks a control on vital commodities which is used in every day life. We here are quite aware of the fact that quite a few commodities are involved in everyday life, quite true, but the cost of living has gone up, and will continue to go up. But as you Mr. President in your Throne Speech just a matter of days ago stated and quoting your words Sir, "Government is already asking for information about how consumer associations work, so that we can see whether any form of such body would help us here," which reading your statement means here in the Cayman Islands.

The problem is not a new one, we are confronted from day to day with the high cost of living, and I'm not in a position of saying what has brought it on, whether it is from the oil crisis, but we have had high cost of living before the oil crisis existed. And I think that the oil crisis has brought on much more in regards to the increase of commodities.

The Cayman Islands along with the rest of the world is confronted with these problems, it's not just our problem alone. The man who imports his goods here, he is confronted with a price, and for us to set up a committee in this House to go into his expenditures abroad to bring the commodities into this country would call for a full-fledge office established as we had during World War 11. Bear in mind we had not as many supermarkets, or had no supermarkets then and transportation from abroad was much slower, and I don't see how we could cope with the goods coming in without establishing

MR. CLAUDE HILL (CONT'D): a full time office. I want it to be borne in mind at all times that I'm much in sympathy with the motion, and it is giving us food for thought, and we should not just sit and decide that the motion is not a good motion. It is a good motion, but the problems that I see from this motion is how would we get about it.

Setting up a committee from this House is not the answer, I don't think. I think Members here are much occupied in other fields of work, and if a committee was set up to seek means and ways of controlling prices in this Island, they would find themselves involved in a lot of work. For instance checking on manifest or invoices of goods coming in, that would be a full time office, and with that Mr. President, as I say I'm much in sympathy of the motion, and I feel that we should not just look at it in a simple form, and with that I thank you Sir.

CAPT. A.A. REID: Mr. President, I support this motion, it's one of my pet subjects. If everybody in this world were good law abiding citizens, they had consideration for other people, they may win such a certificate as I have won from the Dictionary of Biographies of the Caribbean. But they're not, we wouldn't even need a policeman if people were as law abiding as I am, and as many more members in this House, but they're not, and let us face facts.

Now, I know that some of these merchants are taking advantage of a situation because there is no control. But the richest country in the world has just had price control, America has had price control, and they control labour too. But you cannot control one without the other, and you must control the rich man first, you can't control the poor one. Where will it end if we don't do something. I'm not saying that we should set up an office with half a dozen officials to watch this, but the housewives are good watchdogs, and they can report when things get out of order. And we should say to these merchants, you can have a mark up of so much. As I said I'm not a shopkeeper, and never have been a shopkeeper, and I don't know what the mark up should be if it's thirty, thirty-five or forty percent. But whatever it should be, there is sufficient expertise in that field here for us to know. Now I know that in Cayman Brac you can buy twenty-five percent cheaper than you can here anything. And I know in a particular store here, I have bought tobacco, (I am a tobacco smoker, pipe smoker, I mix my own brand), and I bought two or three packs of tobacco, of one brand that I wanted for thirty two cents at a certain store. I go over to another, find it at forty three. Now either the man who sold me a pack of tobacco a different brand of tobacco, but the same the same price in America, I know that; he's either a damn fool, or the man is a damn thief, the other one. It couldn't be anything else, if you can sell and make a profit at thirty two cents, and somebody is selling for forty three, he is a rogue, and that is what I say.

Now we could say to the merchants, look the cost of living is going up in this country and we've got to do something about it, we can't just let it spiral, we'll be put out of the market completely. Don't think that people have to come here to build homes to live and retire, if we are going to be up in the sky when they're down on the ground in their own country. No matter how much they like the sand, the sea and the sunshine, they're not coming here to make us rich, and to be poverished themselves.

Now I built a home in 1954 in Jamaica, it cost me $6 a foot, that was well built, mahogany finish and everything else. Today that same house well built will cost you $16. I have just built a house at Snug Harbour that cost me $20 a foot, that's where we have gone, that's the rate of our inflation, and if we don't curb this inflation we will sink, we are going under. Dont' believe

CAPT. A.A. REID (CONT'D): for one minute that it can continue the way it is Sir, it cannot. We've got people here that ride on bicycles, I walked to my school one mile and a half a way. You've got people here half a mile away riding a blinking big American car, getting twenty-five dollars a day. It's time now that that should end, or stop where it is, and it's up to us to stop it. They have no right to anymore money than they're getting, twenty-five dollars a day. But if you're going to let the sypermarkets charge $6 for a tin of coffee, it'll soon be that rate; then we're going to have to raise the price of wages, and I say wages now is where it ought to end. And if we don't stop the supermarkets it will never end, they've all kinds of excuses. You can buy a tin of coffee in one store, and go to the other and ask the price of it, it's thirty cents higher. So. I know it's a case of what you think they can stand, and when the other store is out, up goes the price, it's ridiculous.

I support the motion, because I know if we don't support this motion, if we don't do something to curb it this country is going to be ruined, our inflation will be higher. What right have we got to have a higher rate of inflation than the United States. I had the people whom I work for or with, (I don't work for anybody, I work with them), the lumber company who was employing me, I handled their lumber. He was out here with a Lumber Merchant and two of his good friends who were builders or construction men, and a hardware store. They came to my houe, and he admired it and said it was well built. When I told him the price he said, "well that's about six thousand more than it will cost in the United States." Now when you think of it United States is the highest standard of living in the world, has always been and will ever be, because of their fortunate position. But we can't eat them. He didn't even understand at the time, our dollar was twenty percent more than his, that's where he was wrong too. Now that means that that house would cost eighty thousand; a house costing fifty four thousand dollars in America would cost about eighty four here. So, it is out of all proportion, but as I've said you cannot attack the poor man first. You cannot say to him look your wages are high enough, when every day the stores put on fifteen percent. You've got to control them, and I'm not saying that you must work it out item for item, but you must say to the stores, and let it come out in a gazette. We are expecting the storekeepers to keep their cost down for the benefit of this country, and that your mark up must not be more than thirty-five percent. Now if we don't do that we're not fulfilling our job here because not one of them has any conscience, everyone of them is trying to get rich, and fast. And I have no sympathy for them, because as I've said, if they're not making money, it's just simply a lack of expertise, a lack of good business

Before you came, before Mr. Long came here I tried to start a supermarket, and I'm not professing to be capable of running a supermarket. I had one of the smartest chinamen in Jamaica who was going to join me in it, and Eldon Kirkconnell and others.....

MR. PRESIDENT: Let's watch our use of names in the House please.

CAPT. A.A. REID: [illegible] right Sir, I don't mind, okay, I won't name, but they know who did, and everybody knows who did. They stopped me on the project, but I had every housewife in the country behind me. The only reason why I didn't go whole hog and fight the issue was that I'm not a supermarket man, I'm a shipper, and if I was going to continue in business it would be another ship, it wouldn't be a supermarket. But I felt that the country needed expertise, needed somebody to show these dumb bells how to run a supermarket, and make money. But they were against the

CAPT. A.A. REID (CONT'D): the chinaman, you know why, because they thought he was smarter than they were, that's all, and they stopped it, and the Administrator although he was in favour of it didn't have the nerve to stand up against it.

Now every housewife in this country was behind me with it, that I'm sure of, and I can tell you Sir, it's inefficiency. I stood up in a store last week, my wife was shopping, and I hate shopping. I stood up by the corner just watching the scene, and I looked around, I saw in a supermarket three tins that had been opened, somebody had gone there and helped himself, three people maybe, or maybe one greedy fellow, to three tins of coca cola. He drank the contents, and he left the tin on the shelf. Nobody is smart enoguh to see him in the act; he didn't pay for that, that's for sure. And whilst I was standing there, I saw a man walk out of that store with impunity, with one of the largest paper bags thay you can find, he didn't have less than twenty pounds of stuff in it. I don't know that what he had, but he had one of these bag about twelve inches in diameter, and I would say two feet tall. And he put it under his arm; I could describe him but I won't, you would say I am a racist. He walked out with impunity behind the girl, but I have no reason to doubt she was in cahoots with him, because I know that I can see behind, I can see quite a little distance behind me; but she didn't see.

And then I was in another supermarket about three or four weeks ago, and I told the owner about it; and I saw a woman come up with two packages, and she had one she put it down before she got into the shop, she kicked it ahead, kept kicking it ahead with her left foot, she must have been left handed. And she checked the other one, and when she was done she made a little flurry and picked up her pocket book, and she grabbed up the two packages and walked out. Now that's how efficient they are. That couldn't happen to a Chinaman. That's why they are not making money, that's why they got to say "oh this cost fifty cents, one dollar fifty," or it cost sixty cents two dollars. That's the price that's how they mark up. They have no conception of percentages, it's just anything that comes in their minds.

I agree with the - and I hope some of those shopkeepers are up there. All of my life I have spoken the way I feel, and you either like me the way I am, or you don't like me. I wonder sometimes how Cayman is charging anything, because everybody seems to be afraid of how Captain So and So feels, how Mr. So and So feels, or what will happen if you do something. But I'm not worried about that. I came here for one purpose, to work for the benefit of this country, as I see it, the way I see it. And anything that I think can help this country as a whole, but not any individual, and thank God I don't want anything from any individual. I thank you Sir.

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: Mr. President, Members, my contribution will be to oppose this motion. Be that as it may, if one would ask the supermarkets what is their reason for some of the high cost, the obvious answer would be the shippers.

CAPT. A.A. REID: Yes some of them are tops.

MR. PRESIDENT: Let's do without the cross talk act, Can we?

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: Mr. President, Members .....

CAPT. A.A. REID: I've seen them throw ash trays.....

MR. PRESIDENT: I said let's do without the cross talk act, if you please. This is a House of Assembly not a stage.

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: Mr. President, and Members price control as far as I am concerned has never been successful in any country. The only countries that you have a measure of success are in countries where that the commodity is controlled not only in the price of it but in the distribution, and I'm sure people here would not like to be under those circumstances.

I know in the United States of America, I know in Canada, and I know in the developed countries of Europe there have been sealings placed on prices, there have been sealings placed on wages. But what has been the result, it has never been successful in answering the question. What happens, you get a scarcity of commodity and sooner or later one finds that the price has to be moved, the sealing has to be moved and things skyrocket, this is the result. You think you have succeeded until you come and find out that you have made no success at all.

Now let us examine where our produce comes from. Let us consider the standard of living, and the standard of living that the Cayman Islanders want to have, and I'm glad to have. Today we are using, we are eating, and we are importing commodities from a country that has the highest standard of living in the world, has the highest labour rate in the world. The manufactured items that we use here in Grand Cayman, the prime source of origin is the United States of America, and the people in the United States of America boast to be the highest paid people in the world. Could we then expect that our cost of living in this Island would not be high? And look at it, on top of this high manufactured cost there is an element of transportation, not only cross country transportation in some cases, we have the ocean transportation. On top of that we have an added ad valorem duty, we have tonnage tax, we have warehouse fees, and another truckage again in this country. Add all of these costs to the manufactured cost; surely the cost of American produced articles and commodities in Cayman obviously will be higher than in the United States, it's every reason for it. But we have elected, we have been accustomed to the American way of life, American prepared food. If you put a second choice in the store, I would venture to bet, even though it might be cheaper you'll find that it will stay on that shelf until the commodity that they're accustomed to, and the one that they want is finished. Recently attempts have been made to import certain commodities from the Central American Republic, and you can go in the stores and you can see the results of what happened.

Now if I believe that it were possible for us to control the prices and control the wages then I might agree. But I do not see the possibility of this ever being done in this country, without as I've said before we form a different type of government. A Dictatorship Government, or a Communinist Dictatorship Government. I'm sure Mr. President, and Members we would not like to have either of the two. We take our neighbouring countries in the Caribbean, go to any island in the Caribbean and check the price of imported commodities from the United States and see what you will find. You will find that they are just as high as they are in Cayman, and some of them higher. And in a lot of those countries they have a second choice, because that particular country produces certain things. Here we don't produce, we don't manufacture, and I am saying that it would be impossible to have an effective or even I would say a semi effective price control. I can just give you for instance the amount of increases in cost that has just recently happened. Someone mentioned that I was a merchant, I do have a small place, this is neither here or there, but at times I do import, and I would just like to give Members an idea of how the inflation changes are in the United States.

In December 1973 I imported red beans, which is an item that we have in this Island as duty free. The cost of a sack of red beans was US$38. From the same source I sent an order

HON. W.W. CONOLLY (CONT'D): in January, from the same source and the price per sack of that red bean in January was $53.50. In a months time the price has risen from $38 a sack to $53.50. With the increase of prices, and this is not the only item, you can go to the States and you can pick up any price list and the price is going up all the time. If we had to institute price control, we would have to have a body, much larger than the body here, in an office even if an attempt was made to do it. Then you would find bootlegging, and you would find a lot of items disappearing, it happened. I was recently in Jamaica, and an item that was controlled, an item of condensed milk, and you couldn't go to the shelf and buy it, it wasn't there anymore. But if you knew that Chinaman, if you knew him well enough to pay his price what he wanted for it was produced to you, it was put in a bag and put out for you. So price control appears to be doing a job when virtually it tends to create a lot of problems.

I am not saying that merchants are not making high profits, I can't say. But surely the thing is not all that wrong, because only a day or so ago I heard in this House, that imported items were competing with locally produced items. Surely if the imported items can compete with locallly produced items in this Island then I would say things are not all that bad profit - wise. What brings the high cost of living today, and what has increased the price in these Islands is labour. No one outside would want labour to be controlled, at least the Member who moved this resolution didn't suggest that we should control labour, of course when he said vital commodity he could have included that, because I think labour is very important. But we will never have, and we can never expect to have control on prices, if labour is let alone to skyrocket. And surely in a developing country, and in a country that is primarily developed by tourism, for the standard of living that we expect surely the cost is going to be high. We have had examples of this in the Caribbean, we have had Bermuda, we have had the Bahamas, all those places. Efforts I'm sure ideas were not new about price control; and how I feel about it is this, that if all of the pople in the world, in the civilised world, in the developed world, in the undeveloped world, have failed to make price control successful, then I cannot see how we here in this Island, even though I know at times we are credited for being pretty smart, I fail to see how we can succeed. Therefore I am opposing the resolution.

MR. JOHN JEFFERSON: Mr. President, and Members, I am speaking to Private Member's Motion, on the increase and cost of vital commodities affecting every day living. This I'm sure is only repetition to go through all that has been said in relation to the cost, I don't believe that anybody in this Chamber would disagree that there is an increasing cost of living. I'm sure that everyone of us here suffer because of this. But as has been pointed out by many others, this is a problem that the world today is trying to solve, and until now nobody has seemed to have any affective control at all over inflation. Usually you live in a country where they don't have anything at all, or else you live in a country where you can get anythig you want, and the cost is tremendously high.

Mr. President, as we think about this motion, I am sure that there is no question in my mind that I would oppose the motion, because I cannot see how it can effectively work in this country of ours. Our capable and able Financial Secretary already has outlined certains things that I'm sure many of us are going to stand here and agree to today.

It is true as we look around we have to take note that every day it seems that items are climbing. I have seen the same item on a shelf in a store and two different prices. We can say a lot of things, we can draw a lot of conclusions,

MR. JOHN JEFFERSON (CONT'D): we can say the people are not efficient in renting their place, I'm not going to say that. I'm going to say this, that when you think of what it cost, when you think of what the freight charges are plus Govs=ments ;revenue of twenty; percent. When it is tacked together, and the merchants margin of profit it adds to quite a piece. The only thing that bothers me at times is the margin of profit, and I believe sometimes that the margin of profit is far too much, because like has been pointed out by other Members, how could one item cost eighty eight cents in one store, and a dollar and forty two cents in another store. But th* thing that I have realised, it is apparently supply and demand. People are going to buy it regardless of what it costs, and as we look around today we see that we have all brought ourselves into a standard of living, and we are willing to pay, or we will pay whatever the demand is for such an item.

When we stop to think about cost everybody is in the same boat, if I am a fisherman I want a dollar, or a dollar and ten cents a pound for my fish. If I am a farmer, I want as much for my beef as beef brought in from the United STates. If I am a labourer, I want as much for my eight hours work, if I will give my full time, as anybody anywhere. And some people even get to the stage where they think that they ought to get X amount of dollars whether they're qualified or not qualified. So when we deal with this problem here we could stay here from now til next year, and talk on this subject and we would probably just begin to scratch the surface.. I wish there was something that we could do, I wish that there was an answer, so we see the result that our strong neighbouring country have had last year with trying to hold down prices; and there were times last year when I know in the hotel that I work, there was one particular week that we couldn't get any meat commodity, there was none to be bought. What happened, after it was all over with then price rocketted, then of course it sort of levelled off. But as I see it, Mr. President, there is only one thing that I have accepted, and that is that we will have where prices continue to rise, wages also will have to keep the balance. I think it doesn't make any difference whether you are making a thousand dollars a month, or whether you're making two thousand dollars a month as long as the money that you are earning is able to keep you and your family. And that is exactly how I see it.

I've been told in the Bahamas and other places they're probably in a better position that we are because I'm sure something is grown there, that wages just continue to rise and so does prices. And all we can hope is to see to it that we do not let prices get so far out of range that people can't live. I was in the Bahamas in 1970, my colleague here from North Side, and myself, we went down Bay Street, near the waterfront, and here was one conch being sold for thirty five cents gold, my eyes almost popped out. But that is how things had to rise for people to be able to live. Prices rise, cost, wages, they all seem to equal, and that's the only hope we have. Hope that it doesn't price us out of our tourist market, this is what we are very concerned about. But as far as setting up a board to control prices, impossible, we are not in a position to do this. It would cost this Government more to do that than it would be worth. I could not agree, I could not support the motion. I'm in sympathy, I wish that I knew how, I wish that there was a solution brought here today that would take care of the ills, I see none. But I do believe that Government must make people aware of the fact that we are watching these things, and along with the statement made by you in your Throne Speech, Mr. President, we will have to sit back and ask that the people in responsible positions where you're placed will do their endeavour in any avenue they possibly can to try to curb, curtail in any way to discourage the rise of prices. And to you today I say, thank you very much.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: Mr. President, and Members I'll speak on this motion for a few minutes. But if I just may be privileged to retard my opening remarks in connection with this motion which we all realise that everything got two sides to it, and it has been pretty well expressed to that extent. But there have been high increases or higher rates on certain commodities in this Island for many a years.

About twenty years ago when I wanted one spring leaf for my truck, I got it here by a firm that imports, I didn't ask the price. When I went to pay for it they told me it was eight pounds ten for one leaf. I said all right thank you, I will take care of it a little later if you allow me. I wrote off to Florida to two companies, and asked for a quotation on the type spring, I got it, I took it to the Customs and had it worked out, the freight and insurance and duties and everything, and that one quotation worked out at two pounds, the other one worked out at two pounds and a sixpence. Yet I was charged eight pounds ten for the one leaf.

For some years now Government has been trying to help the people in this Island with what I think the substance of this motion is asking for. For some time off and on Government has kept releasing the duties on certain commodities so that it may help the daily consumer. But I failed at any effort to see when Government done this what the public have got from it, I can't think of anything, any one time that when the duties was exempted that it went down to a five percent, or a three percent, or a one percent, or anything. So then the importer the merchants then have just used that to help build their fat. One of the last things that Government exempted duties on was flour. I haven't seen any change in prices going down, from that day it just kept on going up.

From the upheaval as it were, or the way the public seem to have taken it a few weeks ago with our Currency with the United States dollar, it was told to us that this ought to help reduce the cost of living; well I don't know how many months it will take to see the effects of it. I'm just going to mention a few of these things as - when the public see some things they must be alarmed, and they must express themselves that something ought to be done. Not so many months ago a shipment of flour arrived in this Island, within seven hundred to a thousand sacks, the importer was informed by the shipper, your shipment will be increased to probably about five dollars. Five dollars was placed on the shipment that was in the store three days previous to that. I think when the mover of this motion brought this motion to the House, it was these sort of things that they would like for Government to look in, and when they said the vital commodities, I think it meant flour, cornmeal, beans, shortening sugar and coffee. I agree to attempt to set up a price control over all, but as I said everything got two sides, one you dabble with one side; I've told countless of people on the outside that when you talk about Government looking into prices, controlling prices, just think about the other side first if you want, because labour must come into the field as well. But as I've said, I think the mover of the motion must have had in his mind these every day something that we've got to have to help live.

Propane made a mountain leap here a few weeks aback, from ten dollars, ten fifty or something or other or eleven dollars as the case may have been to eighteen dollars. I am wondering if Government really went into that, and satisfied itself that this increase was justified. If so then I think Government should have published a notice to the effect, telling the people we have investigated it to the full extent, and this price is justified. Now there are rumours that

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS (CONT'D): the same propane today is being shipped to Honduras for US$12 per tank. I don't know if it's true, it's rumoured, and we pay CI$18. These are the things that Government need to really look into, to inform the people, inform the public they measures of some kind, that these things are being looked into from time to time, and this is what we find, this is what we're satisfied with. Because there is profit making somewhere, because if one is selling for one price and another is selling for a fifty percent above another price or a hundred percent, well then if one is gaining, or if one is loosing, the other one is gaining, or if the small one is gaining then where does the big one come off at. So it would be good for Government to give as I said yesterday in my reply to the Throne Speech, that it would be good for Government to peek into a few of these things some time, and try to do something to satisfy, or help satisfy the people. Because as I say a lot of these things Government has taken the duties off. Government is loosing thousand of dollars a year from the exemption of duties for the people on these daily commodities to get the benefit of it, and they don't. Because as I've said it's not just today, its been going on from time to time, and if one was to take the Custom Law and look it down, we'll find that nearly half of the imports in the Island are duty free. So much of it I mean the lower class of people don't have any use for, they don't need it, they can't afford it and all the rest to it. But the revenue is being deprived of this money, but just let me conclude by saying that I feel that the full substance of this motion was to help if in any way releave in whatever measure might be worked out, the daily routine of going to the store for bread and milk and coffee and sugar and rice and beans, not the other five thousand commodities being imported in the Island. I think you say if we're going to control one, it's not acting a full control, but if we're going to deal with one we got to deal with all. It's not to that extent, if I sort of understand it, and I can only say then that in the light of this, in my way of looking at it I give the motion the support to that extent. But to go into a price control, yes it will set up a department, and then if the other half of the deal, labour, because it could not be expected, I wouldn't stand in here and say one word for my people just for one side, we must control price and let wages alone. I'll have the same argument if it came to that when we're going to deal with one, we're going to deal with both. But as I say in the light of the high cost, and since Government has exempted duties on so many things, and on these commodities from time to time if Government might be able to look into and give some consideration that it might help in some way some time. Thank you Sir.

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members, this is an important debate and we don't to appear to rush its conclusion. I think we'll break for refreshments now, and come back

HOUSE SUSPENDED
HOUSE RESUMED

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, Fellow Members, it is true that what we are debating today is of paramount importance to the entire country. If it does nothing else, I think it will pin point some of the problems that we face. Without a doubt this country has about as high inflation rate as any place in the world, and too much inflation is not good in the country.

In regards to the motion which has been put forth to the House, my colleague and myself I think would admit that we're probably more afraid of control than anyone else in this House, that's why we have fought so many of the billsthat

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN (CONT'D): have been presented to it. But we feel that something has to be brought to the attention of the public in regards to this, and it must be brought to the attention of the Legislative Assembly, and the only way to bring it is a good debate such as we're having here this evening. For one thing we have prove this evening that although our colleagues on the other side of the House sometimes say we have started a party system this side they will see that this evening it broke down. And our motion is dealing with items of paramount importance.

Mr. President,lets take them and consider them one by one, I would say, things such as the duty free items. In the past Government has seen fit to lift the duty on many different items, but unfortunately it seems like next week the price then went up about twenty-five percent again. Now something must be wrong some place for this this thing to happen, because I think when the duty was taken off of bread, the next week I think it jumped by about twenty or twenty-five percent. And we could go on into many other items that have been made duty free. We can go into the fuel situation over which I will say that we have not that much control, because we're at the mercy of the outside world.

We will touch on the Utility, the Light Company. One of the colleagues on this side of the House has already touched on the propane situation, and then we could go on ito Cable and Wireless, and we could go on into many many other things. But I'm only going to confine my speech to really, I would say,the fuel situation, the Utility Company, and the Cable and Wireless, because these are three things which have recently increased the cost of living to people who have to use these three things, by better than fifty percent. No one knows better, I would say than my colleague and myself that to implement a wide ranging price control, would be very difficult in this territory, because the first thing is, labour would also have to be controlled. We know all of those things, we know the ramification of it, Mr. President. But I would like to bring to this House just a few items.

Gasoline was brought into this territory, costing the oil companies lets say a year and a half ago roughly between eleven and twelve cents Cayman Island Currency per gallon . It was then sold to the distributor for twenty - nine cents who sold it out to the small filling stations at thirty one cents, and they in turn retailed it at thirty. Mr. President, anyone can see the big gap that occurred between it being landed in George Town, and stored, and the price that it eventually reached the public. And one of our arguments on it is this, that if this percentage is still being allowed to the oil companies under the present system, it is too high, and something must be done about it. Bearing in mind, as I previously said that we are at their mercy.

One other thing I'd like to touch on is the hotel rates, because today Cayman Islands probably have the highest hotel rate per day of any place in the world. Yet they have no income tax to pay, they enjoy a terrific occupancy and they pay very little in wages, so the return must be astronomical, and if consideration is not paid to this, and this is not brought forcefully to them, eventually they're going to price themselves out of the most important thing that we have, which is tourism. Now, Mr. President,these are the things that have prompted us to consider bringing a motion such as this to this House.

Another thing I'd like to touch on is the freight rates. You can import a commodity from Turkey or Italy, or any place in the Mediterranean, for instance which is quite a distance from here, to Miami for approximately thirty percent less in freight than you can from Miami to here. Yet the

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN (CONT'D): the ships who bring it from Miami to here, most of them are registered under our flag, they pay no taxes, and God help the seaman on them, because I don't know how the live, for the amount of wages they are paid. Yet we have this terrific freight rate. And this also applies to the airlines, when we're paying about ten cents per pound, and a much higher rate it is figured on the cubic feet to bring anything into the Island. So these things are all contributing, I will admit to the high inflation and the high cost of living we have. But I think in touching on these few things it will give us, lets say food for thought.

Another item I'd like to bring to the attention of this House, is that today if any of us in this Hall had US$2000 cash in our pockets, went to the bank to convert it into Cayman Island Currency, we would get CI$1600. By the same token, if we wished to buy that U.S. Currency two thousand dollars we're going to have to pay $1698.82 for it. Now that is $98.82, and believe me I know what I'm talking about because I did so today. That is $98.82 conversion rate that is made on the transfer of just US$2000. Now where we must lay this blame Mr. President and Honourable Members, I cannot tell you, but I know that it is a problem, and it's going to be created bigger and bigger like a snowball, as we go along if we don't pay attention to it.

Before me Sir, I have something that I'm sure a lot of the Members of this House is familiar with, and this is why in speaking against the Throne Speech we spoke against the Utility rates. Mr. President, before me (and anyone in the House can see if they'd like to, and I did not steal this, it was given to me because I am a small stockholder of Caribbean Utilities.), but in 1973 Caribbean Utilities had an operating revenue of nine hundred and thirty seven thousand five hundred and twenty Cayman Island dollars. Against this Mr. President, was the net earnings of three hundred and fifty five thousand nine hundred and thirty two dollars, or a net return of thirty eight percent on turnover. Which believe me is a ridiculous item when we stop and think that in many countries when people operate businesses, if they can operate them on a six percent net on turnover, they're considered very fortunate.

In 1973 the shares or earnings were paid on the common shares of Caribbean Utilities of one dollar and fifty one cents for a share purchased five years ago at that time for about one dollar and twenty cents. I will explain that as I go along a bit farther, because you did have a stock split, before anyone arises to interrupt me. Against this, Mr. President, the company further has in accumulated depreciation two hundred and eighty nine thousand one hundred and eighty dollars. It has against the unamortized licence cost thirty four thousand eight hundred and fourteen dollars, or a total depreciatation of three hundred and twenty three thousand nine hundred and ninety four dollars has already been written off and allowed for in about five years of operation. In addition to this, the company has retained earnings of six hundred and seventy four thousand three hundred and fifty-four dollars, for a total of nine hundred and ninety eight thousand three hundred and forty eight dollars.

In 1972 there was a stock-split, which meant that the shares that were originally bought at two dollars Cayman per share, was split to where their actual cost at that time would have meantone dollar./ Of course with all of this other money accumulated here, the stock is worth much more. And in addition to the stock-split, there was still a cash dividend of .00775% Now Mr. President, with all of these figures before us yet in '74 the company is given an increase which I'm not fortunate enough to know the amount, but I understand it was fifty one percent. Now, I agree fuel costshave risen, I agree labour costs have risen. But Mr. President, for such a large increase to be granted on a balance sheet which is certified by the auditors, and 1973 as being correct

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN (CONT'D): and showing that at that time the stock of the company which was originally bought for US$2.40, is then worth US$24.00 against the stock split, and against the uncarned incomes, and against the cash dividend that was paid, Mr. President I have to say I cannot see where the fuel cost increase has generated such a terrific increase in electricity rates. Now the company must have been allowed to make a tremendous amount of profit in its early years to have even come out to break even then if the fuel cost was so high in the last year. So,Mr. President,these are the different things that we feel somebody should pay attention to, and this type of runaway inflation, as I would call it should not be allowed to continue. Thank you Sir.

HON. A.B. BUSH: Mr. President and Members of this Assembly, I just want to make it known from the very offset that I am against this motion. So Members need not expect that I'm going to say anything in favour of it.

I would have thought that the movers of this motion after seeing and reading the Throne Speech would have withdrawn it, rather than go through with it. And in the very first instance in introducing it to the Legislature that they should have set out in more detail just what they were talking about. What they meant by the "vital commodities, and the essential products." Because myself like the Member from North Side, I took it to mean rice, beans, sugar, cornmeal, things of that sort, which we know are duty free, flour included, shortening of some kind. But it leaves one more or less to think of it in general terms of price control. Now this seems to relay to the public the idea that Government hasn't been looking into this thing. Which I think that the Throne Speech clearly sets out that Government has it under consideration, and I want to assure Members that apart from what you read in the Throne Speech had you heard some of the talk that went on in Government circles about this you would know that Government is very concerned about the inflation which we are experiencing here in the Island. And we've thought of many things but we've yet to come up with something which we think will cure it. Because as was said in the Throne Speech, I think that some of this is imported, most of it in fact, and as you know we have nothing of our own, we produce nothing, we rely on imports, what else really can we expect.

A lot of criticism really has been levelled at the poor old merchant, well we know on subjects like this he really gets the bad end of, but I feel he deserves some credit, I don't think he should be given all the blame for it. Because he has his trials and tribulations to bear with, and it must be remembered that they are human beings, and they also want some of the good things in life which some of us outside of the business are getting, and it's no reason in the world why he shouldn't be getting it, but let us look at some of the hardships that he goes through. He has first of all to accumulate the money to take care of the rising prices, one trip of the boat is so much, the next trip is another. He has to find the extra money each trip to buy the commodity which he imports. He has to stand the losses on the ship, which I can assure you the pilfering that goes on on these ships is not something funny. I don't classify myself as a merchant, but I do import once in a while some little thing. And I have had experiences with this to where I had to discontinue certain commodities. Not because altogether of the loss on the ship, but because of the rise in the prices, which were almost prohibited to purchase, and because I don't rely on things like this for a living, more or less as a side line, I discontinued it, and it was far better for me to go to the stores and buy it singly, rather than buy it wholesale. So these

HON. A.B. BUSH (CONT'D): are some of the things which the merchants go through, he has a lot to do, and he goes through a lot, believe me. And it must be considered that he is really rendering an invaluable service to the country. Think of when you want an item you can walk into a store and buy it, just think if the merchant wasn't there what would happen to you with your money. You'd have to go and find ways and means of importing it yourself, but you rely on him to put it in his store, and you have the privilege of going there and buying it at will.

As we say everybody wants the most for everything. We know that prices are high, but we mustn't lose sight of the fact, there's money here to meet it, it's not altogether that bad as far as I'm concerned, because there are people who have money that can purchase and probably this is what causes inflation also. To control prices of certain commodities and not think of controlling the wages, the source of which these are going to be bought with, why I am sure that it's going to be useless, and it wouldn't be fair besides.

Just to give the House an example we will look at the price of - look at the fisherman, days gone by he was considered one of the poorest men in our Island. Today he's not that anymore, he doesn't use his canoe with a paddle, he uses it with a motor. Today he doesn't get a three pence a pound for his fish, he gets a dollar and twenty cents, I understand. I want to know where the Members know where fish is selling for a dollar and ten cents a pound, I'll take advantage of it, and buy a couple pounds, rather than paying dollar twenty, where I know it is sold. So even him has profitted as we say by the inflation. The price of beef here in the Island, locally grown beef almost the same as imported. So really is the merchant making the big profit that we are saying.

The variation of prices in the stores, I think this can be found all over the world. I know you can go in a supermarket in Miami, which I go to sometime, and you can go to a drug store and buy the same item and it will cost you one third more in the drug store as it will in the supermarket. So this is how it works, it is business as we say. If everybody is sold at the very same price it would be no business, no competition it wouldn't be interesting I must say. But I realise that things are high and as has been said Government is trying to look at it, see what can be done, as yet we haven't found the solution for it, and maybe we never will. Maybe all we'll have to do is to rely on the conscience of the merchants. I don't believe in profiteering, but I do believe that a man is entitled to a fair return on his money. For instance it has been quoted on utilities, yes I can tell the Member that we realise this now, over the past it has been something terrific, the profit that has been made. We know this, but I also can assure the Members that Government will look into this, they have looked into it, and they will continue to look into it from now on. As I said yesterday, it was brought to Government's attention because of the energy crisis, and I think Members you can rest assured that Government is well equipped to make sure that you get the proper prices from this type of thing. So I don't think you need fear about this in the future.

Control prices, to my mind, will only tend to decrease the amount of imports that would come into this Island, and I think we can consider ourselves fortunate in more than one way in this, because almost anything you want you can get, to control it I believe you're going to do without a lot. I think there will be a lot of shortages, because if a man is not permitted to make a fair return on any commodity, he is going to leave it alone, import enough for himself and he's going to say, to the devil with the public , he's not

HON. A.B. BUSH (CONT'D): going to have anything to do with it, he will look out for himself, and leave the balance. I think this has happened else where.We have heard instancesfrom a Member, my colleague here, about the Chinaman and his milk, there is no doubt about it, it will happen here. So I think we better leave well alone. Rest assured,Members,that Government is aware of this, is looking into it, if there is anything that can be done trust your Government to do it. We quite appreciate your concern about it, but leave the final results to your Government to work out. Thank you Mr. President.

HON. TREVOR FOSTER: Mr. President, Honourable Members, today seems to have taken the name of "Merchants Day," and although I've not taken exception to any of the thoughts that were so ably expounded on the - maybe and could be detrimental to their character. And although I am one, I'm really not too worried about it, but I thought it would be unfair if I did not correct a few items that I noted during the course of the debate.

One,a Member mentioned walking into one store and finding an item at one rate and into another and finding it at a much higher rate. I will admit for the public this brings a wonder. But if they would inquire to find out what takes place it's quite understandable. Our various merchants here in the in Cayman Islandshave various agencies. For instance one may be agent for Armour, and he will bring in Armour products from the factory at the factory rate. While others may import the same product from a wholesaler, say in Miami or Tampa at a higher rate, therefore when that product is put on the shelves in our stores here, naturally you will find a difference of price in-as-much as the agents got it at a lower rate. On the other hand one merchant might have been lucky and hit a closing sale at some of the wholesale places, and naturally that would reflect on his price on the shelf, it happens a lot of times with coffee. Therefore it is quite easily, and it happens readily that you'll go to one store and find coffee probably thirty or forty cents below the other one. But there are justified reasons for it why this happens. And I can assure you it is not all the time that the merchant is pocketing that extra thirty or forty cents. And naturally it would continue to be without even thought, if they were making that much money it would be a lot more wealthier shopkeepers than history has proven in the Cayman Islands. If you all recall you have some wealthy people here, but their main business is not shopkeeping.

I would like to also correct a statement that a Member made re the propane prices that have recently went up. Our Fuel Emergency Committee which Mr. Conolly is Chairman of, did investigate this. It was also published in the paper for information. I'm sorry that the Member was not up to date, but I thought it very wise to bring it to the House for the benefit of the public. I have listed here where when gas was being sold at $10 per tank, his supplier was billing them at 19.5 cents per gallon . It went to $11.50 and his price was then 21.23 cents per gallon . And now since the price is $18, his price is 39.75 cents per gallon . So one can readily see that the fuel crisis has affected us, and it's nothing that we can do about it. I would like to remind you, the Administration in Washington with all their great advisers haven't found an answer to it. Britain and many other countries are in the same shoe. We in our own way will try to do what we can, but I fail to see if they can't find a solution, it's pretty hard for us to find one.

I believe that what the President mentioned in his Throne Speech will have a good affect on keeping

HON. TREVOR FOSTER (CONT'D): prices as low as possible, and that is through voluntary restraint. I think this would take more effect than any control price. Because when you put a man up against the wall, the first thing he's going to do is fight back. And this has been proven, one Member mentioned about the shortages, the Black Market that goes on, and in many cases I'm led to believe if prices were controlled merchants would be able to make a larger margin of profit. Because they watch their selling prices and they also watch the age of their goods, and reduce them in cases to compensate, so that they can clear of them off the self. But if they were guaranteed by Government that this should be the price, well we would have no problem.

So in conclusion I just thought that I would clear up these few points, and like Mr. Bush said, it might be wise that we leave well alone, because things could be worse. Thank you.

HON. BENSON O. EBANKS: Mr. President, I'm not in a grocery business, but I'm a merchant, so I'm declaring my interest in this debate from the beginning. But before I finish I believe that every member in this Assembly save the Official Members are going to find themselves in the same shoe.

As the preceding speaker said, it appears as though today has been declared "Merchants Day," he might have also added that with but few exceptions the contributions up to this point have been, "I'm all right Jack, you take care of yourself."

Now the motion before us seeks to set up a committee with a view to instituting price control on essential products. Of course the Whereas section mentioned "the increase cost of vital commodities affecting every day living." I don't know why the differences in the description of the matter under consideration. But be that as it may Mr. President, I want to begin by saying that we must look at our setting in Cayman before we really start to talk about controlling the earnings of the merchants. We have no Income Tax here, no Capital Gains Tax, no Surtax or Excess Profit Tax, or any such thing, where the man engaged in business, or profession other than the merchant would pay his fair share into the coffers of Government.

Now I would imagine that everyone would agree that it is vital that everyone has decent housing. And I am sure that Members will agree that land prices have been skyrocketing. It is vital to get land if one is going to build a home. It has been no question of controlling the price of land. If one is going to build a home in this inflationary day and age, it's almost a foregoing conclusion that he would have to borrow money. Nobody has suggested controlling interest rates, or bank charges, or legal fees for drawing up the mortgage, or realtors assessment. Or there's been no suggestions of controlling the cost or the amount of percentage that a real estate dealer would make on finding the piece of land and concluding the sale. And Mr. President, all of these items I have mentioned are essential and vital if someone is going to have a home. Now the alternative to owning a home is to rent one, and there has been no mention of freezing or controlling rent, and Mr. President, these have skyrocketed, out of all recognition within the last few years, but there has been no suggestion that these areas are where vital commodities come into play. We must think in terms of the man who is lucky enough to get his home, he has to insure it, and here again Mr. President, one can go out and if he shops he can get different rates for insurance cover, and I doubt Mr. President

HON. B.O. EBANKS (CONT'D): that any merchant makes a mark up of 50% on any item that he puts on his shelf. But I know that many insurance agents collect at least 50% of the first premiums paid by persons on a policy. And remember, Mr. President, there is no how in our setting that that individual's income can be controlled, and there has been no suggestion that this should be controlled. So we are just beginning to see the complexity of the exercise.

Now lets take the poor businessman. If you're to control cost, you're going to have to think about controlling accountants fees, because this is of vital commodity to a businessman. Number one, he needs to keep proper accounts to satisfy some people that he's not over charging, and it is vital if he goes to the bank to raise capital for his business to produce an audited balance sheet, one prepared by the businessman himself these days isn't accepted, it must be audited. So don't tell me this isn't vital. I've heard no suggestions of controls here. And then legal fees come in again - mortgages - you must incorporate yourself into a limited liability company, the bankers tell you, to avoid personal risks in the event of a law suit. That's vital to the businessman. And again, as I said you've got your bank charges and interest rate. Then, Mr. President, again in a family-run business a good accountant, or a good banker, or a business consultant would tell you that you must have key man insurance, so that if the man that the business really relies on dies, the rest of the family will not suffer undue hardships. And here again, Mr. President, you go out, you can shop, and you get as many varying prices as there are companies doing business in the Island, for the same essential cover. Again, Mr. President, at least 50% of the premium on this type of insurance I daresay with the right contract you might even get more, with annual benefits accruing, down the line, no control.

Some Members mentioned freight rates, these again - this is true, you've got to get your goods to the country, and if you don't pay what the shipper wants for his service the goods won't arrive. I have heard suggestions that maybe this could be looked at. I don't know why this was even suggested.

Now some people queried why, during the past week or so there could have been differences in prices. This isn't difficult for me to understand, Mr. President, that until the end of January the rates of Caymanian Currency against U.S. Dollar had risen to the point at one stage where we were paying .935 cents at least for a U.S. Dollar. Since the first of February it's now back to eighty-five. So a person who was caught with stock bought at the higher rate is undoubtedly higher priced than the individuals with stocks purchased at the lower; it isn't difficult for this to be understood.

Now I have tried, Mr. President, in these few minutes to show that if we were to undertake what is called even a price and wage control, as I have understood the expression to mean within this House, that is the man who really works for a wage. But the professionals, the Commission Agents, the Insurance Salesman, the Real Estate Broker, the Land Devaluators, and all of these people would be untouched. Yet they perform vital functions for the labouring man whose wage would have to be controlled. Because don't tell me it's not vital that a man who earns a meagre wage should have, as I said life insurance to leave in case he should die, the family should have something to carry on on. He would probably have a mortgage on a home, this must be taken care of. So, Mr. President, it soon becomes obvious how monumental a task it would become if Government is really going to control vital commodities, product, services in this country. I would venture

HON. BENSON O. EBANKS (CONT'D): to say, Mr. President, that the only conclusion that could be reached is the one as expressed in the Throne Speech, that Government has reached the conclusion that the answers to our problems do not lay in price and wage controls at this time. To attempt to do this would need a department that would cost indirectly the individuals whom we seek to help a lot more than he would be saved. Then if we are to learn from the experience of others surely we must understand that efforts at price and wage control have failed in the United States, they have failed in the United Kingdom, and elsewhere, and this with all of the expertise which they have at their disposal.

Government is conscious of course of the dangers of inflation, this has been clearly stated in the Throne Speech and Government at this time considers it wise to rely on voluntary constraint, and allowing and bringing to the public's attention the necessity to bear in mind that inflation can destroy us.

With regard to the essential services mentioned as the items that were really considered, that is, electricity, telephones and the like. I can give this House the assurance that Government has had a very good look in each instance, and has done all within its power to keep the increases to the minimum that it could be kept. Now I'd qualify this by saying that high insight is a good thing, and I don't know whether had some of us in this Assembly today had the good fortune of being members of the Assembly when some of these franchises were granted, whether we could have improved upon the conditions embodied in those franchises, or not. And as I said this can only be conjecture. Certainly in my opinion some improvements could have been made, but I don't know the amount of negotiation that went into that franchise when it was granted.

Mr. President, as far as I am concerned until such time as Government has the machinery and is convinced that an all embracing exercise at cost controls in this Island can be effectively handled by Government and will have positive results in dampening inflation, I am not in favour of picking out any special segment of the community for control. I believe that the public, the consuming public should be more awake. They should in my opinion, to use the common terminology "shop" for the best bargains, and in those circumstances I don't think they would have too much to grumble about, nor do I believe that some businessmen would object to their shopping for the best prices and bargains. But as other Members have said it appears as though the slogan has caught on in Cayman that when a Caymanian wants something he wants it now, and he must have it, so they just catch the nearest item and it seems to be no problem in finding the money to pay for it.

My suggestion would be and my undertaking is that Government is going to continue to have a look at the situation. Certainly, if the press has been followed it will be seen that in every instance where commodities rose dramatically Government took a look into these commodities, and was satisfied that the increases were justified. Government will continue to do this, and in the words of previous speakers I would say, Mr. President, that we better forget about this resolution and leave well enough alone. I thank you.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Mr. President, Members, at one time I felt that the last speaker was one of the few Members who had read and understood our motion. But by the time he was half way through I know that I was wrong, he too does not understand the motion. But that is not surprising, because yesterday he was stumbling over Government's policies, and I would say stumbling

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONT'D): over his A,B,C's, yet he pretends to be reading in "Ann with her Doll," on the question of prices.

Price control could include everything he's mentioned, land, rent, wages, interest, legal fees, realtors assessment, and even insurance rates. I think it is because he attended the Insurance Seminar this week, that he is so conscious of insurance. As far as I know there's nobody in this House selling insurance on land and houses, with the exception of a member in Executive Council, and as for the price of life insurance, that is the only commodity whose price is cheaper today than it was fifty years ago.

There seems to be so much uncertainty about this motion, that some Members even doubt whether it has been brought before the House. Now it was suggested that this motion should have been withdrawn when we heard the Throne Speech, I can assure Members that had I known what was in the Throne Speech we probably wouldn't have brought this motion, because we know from past experience that whenever Government's Attitude is against anything the seven man party system that I mentioned guarantees that it will be blocked. Some Members missed the whole point of this motion; this is not a "Merchants Motion," nowhere in it does it say anything a about controlling every commodity. In fact this motion asked for the setting up of a committee, not to control prices but with a view to instituting price control on essential products, they're two different things, it will be the job of the committee to find out if any essential products need control, and make their recommendations accordingly.

So much irrelevance has been brought and spread across this motion that we need to examine it again, I believe I even need to read it, because some Members had on their dark glasses when they were reading it. But I will trust that since they're now in "Ann with her Doll" they can read it properly, and I would ask them to look at it again.

Now as I see it permanent inflation would constitute a major hazard to our entire society. In a Session of this House some time ago, I cited the case of the runaway inflations in Germany prior to World War 1. In a certain year five thousand Marks could buy a house, by the next year the same money could only buy a motor car, and in about six months time that same money could only buy a suit of clothes, and within another six months it couldn't pay the postage on a letter. The endresult was the total collapse of the German economy, making the German Dollar worthless, I'm afraid we're no the road to a runaway inflation. Increasing inflation of the type of one or two percent per year as we have had here since the end of World War 11, is no hurt to us, we can take that. But when the inflation instead of creeping becomes a gallop, then we are seriously in trouble. A severe inflation could disrupt our entire economy, even more seriously than a severe depression.

Now we all know that the measures necessary to cope with inflation are not popular ones, they always meet with great public resistance. If prices are controlled it is quite possible that we will have to control other things. But if it is necessary to stop inflation, then we impose the controls. But as the motion suggested we are not thinking about controls on everything. It has been proven by the countries that have tried controls that a relatively few controls are sometimes adequate to bring restraint. Mild controls are very effective, in fact the mere stress to impose a control is sometimes helpful. Members have put into this motion that we are seeking to control every item, there is no such indication that we are seeking to control every item, the Members made this up in the recesses of their own minds. Or perhaps that is what they expected to hear, and since they didn't hear it, they brought it out any way.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONT'D): I believe that by imposing some controls Government would be able to maintain a stable economy without inflation. The application of strategic controls would greatly help. If we controlled a few items we would be able to impose our controls selectively, and therefore more appropiately, because there are many items that people are not kicking about the price. It is only when the price gets out of line, when it goes beyond what was customarily paid, when it goes beyond the regular and the accepted market price, that is the only time that people complain. If you entered a shop today, and something cost you fifty five cents, and another week it cost you one penny more, nobody would complain. But when one item costs fifty cents today, and a dollar fifty tomorrow, there is a right to gripe. Government not only has the power to control, but it is their responsibility to control, not only the tourist business, but every level of the economy.

We have here a bill in this very Session seeking to control the tourist business. We have control on the Tax Haven, we have control on Liquor Licensing, we have control on even dancing. It is Government's responsibility to control every aspect of the economy, and every aspect of living. If they feel that that particular aspect is getting out of line, and needs control, it is our responsibility and whether you like the work of imposing the controls or not, it is still your responsibility.

When the price of a commodity rises everybody feels the effect, but for people with low income, and for people on fixed incomes it is definitely hardships for them. Take a person who is on a pension, a person who is receiving a Social Security benefit, that is fixed, on which his sealing is fixed, that person definitely endures a hardship. It doesn't matter too much to the common labourer, or to the man on a salary, because if prices rise wages rise. What about the poor person where there is no increase in his earnings. Two situations are always open; one Government can impose controls, or as I expect in this case Government can do nothing. Two alternatives are open, you can do nothing, or you can have controls.

This motion was really aimed at protecting the consumer against exploitation. Another meaning was read into it. It is true that if you put on controls there maybe a scarcity as we heard about the Chinese man, it is quite possible there could be a reduction in the amount offered for sale. But the fact that Government interference with the price has had side effects beyond their intentions, does not mean that it wasn't necessary to have the control. And it also does not mean that Government should never interfere. We're always talking about the long term good of the country, and long term planning, and in the case of prices, we must also look at the long term view. The verdict of the market place is not necessarily what is good for the country's long term interest. It is not a true reflection of the best interest of the people.

Our Government would be amply justified at this time to impose controls. Ordinarily I am against controls, if everything is going right. We were told by the Third Official Member about the controls we had during the war time, quite in order. But here we have a time that is even more of a national crisis to us, than a war in some other country. We are facing economic and financial disaster, and it is the responsibility of this Legislative Assembly to look into controls which could possibly help the situation, and any adverse effects which may come from the control would very well be offset by the good that would be gained. Good intentions are not enough, I hear Members talking nonsense about being in sympathy with the motion. This motion needs no sympathy, the consumer needs your sympathy.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONT'D): Ever since World War 11 prices have been rising, but they have never galloped at the stage they're doing now. This to me represents a real crisis in the economy, and we must take off our dark coloured glasses and look at it.

Government was very quick to point out in the Throne Speech that there are no easy answers to inflation. I quite agree, yet Government was satisfied that radical measures like price control could not work. Price control, and let me qualify price before I go on. Price doesn't only mean what's in the merchant's shelves, although that is the singular meaning given to it here. Price is what you pay for what you get, whether it be rent, or land or commission or goods. Price is what is paid for what you get. And price control is not a radical measure, it is as I said yesterday a remedial measure. Price control alone is not sufficient, but price control taken with other remedial measures could help.

If this motion is successful, the First Member from Bodden Town and I will be bringing other motions about other remedial measures which we feel will help. Government admits that it does not know the answer. I don't see how it can say that price control is not the answer. Price control is not the entire answer, but it could well be a part. But if we have never tried it, if we have never had price control in peace time, how do we know that it won't work? Now if we tried it and it worked, fine, if it doesn't work, can we not get rid of it. But I say if we sit here with our hands folded and allow the Island to drift in its inflationary seas, it will one day drift upon the rocks of economic disaster.

Much talk has gone about prices, although in my opening I did not quote a single price from a store. But I have here Mr. President a very comprehensive shopping list. This list represents the actual figures spent by a man leaving a supermarket quite recently. He was good enough to sit down and give me his shopping list, he had his sales slip with him, but I wasn't satisfied with that I got a break down, and I'm not going into the break down, but the total spent for the week's shopping, for a man and his wife and two children was $39.19. Let us call that $40 for the week's groceries. This man was earned $60 for that week, he was left with $20 to take care of all of his other expenses. Garbage disposal, gasoline for his car, children school fees, insurance premiums, I suppose, pay his rent, a hundred and one other things; the money just wasn't sufficient. Only $20 was left to meet every other contingency . If any Member would like a break down on this list he's welcome to have it, I will not waste the time to the House to go into the details.

Let us examine another price - the price of gasoline. It is much more here than it is in the United States. Although until the time of this fuel crisis our price was lower than the U.S. price. And the profit is not going to the gas stations, because the dealers in our local gas stations are all complaining that their profit is fixed at some many cants on each gallon. And not only are they not allowed anymore, but the big suppliers are threatening to cut their profit.

The other Member from Bodden Town gave you an outline of the situation with the landed price of gasoline, and when I say gasoline I am thinking about all the other oil commodities, kerosene, diesel. He was telling you about the difference between the landed price and the price that it is offered to the Local Dealers;; there is a disparity. When the first bulk shipment came to this Island, the price to the dealers was more than 100% above the landed cost of the fuel. I don't think that percentage of mark up has changed, and somebody is making a windfall at the expense, and the exploitation of the public.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONT'D): Some other Members touched on the duty free item, this is a case where Government has taken the duties off certain items to give relief to the consumer, and in a matter of the duty free items which the tourist buys to make attractive prices so that money can be left in the Island. Has Government ever checked these items to see that the consumer is getting the benefit? Is the intention of the law being carried out? Is the savings on duty being passed on to the consumer? Or are we subsidising the fortunate people? Do we even care enough to make a rough check on these items?

I have two more price comparisions, and here again I do not want to mention the item. But suffice it to say that on the 13th March, this week, I went to three places, and I priced one item. In one case it was 68¢, another it was 70¢ which is quite alright, the third place that same item was $1.44. In other words the third dealer was making 111.7% more profit than - or at least was selling for 111.7% more than the cheapest dealer. Another item the price was 55¢, second place it was 60, the third it was 65, one dealer had his marked 18% above the other one. Even the common item like chicken, was 11% higher in one place than it was elsewhere, and a common food like rice was 32% higher in one place than it was in the other. In one instance it was selling for 31¢ the other one it was selling for 41¢, or 32% more.

We heard a lot from one Member of Executive Council about the manufacturing country and goods manufactured in a country and so on. In February of this year in the United States I bought a tube of Close-Up toothpaste, which is a fairly expensive brand. It cost me 69¢ U.S. that same size tube is now selling in George Town for $2 and something C.I. Dollars, nearly 500%; and it is blamed upon the fact, by the Member from Executive Council that we are buying from a country that is manufacturing. We must be paying a different price than the stores in the States are paying to the manufacturers.

Take another example, the recent increase in the Government's tariff on liquor and cigaretts. The Government tax was increased by about 5¢ per drink, and some hotels put up the price of their drinks by more than 50¢, the regular 1000% profit. Cigarettes were increased by a couple of pennies per pack, the price increase on the cigarette was equal to three or four times the price increase on the tariff. In other words Government by increasing the taxes engendered some inflation, but at the same time it should not have been that much. With the already high profit on liquor, I don't see how there should have been any increase at all in the retail price. Now I'm stressing this item, because in the tourist industry this is one of the essential commodities to a tourist holiday. I'm saying in other words that we could well be pricing ourselves out of the tourist business.

Let me state this again, we are not asking for controls on every item, one of the few statements of wisdom that came from the opposers was that such an exercise would be too costly. Sure, if we were asking for controls on everything, the exercise would be costly. What we are thinking about could be done by one clerk. And we are asking for controls on strategic items, not on every item, as some Members seem to want. They are staple items of food, they're the items from which the tariff has been removed. They're items like fuel, rent, perhaps wages, a few items in each one of these catergories could be singled out and something worked out as a control price. And perhaps the very fact that we were controlling or attempting to control would have their ofer all affect or restraining everybody. I can see if this committee is set up that recommendations could be made, perhaps to Executive Council on certain items, and that a reasonable

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONT'D): mark up could be put, or a reasonable price set. And I would be all for giving the Governor in Executive Council some discretion in putting these items on the control list. From time to time, as the necessity arises, other items could be added, some items could be taken off. But it would be an every day affair to watch the economy, to watch the item, to watch the price. I must emphasise that we cannot say that a proper remedial measure will not work when we have not tried it. It's a falsehood to say that price control has not worked in other countries. It has worked to a certain degree in every country in which it has been tried. Why do they still have price controls in the United States? Why do they still have them in England? which is a very old country. Why do they have them in Jamaica? Price controls must be worth something. Do you think that these Governments with all the expertise at their finger tips would be dappling in price control if it had no value? But we cannot sit here and just say it is no good, when we have not even tried it. We seem to copy other things from other countries, we seem to adapt them to our own use and advantage, why can't we try this first? But controls will not stop prices from rising, prices will continue to rise. But it is Government's responsibility to see that the consumer is not exploited. Government must ensure that a wind-fall profit is not made at the expense of the undefensive shopper.

Mr. President, I have a few more notes but I shouldn't run beyond 6 o'clock. To my knowledge price control has never been implemented in this Island outside of World War II. So how can we sit here as a responsible body and make a solid declaration that price control will not work. I am positive that if it is tried a few little controls here, and a few little controls there will do this Island a lot of good.

Now we're told alot about the cost of bringing goods here, do not forget that when we import goods we are paying to the person from whom it is imported, we are paying a wholesale price which is perhaps lower than the merchants in that country are paying for their own goods. because these people are subject to excise tax, and in many cases the excise tax and the sales tax amount to far more than our twenty percent tariff. If we are not able to control our own economy, we are admitting defeat, we can wash our hands of it like Pilate did, but the problem will not go away, the responsibility will not lessen. Some Members make me sick when they refer to the Bahamas, these poor people need somebody to show them right now how to manage their own affairs. Isn't it time that we try to set an example.

One Member mentioned the fact that some importers have agencies, and that they are able to buy at a far cheaper rate than the other importers. That is not necessarily true, when you hold an agency from lets say Jamaica Milk Products for the importation of condensed milk in this Island, you pay the same price as the other merchants, but you get a re-bate, you get a commission on each case that you import, but your paying price, the price on which you're going to calculate your selling price here is the same as any other merchant that buys the same quantity. But because you hold an agency, you will later on get a credit note, just a credit to your account which will not be figured into the consumer price. So I'm not satisfied that that explanation results in the difference in prices. I'm more inclined to believe that the difference in prices result from the greed of the person.

One Member from Executive Council told us that profits (or it might have been the Member from West

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONT'D): Bay on this side of the House who has just left, that profits have been terrific in the past, I will say they should be more terrific in the future unless we stop them now.

Now if Government relied on voluntary constraint as they have done in the past, there will be no slowing down of inflation. Government must not **rely** on voluntary constraint. This is the problem of inflation **it** is so great here that voluntary restraints are not enough, it takes governmental interference in the price system to make any change. But in closing before the merchants in this House go away with any bad feelings in their hearts I would like to say that when I speak of price control I have not singled them out although I know this is a Merchants Government. I thank you.

MR. PRESIDENT: The House must now resolve this matter.

QUESTION PUT: AYES & NOES.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Mr. President, can I have a division in this matter.

MR.PRESIDENT: You may.

VOTES
DIVISION

NOES	AYES
D.V. WATLER	A.A. REID
G.E. WADDINGTON	G. HAIG BODDEN
V.G. JOHNSON	JAMES M. BODDEN
A.B. BUSH	
T.E. FOSTER	
B.O. EBANKS	
W.W. CONOLLY	
CLAUDE HILL	
ANNIE H. BODDEN	
TOTAL: 9	3

RESULT: MOTION..... DEFEATED

MR. PRESIDENT: The result of the division is 9 Noes and 3 Ayes.

May I have a motion for the adjournment, please, we'll have to go on on Monday, I'm afraid, we have quite a lot of work still to do.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: Your Excellency, due to court case, I might not be able to get here. I'm trying to arrange that they postpone the case. If so I will be here if I'm alive, if not that'll be the reason why I'm not here.

MR. PRESIDENT: Good, thank you. Motion.

HON. D.V. WATLER: Mr. President, and Honourable Members I'd like to move that the House stand adjourned until 10 o'clock Monday morning.

SECONDED BY: HON. G.E. WADDINGTON.

ADJOURNMENT : AT 5:18 P.M.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. HOUSE ADJOURNED UNTIL 10 O'CLOCK MONDAY MORNING.

CAYMAN ISLANDS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
M I N U T E S
OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST MEETING OF THE THIRD (1974) SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
MONDAY, 18TH MARCH, 1974

PART IV

PRESENT WERE:-

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, MR. K. R. CROOK, PRESIDENT

GOVERNMENT AND OFFICIAL MEMBERS

HON. D. V. WATLER, OBE, JP	FIRST OFFICIAL MEMBER
HON. G. W. WADDINGTON, Q.C	SECOND OFFICIAL MEMBER
HON. V. G. JOHNSON, OBE	THIRD OFFICIAL MEMBER
HON. A. B. BUSH, JP	SECOND ELECTORAL DISTRICT - GEORGE TOWN (MEMBER FOR WORKS, COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT)
HON. TREVOR FOSTER	THIRD ELECTORAL DISTRICT - LESSER ISLAND (MEMBER FOR LESSER ISLANDS COORDINATION AND INFORMATION)
HON. B. O. EBANKS	FIRST ELECTORAL DISTRICT - WEST BAY (MEMBER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, EDUCATION HEALTH AND LABOUR)
HON. W. W. CONOLLY, OBE, JP	SIXTH ELECTORAL DISTRICT - EAST END (MEMBER FOR TOURISM, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCES, MRCU AND SURVEY)

ELECTED MEMBERS

MR. JOHN JEFFERSON	FIRST ELECTORAL DISTRICT - WEST BAY
MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN	SECOND ELECTORAL DISTRICT - GEORGE TOWN
MR. CLAUDE M. HILL	SECOND ELECTORAL DISTRICT - GEORGE TOWN
CAPT. A. A. REID	THIRD ELECTORAL DISTRICT - LESSER ISLANDS
MR. JAMES M. BODDEN	FOURTH ELECTORAL DISTRICT - BODDEN TOWN
MR. G. HAIG BODDEN	FOURTH ELECTORAL DISTRICT - BODDEN TOWN
MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS	FIFTH ELECTORAL DISTRICT - NORTH SIDE

ABSENT WAS:

MR. T. W. FARRINGTON, CBE, JP(DUE TO ILLNESS)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MONDAY
18TH MARCH, 1974
10:00 A.M.

1. **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS:**

   BILLS:-

   i) The Supplementary Appropriation (1972) Law, 1974

   ii) The Estates Proceedings Law, 1974

   iii) The Aerial Spraying Protection Law, 1974

   iv) The Arbitration Law, 1974

   v) The Tourism Law, 1974

   vi) The Currency Law, 1974

2. **TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE:**

   i) The accounts of the Government of the Cayman Islands for the year ended 31st December, 1972.

   ii) The accounts of the Government Saving Bank for the year ended 31st December, 1972.

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MONDAY
18TH MARCH, 1974
10:00 A.M.

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members please be seated.

Before we start I shall have to suspend the session of the House from about 12:15 p.m. to about 2:30 p.m. We have a very short preliminary visit from the newly appointed Head of Development Division in Barbados, Sir Bruce Greatbatch, he arrived only yesterday morning, and is leaving this afternoon, and the only way I can arrange it for even Executive Council to meet him is by having a working lunch at my house today, which is what we are doing. So I shall have to crave your indulgence about this.

Meanwhile Government Business. First day the Supplementary Appropriation (1972) Law, 1974.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1972) LAW, 1974
INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

MOVED BY: HON. V. G. JOHNSON

SECONDED BY: HON. D. V. WATLER

QUESTION PUT: AGREED

CLERK: The Supplementary Appropriation (1972) Law, 1974

SECOND READING

HON. V. G. JOHNSON: Mr. President and Honourable Members I beg to move Sir, the Second Reading of a Bill entitled the Supplementary Appropriation (1972) Law, 1974.

Mr. President and Honourable Members, this Bill seeks to allow and confirm certain expenditures which were incurred during the financial year 1972 and as set out in the Schedule of the Bill.

The authority for expenditures in each year is under an Appropriation Law, and during the course of the year when it is deemed necessary to incur expenditures which are not part of the Appropriation Law, the authority of this Legislature is sought in the form of motions, and at the end of the year when the final accounts are prepared and audited, and the actual figures are obtainable then a Supplementary Appropriation Bill is submitted to this Honourable House for final approval. That is the position in this case Mr. President, and all the excess expenditures as set out in this bill have already had the approval of this Legislative Assembly in the form of motions during the years 1972. The amounts approved by motions are usually more than the final figures presented in the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, because in the case of expenditure approved by motion we ask for specific sums, but in the final analysis when we are preparing Supplementary Appropriation Bill it is the total of the head against what approval is contained in the Appropriation Law. What I am trying to say Mr. President is that the sum presented here in this Supplementary Appropriation Bill is less than the total approved by the Legislature already by motions.

This is a matter which is presented to the Legislature each year seeking approval for excess expenditure over the above that provided in the Appropriation Law, and so I would ask Members to accept the proposals put forward, they are audited and are correct figures. Thank you Mr. President.

SECONDED BY: HON. D. V. WATLER

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members this is a very formal bill indeed, and I doubt very much whether any discussion is needed. But if anybody wants to ask any questions about it, the opportunity is now.

Mr. President and fellow Members, I understand that a motion has already approved this expenditure, and I also understand the reason why the bill is so late in coming before the House. I am not in opposition to it, but at the same time I would like to say that it would be a good thing if this process could be speeded up. If we were now considering the Supplementary Appropriation 1973, that would be quite understandable, but I cannot

see why it takes such a long time for this Bill to reach, and there must be some system of streamlining the auditing and there must be some system of accelerating the slow and ponderous system by which bills come before this House. I know that all the bills come by due course, we have quite a few of them that have been promised to us to come in due course, and it can only be assumed that this bills has been a victim of "due course", and regardless of how many questions are asked in the House, the answer is "due course", and in this session we were told that the answer of "due course" was already given to some of the "due course" business.

I feel Sir that it is time that Government puts a stop to "due course" and if "due course" is to be the only channel through which legislation can come to the House that "due course" be defined and the Members know exactly what is meant by "due course" instead of just being told that it will come in "due course" and "due course" is what it means, because I am very much confused by "due course".

Mr. President and Members I feel that the Throne Speech (although I am not going back into that) would be a very good time for Government to set out all the legislation that is coming for the year, and let us know if the Appropriation Law for 1973 or 1974 will come in this session, and what other bills may be coming. I believe that if the Throne Speech would set out in future years all the legislation that is to come before the House, we would not have to depend on "due course" because we would set a target, we would set an objective we would set a goal to which we could run, and everything would work better. I know that "due course" is an easy answer, it slips off the tongues of Members of Government quite easily, and I feel that it is time we put a stop to "due course". And while I am not especially criticizing the Appropriation Law 1972 nor am I criticizing the Third Official Member, I am in sympathy with him, because I feel he too is a victim of "due course". And although "due course" is a very apt phrase, and quite in keeping with legal terminology we the Members of this House need to know exactly what is coming in the way of legislation, when it is due to come, instead of being the victims as the Third Official Members is a victim of "due course". And I am making application to all Members of Government that during this current year try to outline and give us advance notice of what is to come, and then if we know this we can watch for it coming and if it does not come we can bring some questions to find out why it has not come. But the very use of "due course" tends to put things in such a state that nothing is to be brought at any time.

Mr. President with those few words I must say that I support the passing of this Bill since the Members in Finance Committee have already approved the spending of the money. The money has already been spent, I do not know what would be the position if we voted against this law. But we have already given our prior approval to this money, the money has already been spent, it is only a matter to put the final touches upon this bill. But I cannot sit down without making a last appeal to put an end to "due course" and give us advance notice of the specific times and the specific bills which will come, so that we can get this Government into streamlined shape. Thank you.

MR. PRESIDENT: If there are no other comments. Third Official Member.

CAPT. A. A. REID: Mr. President I support the bill, and I feel that in spite of my colleague on the other side - Bodden Town, I must come to the rescue of the Government in some little way because I am a businessman myself, and I know what I have suffered even in Jamaica where we have far more access to expertise and everything else. For instance only two weeks ago my accountant got my income tax in for 1971 and 1972. So the whole world is suffering from the same thing, and I pity any branch of the Government today with all this volume of work, because we have not been geared for this. Not even in the slightest most remote manner have we been geared for the progress that has come to this Island. And so without proper schools to teach shorthand, and everything else, I wonder how they ever got this far. And by the same method I am suffering myself here, I cannot get anybody to write a letter for me. I have to do that myself. There is not much more that I can say, except to say that myself. There is not much more that I can say except to say that I think the Government has done very well with its departments, and I do not think it helps us any to forever be criticizing Government. I am sure that the head of every department is doing his best, and the fact is that we have not

got the stenographers and even the papers have not got a stenographer to take our speeches in shorthand or whatever we say here, it is mostly misconstrued. I thank you Sir.

HON. V. G. JOHNSON: Mr. President and Honourable Members, I really do not know the ramification about in "due course", I can assure Members that if I make a statement in this House as such, something will be coming here in due course, it will be here in due course, and due course is not a very long time. If I say it is being considered it is a different thing.

With respect to the audit, Mr. President nobody knows really the difficulty we have in concluding an audit during the course of the year. From February and March I am on the telephone, I am writing and trying to get the Audit Department in Jamaica to prepare a team to send down here, and in most years the earliest the audit can begin here is around June, and I have to try and have actual figures for the Estimates which are prepared in September and presented to this Honourable House during the Budget Session. After the audit is concluded here that we get the actual figures, then the audit is taken back to Jamaica where the Auditor General examines the accounts and issue queries on the entire exercise. Those have to come here, they have to be processed and replies have to be submitted to the Auditor General before the final audit certificate is issued, and this brings us down towards the end of the year. And so one can see that it is scarcely possible for Supplementary Appropriation Bills to be presented to this House any earlier than it is presented. I could have presented if from January, but this is the first session for this year, and so this was the earliest I could get it to the House.

The same thing applies to commercial business. We sent out notices to all the Banks and Trust Companies here last year, that they must submit annual audited statements three months after the end of their financial year. It is scarcely any of them that can do this, they have to reply to ask for extended period, some up to six months, eight months before audit can be concluded. So the examination of accounts and audit are really two different things. If we expect a final audit, then it is going to take a little time to produce it.

Now Mr. President I beg to move Sir, that this House resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House to consider the bill clause by clause and amend it as may be deemed necessary.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. BILL READ A SECOND TIME.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. HOUSE IN COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE THEREON

CLERK: CLAUSE 1 - SHORT TITLE.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 1 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 2 - OF CI$562,477 IN 1972 CONFIRMED

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 2 PASSED.

CLERK: SCHEDULE

QUESTION PUT: AGREED.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. SCHEDULE PASSED.

CLERK: A Law to allow and confirm certain expenditures during the financial year 1972.

QUESTION PUT: TITLE PASSED.

HOUSE RESUMED

REPORT THEREON

HON. V. G. JOHNSON: Mr. President, I have to report Sir,

that a bill entitled the Supplementary Appropriation (1972) Law, 1974 was considered clause by clause by a Committee of the whole House and passed without amendments.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 54

MOVED BY: HON. V. G. JOHNSON

SECONDED BY: HON. D. V. WATLER

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. STANDING ORDER 54 SUSPENDED.

THIRD READING

MOVED BY: HON. V. G. JOHNSON

SECONDED BY: HON. D. V. WATLER

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. BILL READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED.

CLERK: The Supplementary Appropriation (1972) Law, 1974.

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members, the Estates Proceedings Law, 1973.

THE ESTATES PROCEEDINGS LAW, 1973
INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

MOVED BY: HON. G. E. WADDINGTON

QUESTION PUT: AGREED.

CLERK: The Estate Proceedings Law, 1974.

SECOND READING

HON. G. E. WADDINGTON: Mr. President and Members of this Honourable House the object of this Bill is to correct an present rule of the common law whereby the death of a human being cannot be complained of in a Civil Court as an injury, the maximum being that a person right of action dies with the person. Accordingly, a man's wife or child might suffer the greatest pecuniary loss by his death, and would yet have no remedy whatever against a person who by a act of negligence cause his death, and even though the victim if instead of being killed has been incapacitated for life could have recovered substantial damages.

Now this rule of the common law was ameliorated to a certain extent by the Fatal Accidents Law Chapter 54, which gave a cause of action to the personal representatives of a deceased whose death has been caused by the wrongful act, neglect, or default of another. However in the case of the death of the person who was guilty of the wrongful act, neglect or default which caused the death or injury to another, neither the latter nor his personal representatives would have any cause of actions against the estate of the former, however wealthy that estate maybe.

The effect of this common law rule was aggregated in England in the year 1934 by the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1934, which enacted that on the death of a person all causes of action (with certain exceptions) subsisting against or vested in him shall survive against, or as the case may be, for the benefit of, his estate. And similar provisions have been made in several commonwealth jurisdictions since then, and it is thought that it is high time that a similar provision was made to apply to the Cayman Islands. And the attached bill, Mr. President and Members of this House seeks to give effect to such provisions. It is a useful piece of legislation which I think we ought to have had long ago, and I therefore recommend the bill for the favourable consideration of Members of this House.

SECONDED BY: HON. D. V. WATLER

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members, the opportunity exists for any debate which anyone wishes to initiate. If there be any suggestion to a course going back to 1934 is a little bit due, we will take point as read.

As I thought, no one particularly wants

to comment. Any further comments Second Official Member?

HON. G. E. WADDINGTON: I am very glad to see Mr. President and Members that this bill has been accepted without debate, as I have said it is a very useful piece of legislation which we should have on our statue books. And accordingly Mr. President nothing now remain but for one to move the Second Reading of the Bill.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. BILL READ A SECOND TIME.

COMMITTEE THEREON

MOVED BY: HON. G. E. WADDINGTON

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. HOUSE IN COMMITTEE

CLERK: CLAUSE 1 - SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 1 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 2 - SURVIVAL OF CAUSES OF ACTION AFTER DEATH.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 2 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 3 - CAUSES OF ACTION WHICH DO NOT SURVIVE

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to see an amendment to (e) - Breach of promise to marry, and I would like an addition to that reading something like this "Unless the breach of promise was the direct result of the main beneficiary of the deceased person's estate".

MR. CHAIRMAN: May I have those formal words again please?

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: I would like the addition to (e) "Unless the breach of promise was the direct result of the main beneficiary of the deceased person's estate". I think, Sir it should really be "Was the direct result of action of the main beneficiary of the deceased person's estate".

MR. CHAIRMAN: Action by or action of?

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Action of.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would you like to explain your reasons for this?

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Well, I do not feel that a breach of promise to marry should be excluded unless we may have a position where, let us say, a father caused his son not to marry somebody then the son died and the father was the main beneficiary of the son's estate and I think that he should pay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, but it sounds pretty unlikely to me but the Second Official Member is the lawyer amongst us, so is this amendment seconded?

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Seconded.

HON. G. E. WADDINGTON: The simple answer to that, Mr. President...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sorry, I beg your pardon, it is not necessary of course to have a seconder in Committee.

HON. G. E. WADDINGTON: The simple answer to that, Mr. President, is that no cause of action would lie against the father in any event, because it is not the father against whom the cause of action would lie but against the son.

HON. W. W. CONOLLY: Mr. Chairman, if the sone dies this would be a breach that could not be corrected, it is an act of God. It is not something that the person could re-do as I see it.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: Mr. Chairman, that is the Law, if I

have a sone and he dies, even although he is named in my will, everything reverts back to the successors and he would not have anything to do with the will, as I understand, I do not know if that is correct or not, according to the Second Official Member's ruling. What I am trying to say Sir, is that if I leave a will or I make my will and I have named a son in it and that sone dies before I die the will automatically is not administered until after my death. Consequently if the son predeceased the father it would be dead, as far as his interests were concerned.

HON. G. E. WADDINGTON: Yes, that would be the position, Mr. President. You see, these exceptions Mr. President are matters of personalities affecting the person and not general matters and so in all these other legislations, these particular causes of actions have been excluded, because it is thought that these causes of action should die with the person and not subsist.

HON. D. V. WATLER: Would this not, Mr. President be a case if an action is taken against a party for a breach of promise, the party may decide at the last minute to honour that breach and get married, but he just cannot do it, whether he would like to or not, he may change his mind after the case has been entered. (MEMBERS LAUGHTER)

MISS. ANNIE H. BODDEN: They often do.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Mr. Chairman I have not heard too much about death-bed marriages before, but the position is if the son, since you are talking about a father and a son relationship, if the sone lived he would either marry or be forced to marry or pay the penalties for not marrying. My addition here is to cover an extreme case where the sone was prevented from marrying by, say, the workings of the parents, and also in an extreme case where the parents were perhaps the sole beneficiary or the main beneficiary under the son's estate. If they prevented the marriage which would have changed the beneficiary of the son's estate, I do not see why they should profit by their own misdeeds. I think that is one of the fundamentals of British justice, that a person should not gain from his out misdeeds.

HON. BENSON O. EBANKS: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to make the observation that in my opinion the action could not lie against the father. the case being cited, if the sone was of majority age, that is if he was an adult the father could not, in my opinion, be held to have prevented him from doing any acts that he was entitled to do in his own right as an adult and I do not see how any cause of action could be held against the parents. If the sone was a minor and the father had not entered into the undertaking with him, I do not see again how the father could be held.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Mr. Chairman, a part of that is quite true. If the son was of majority age the father really could not prevent him from doing anything. On the other hand, there is such a thing as parental influence and most children would, more or less, do what their parents want them to do. Also there could be the case where the father would disinherit the sone of he marries so and so and that would be a case of not parental influence but undue influence. Of course, I am not going to press this issue because my daughter is already married, you know, but I think the point is worthy of recognition here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any further comments? In which case we will resolve the matter as usual. Honourable Members, the question is that the words of the clause do stand as in the original motion. Those in favour say Aye.

MEMBERS: **AYE.**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those against say no.

MEMBERS: **NO.**

MR. CHAIRMAN: The ayes have it.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 3 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 4 - CERTAIN HEADS OF DAMAGES DO NOT SURVIVE.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 4 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 5 - LIMITATION IN RESPECT OF ACTIONS IN TORT.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 5 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 6 - PRESUMPTION IN CERTAIN CASES, OF CAUSES OF ACTION ARISING PRIOR TO DEATH.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 6 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 7 - SAVING OF CERTAIN LAWS.

HON. G. E. WADDINGTON: May I say for a slight amendment to the sixth line, "Cayman Islands" should be "Islands".

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Mr. Chairman may I ask the Second Official Member if this was an intent to exclude Cayman Brac"

HON. G. E. WADDINGTON: That was a typographical error, Mr. Chairman.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 7 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 8 - PROOF IN INSOLVENCY OF AN ESTATE.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 8 PASSED.

CLERK: A LAW TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF CERTAIN CAUSES OF ACTION AGAINST THE ESTATES OF DECEASED PERSONS AND ON BEHALF OF SUCH ESTATES.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. TITLE PASSED.

HOUSE RESUMED

REPORT THEREON

MOVED BY: HON. G. E. WADDINGTON

HON. G. E. WADDINGTON: Mr. President, I have to report that a Bill entitled the Estates Proceedings Law 1974 was considered by clause, clause by a Committee of the whole House and passed without amendment and accepted. And Mr. President, I would now beg to move the suspension of Standing Order 54 to permit the said Bill the Estates Proceedings Law, 1974 to be taken through the remaining stages at this sitting.

SECONDED BY: HON. D. V. WATLER.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. STANDING ORDER 54 SUSPENDED

THIRD READING

MOVED BY: HON. G. E. WADDINGTON
SECONDED BY: HON. D. V. WATLER

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. BILL READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED.

CLERK: The Estates Proceedings Law, 1974.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: Mr. President, is this a typographical error at the end of "Passed by the Legislative Assembly this _____ day of _____, 1973", should it not be "1974".

MR. PRESIDENT: I should think you are probably rightly noted, thank you.

Honourable Members the Aerial Spraying Protection Law, 1974.

THE AERIAL SPRAYING PROTECTION LAW, 1974
INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

MOVED BY: HON. W. W. CONOLLY

SECONDED BY: HON. D. V. WATLER

QUESTION PUT: AGREED.

CLERK: The Aerial Spraying Protection Law, 1974.

SECOND READING

HON. W. W. CONOLLY: Mr. President and Members, I move the Second Reading of a bill entitled the Aerial Spraying Protection Law, 1974.

Mr. President and Members this is a very short bill, but it is in my opinion a very important bill. As every one knows we are obliged to spray from the air in the Mosquito Research and Control Law, and we have been using for some time this form of control, aerial spraying.

Recently Radio Masts, crane jobs have been appearing all over the place, and this brings a measure of danger to the pilots of aeroplanes doing this low spraying. There was no law in the Island to control this, and it was thought that for the benefit of the aerial spraying done by the Mosquito Research Control this law should be brought to the House.

This law, as I have said is a very short law, it does not prohibit the putting up of these masts, what the law seeks to do is, for the person who is responsible for having these masts and other obstructions in the air, to have them reasonably lit, so that the pilot can be made aware of the position of these.

At the appropriate time I will be making a motion for the amendment of a certain section of this bill, which is only to tidy it up a little. Apart from that I have to recommend this bill to you, I think it is very necessary, and it is something that has been a little bit overdue.

SECONDED BY: HON. D. V. WATLER

MR. PRESIDENT: May I just for clarification ask - your amendment will come on the Committee stage, presumably.

HON. W. W. CONOLLY: Yes, Mr. President.

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members, the opportunity for debate on the general merits and principles of the Bill arises.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: Mr. President, and Members of this House I agree most emphatically with anything that will protect airmen. We do not want anymore calamities happening, or anymore planes destroyed, or such like. But I feel that in paragraph 5 for a fine not exceeding $1,000 for every day. I know "not exceeding" can mean from one dollar to a thousand dollar. But I think a thousand dollars is a bit high, because it could happen every day, just for spite we will say, or it might be somebody get stubborn, and just for spite we will say, or it might be in the case where you could not get the work performed at the time, and I think $1,000 per day is a bit high; apart from that Sir, I support the Bill wholeheartedly.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, fellow Members, I support this bill with the exception of two things. I think that we should consider Section 2(a) again, because under the Development and Planning Regulations Law height of a building can be 55 feet, or a maximum of five storeys. So maybe we have got this too low here at 40 feet. And the next thing is I would have to echo the First Elected Member from George Town in number five, and appeal to the compassionate heart of the Fourth Elected Member to the House of Lords Sir, that $1,000 a day to me, for this type of infraction seems to be very very high. I cannot see why we put such excessive fines in bills such as this, and some other bills which are so important I would say to the community, we put such low fines and we get such arguments when we try to increase them.

If I may comment on this, I would be one that would probably be the first one to break it. Because I have a TV. antenna, which I have been trying to get lowered for three months, equipment and the expertise in knowing how to handle this type of equipment. And for over three months I have been trying to get him to lower my antenna and I have not been able to get it done. In order for me to comply with this now, about the only thing I could do would be to cut my guy wires and let it fall on the house next door; if I had to comply with this immediately. Of course, I am not here to try to echo what would be good for me, but I think that we should consider

the reduction of this fine to at least $500 a day, instead of a thousand dollars a day. I think it would be more in line with the compassionate heart, that I know the Fourth Elected Member of Executive Council has.

MR. CLAUDE HILL: Mr. President, and Honourable Members, I support this bill to a certain extent, but agree with the First Elected Member from George Town, in regards to the find. And on Section 3 the erection of lights on whatever equipment it may be, whether it is TV. antenna, or a mast, or crane, for them to have two fined lights on there, one foot of his highest point, two red electric lamps. I think that is a bit out of line, as far as construction is concern, for them to erect two lights, one I think would be sufficient if the observation of that light was from any angle. And with that Sir, I would say that I support this bill, but not in its entirety as it stands. Thank you Sir.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Mr. President, fellow Members I want to commend the Minister for bringing forward this bill. I feel like the Members were sometimes shy to offer praise to Executive Council, but I am very generous, generous hearted. And I feel that praise should go where praise is due; and I would even like to defend him sometimes, with the matter of two lights, I can see the necessity, because a bulb is always going out in your house, and you have to keep replacing them. If the law says two lights, well that would ensure that you have one at all times and I think that is the idea, because Section 4 goes on to say that you should maintain at least one of the lights required by Section 3. So I do not think you would really be prosecuted if you had one light.

The fines are high and could probably be reduced. I do not agree with this 40 feet, because we have buildings here that could be 55 feet, according to the Planning Regulations if the First Member from Bodden Town is correct. And I do not see why it should be necessary to fly below the level of a building for spraying.

But Mr. President I support the bill, because it is a bill for improving the safety of aircraft, and any bill that is brought before the House for improvement of safety measures, is well worth while and the timely action on the part of the Member for bringing it forward must be commended, and I am glad to see that this bill did not have to come in "due course" but that it came quite quickly. And the first time I heard anything about it was when it was presented, and it did not lie in the dungeons of "due course". I thank you.

HON. W. W. CONOLLY: Mr. President and Members, I am very pleased to hear that this bill has the support of the House. There has been one or two questions, I think I mentioned when I spoke first, that in due course I would be recommending an amendment to Section 3, in fact it takes care of what I think the Member from George Town was talking about.

the fine - let us say it is high, when we think of thousand dollars per day, or a thousand dollars for an offence. On the other hand to think of having an aeroplane destroyed and a man's life gone, and a lot of insurance, you remember we are paying a high insurance on that particular pilot. Or any pilot that we get to fly at low level. When you take the $1,000 in comparison to what it would cost, or what it does cost us, I think it is a reasonable fine. The fine has to be strong enough to ensure that people really try to obey this, because this is a physical thing that somebody can actually do. It is not something that it takes anything more than a little time, and a little bit of expense. Unfortunately one Member said that he is in this even though he criticized "due course" but he is in the channel of "due course" trying to get an antenna for his television down. This could be so, and I am sure that circumstances like this will be taken into consideration. I am sure the Member will get his antenna down as early as possible.

Now speaking on the definition which was 40 feet, this was the definition of what profile level means. And if you read it in connection with (b) it is either of the two, you see, it is not one, it says; "profile level" means in relation to the location at which any obstruction contacts the ground - a height of 40 feet above ground level or the height above ground level of the tallest tree, natural feature or building within a radius of 100 yards measured from the relevant location, whichever is the greater. So if the building is greater than the 40 feet, then it is from that. I

think the definition according to my assurance from the Legal Department meets the bill. And if this bill goes through this will protect the pilots in their effort to rid us of mosquitoes. Mr. President I think that is about all I can wind up on.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. THE BILL BE GIVEN A SECOND READING.

MR. CLAUDE HILL: Mr. President I beg to note a seconder has not been on this.

HON. W. W. CONOLLY: It was seconded after the Member gave the explanation on the reason for it.

COMMITTEE THEREON

HON. W. W. CONOLLY: Mr. President, I beg to move Sir that this House resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House to consider the bill clause by clause and amend it as many be deemed necessary.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. THE HOUSE IS IN COMMITTEE.

HOUSE IN COMMITTEE

CLERK: CLAUSE 1 - SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT

QUESTION PUT: AGREED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 2 - INTERPRETATION

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 2 PASSED.

HON. W. W. CONOLLY: Mr. Chairman, at this point I would like to circulate a new Section 3, which I mentioned in the introduction that there would be...

MR. PRESIDENT: We are not in fact under Clause 3 yet, just hold on one second.

CLERK: CLAUSE 3 - OBSTRUCTIONS ABOVE PROFILE LEVEL TO BE ILLUMINATED.

HON. W. W. CONOLLY: Mr. Chairman, at this time I would like to circulate a new Section 3, which tidies up - it is the same in nature but I think for one thing it allows for this light to remain illuminated from half an hour before sunset until half an hour after sunrise, expect on occasions when repairs require to be effected thereto or electric power. I think you will read from it that it is making provisions where that practical solution can be made to the fixing of these lights. It also provides that the lights be so fixed that they can be seen from any point, and from on top as well.

Another bit of amendment is the fact that some of these poles are so very slender at the top and it makes provision there where the top part of the obstruction is not suitable for load bearing, the lights shall be located within one foot of the top of the load bearing part of the structure. This particular section I think tidies up Section 3 and makes all of the necessary amendments that would be necessary.

MR. PRESIDENT: I would just like to ask a question for my own information, if Members will permit me. This business of the lights being located at the top of the loaad bearing part of the structure, does that mean that if an aeroplane hits a bit of wood that is sticking outwards that is not enough to matter, but it will knock it down and the aeroplane will be all right. I presume so.

HON. W. W. CONOLLY: Well that is so light I do not suppose it will hurt the aeroplane, and it is one foot from the top anyhow. I do not think that anybody would fly within one foot of...

MR. PRESIDENT: He knows it is there anyway, if it has a red light on it. Yes I see.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Mr. Chairman, with this new section, I do not see why we should put in that the lights should remain illuminated from half an hour before sunset until half an hour after sunrise. I would like to see the lights remain on at all times. If

you put this half an hour before sunset the lights are to be switched on it puts a big onus on the person to remember this every day out of the year. What would happen when the person was away from home and had to run back home to switch on this light, or if the person was away from the Island. And this if I understand the preamble of the bill, is that most of the flying for spraying is done at this time. Now suppose the Mosquito Research plane came out let us say three quarters of an hour before sunset, or something like that and the light was not on, and they did not see it. I would like to see these lights remain on 24 hours a day and then you would not have the bother of switching them off and on. Of course I know the other side of the Member's mind is working on the energy crisis, and the conservation of fuel, but to have to switch on a light every evening at a half hour before sunset really puts a lot of burden on the person. Of course I realise the person could leave the lights on and would not have to be bothered with switching it on. At the same time, if a plane got in an accident, let us say 31 minutes before sunset, I do not see how you could prosecute the person for not having his light on. That section should be taken out and left as it was in the original Clause 3, which I think made provision for the lights to burn continuously.

HON. W. W. CONOLLY: Mr. Chairman, I think we should bear in mind that the whole object of this particular piece of legislation is for the low spraying of planes, like the Mosquito Research Control, or it could mean an agricultural dust spray or something. There are other legislations you know and international regulations dealing with poles, which go up to interfere with the planes flying, normally. But what I am saying is that half an hour before sunset, the light is normally clear enough for any pilot to see this, he looks at it. He would not fly and do not see something, but we are ensuring that it is on during those times. If some person wanted to keep the light burning 24 hours a day, well I have no personal objection, other than conservation of fuel, as the Member said. But I think that this if you left it the other way it would be mandatory for him to keep it on all the time. Giving it half an hour before sunset, and half an hour after sunrise, is taking care of the hours during which this spraying is primarily done, and during which time that the visibility is not clear enough for him to see. At any other time of the day, it is assumed that the visibility would be clear enough for the pilot to see.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Mr. Chairman, I do not agree that you can always see half an hour before sunset, and half an hour after sunrise. Because in the rainy season, and on cloudy days you will not be able to see, and in the winter months, sometimes the sun rises long before you see it. And. you could also top seeing it long before it sets. I would rather see the law read that this light burn continuously, because whatever a person spends on his light bill would be saved on his own energy, turning it on and off.

HON. D. V. WATLER: Mr. Chairman, when you turn and look on the definition of "obstruction", this is where on of your problem is going to come in. Because it is not just the flag poles and the antennas but you will notice, or other will notice it means stopple mast, antenna, crane jibs, draglines, so you see when the dragline is up above that 40 feet, then that is an obstruction. And you would not want the dragline to have to have a light on it during the day while they are operating. I think this would make it rather cumbersome for them. Except for that, you could have ti on the other.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: Mr. Chairman, I suppose however we may turn it round and around, we will find that it will be cumbersome to different things at different times. Think in terms of the steeple, it more or less refers to the churches. What if you have a church a half a mile or a mile away from the nearest residence, then what, it has got to be somebody to go down every morning and every evening to turn off and turn on lights, and all the rest of it. It just does not seem but one simple and reasonable way for it, if it is a law that a light must be burning on the highest points of these things or 40 feet and above, it burns day and night and that is all. I mean when the bulb is burnt out you put one back. But this trying to regulate it to turn on and turn off, turn off. Many a family could be away from their homes at those hours. The law will say there is no excuse for not knowing better, and knowing that this was to be done. So let us make one straight cut of it. If we are going to have a light there let it be a light there burning day and night, and when it is out it

is out, and replace it. And everybody concerned will be relieved then of trying to keep something in the back of their heads, that it must be done twice a day, every day. I do not see the sense of it.

HON. W. W. CONOLLY: I do not think the law says that you must have somebody there to turn it on every morning and every evening, that is left entirely to the responsibility of the persons who have this obstruction.

What this law says, that there should be half an hour before sunset, and half and hour after sunrise these red lights. This is where, that if somebody failed to have them there at this time, that prosecutions could be made. And I would take it, these are the times then the mosquito plane is used primarily for spraying mosquitoes. And secondly I would hope that the Head of the Department of the Mosquito Research Control Unit would not sent his plane up during the day when the visibility is so poor that he could not see. So as far as I am saying if someone wants to keep their light 24 hours a day, fine with me. All the law is saying that you should - it is compulsory to ensure that it is there half an hour before sunset and held an hour after sunrise.

CAPT. A. A. REID: Mr. President, I think this problem could be easily solved by erecting a light on the top of the pole or mast, or whatever it maybe, that turns on with darkness and turns on at daylight. But while on the subject I would like to remind the Member introducing the bill, that there are two cranes which are on Palm Heights which are definitely over 40 feet, and I always consider them a hazard. I am quite certain they are above the telephone pole. And you will never collect from them, because if an accident did occur because they have been left there and the man is gone and I almost got saddled with them myself, because he wanted to rent a place to put them, and I said never on your life, we are not renting space for cranes, and it was a good thing I thought of it. He is gone and the things are going to rust out right there and the mast is going to remain too.

But if this law is enacted, surely somebody will have to be responsible for them, to take them down, or put the light up. Failing that then I imaging the Government will have to take over. Nobody is responsible for them, somebody will be.

CAPT. A. A. REID: The man went broke and left.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: Mr. Chairman I am not trying to say that the lighting on any place that is a necessity to protect the safety of flying, or spraying or anything else - I am only saying that if the law is going to say that there is a light to be placed there, it should be a light to be burning all the time and not just to be turned off and turned on. Because it is going to create difficulties on some individuals at some time or another. And then all you are going to say, the law said it must be turned on half an hour after sunrise, turned off half an hour after. So to avoid that, let the light be burning all the time. Then nobody will get involved.

If you are trying to protect the pilot you ought to protect the people too. One life is as good as the other, and the law ought not to be one sided. And I could not give my support to this bill if we are going to make it mandatory that the lights must be turned on at half an hour before sunset, and off at half an hour after sunrise.

HON. W. W. CONOLLY: Mr. Chairman, could I correct one point Sir? It is no sense of going on further, but no place in this that I see anything about turning about on or turning off lights. The law does not read that at all. What it does say, that these lights should be there and remain there. When you want to turn it on, or when you want to turn it off that is the individual's business. All the law demands that an half hour before sunset, and half hour after sunrise that these lights are there. Whether you turn them on or want to leave them on, that is entirely your business. The word "turn" is not there at all. So as I said I am not suggesting that this law should create any hardship on anybody, turning off or turning on lights. It is a matter that it is compulsory, and as I said, if I had brought in the law to have it compulsory to be on 24 hours a day, there would be somebody coming up saying "you are compelling us to keep these lights there 12 or 15 hours in the sun and they are not doing any good". It is cutting down the responsibility on the individuals to a bare minimum, just to protect the mosquito spraying. If we find later on

that we have to use a spray to kill caterpillars probably we will have a law come out here in the Agricultural Department to protect the man who flies to spray there which would be in the day. I do not know, but this particular law is designed and modelled to protect your mosquito spraying and as I said it is trying to give the least possible inconvenience and responsibility to the person who has to have these stopples or these antennas or anything else up in the air.

MR. CLAUDE HILL: Mr. Chairman, at the introduction of this bill I argued the point of the two lights being erected on this and with this amendment to Section 3 of the bill even "weather proof - housing" to be placed on these poles. I am wondering how it complies with our electric code of wiring, what size wire would be required to protect two five watt bulbs or seven watt bulbs on a mast 40 feet. It appears to me that this should be in accordance with our wiring of houses as same as anything else, because you could start, I would say a fire. For instance the man erecting a mast would have to pass his wiring inspection, and I do not try to claim that I know everything about electricity, but with two five volt bulbs, or seven volt bulbs burning, at a 40 foot height, it would be quite a bit of dropping in the electricity and the voltage reaching the point which is required. And what size wire is a question where it should comply with the electric code wiring in the Island.

HON. W. W. CONOLLY: Mr. Chairman, I take it, I am not an electrician either, but I take it that this law is parallel with any Electric Law we have here. What I am trying to say here in this law is not what type of wire you must put up a light with, my greatest suggestion, my greatest desire here is to have two red bulbs on top of a pole, whereever the pole is. Now I would presume that the building from which these lights would get the current would have been one that has been duly inspected, and which conforms with the electrical code for the Island. And this law would in no way run contrary, or would in any way suggest that it should run contrary to the present electric code in the Island.

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members, as one who trots around the Island occasionally in funny shape aeroplanes, I have very great sympathy with what the Honourable Member has just said. We spent long enough on this. I have now one amendment before us.

HON. G. E. WADDINGTON: There is just one point I would like to make Mr. Chairman, in reply to the point raised by the Third Member for George Town. And that is that Section 7 of the bill when we come to it provides for regulations to be made with regard to the mechanical and technical details.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 3 AS AMENDED PASSED.

COMMITTEE SUSPENDED

HOUSE RESUMED

CLERK: CLAUSE 4 - NOTIFICATION IN THE CASE OF TEMPORARY NON-COMPLIANCE.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 4 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 5 - OFFENCES AND PENALTIES.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: Mr. Chairman I move that this $1,000 per day be reduced to $750. I quite agree Sir, that it says "a fine not exceeding", but it is a daily (NOT SPEAKING INTO MIKE) and it could be that it was not exact neglect, but not having somebody to do what is necessary. I do not know if anybody will second it or not.

MR. PRESIDENT: Your motion is that the number "$1,000" read "$750" is that right.

MR. CLAUDE HILL: I second it.

HON. W. W. CONOLLY: Mr. Chairman, this has always been a practice to query the amount of money on an offence. But I think if we read this "with a fine not exceeding $1,000 for every day the offence continues". Now I have to presume that the court is a

reasonable court, and I would think today that if an offence was committed and there was reasonable explanation why this was committed, then the court should be at liberty to award a penalty in respect to that. I think the $1,000 a day is put in here specifically to ensure that a person does not continue to commit this offence.

Today the owners or people who would have steeples mainly, or any protruding obstruction, if we lowered the penalty it would mean that this may go on for a few days, and this could happen that it was right in the height of the time when spraying was necessary. I think why the $1,000 was put, is to allow the judge a reasonable latitude to award the penalty and also to have the power to inflict the penalty that would discourage someone from continuing this offence.

I do not see much difference in saying, not exceeding a $1,000, or not exceeding $750. To me it is just a matter of figures and words. Because we have from one to $750, and we have from one to $1,000, it is not exceeding that point.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: Mr. Chairman, I quite agree that it is "not exceeding", the judge in his discretion may charge one dollar, and he could go to a thousand.

Now I am not discrediting any court or any judge, but I have seen according to the papers, not too long ago, three certain people who were before the court on charges of ganja, they were fined $1,000 each without any jail sentence. On the very next ensuing week, there was a lady charged with $2,000 and two years, another $2,000 and/or one year. So I mean I do not know fighting a case like that, it depends on who is who to get what is what. Because I mean that was public, I do not hear it in the court room, but I read it, if you can go by what you see in the press. And I am saying now, that in the event that a person may not due to circumstances over which he has no control, he might have this thing running for three or four days, and the judge in his discretion could charge the $1,000 a day, and can fine three times $750, or I agree that money now is not any problem to most people, but I personally feel that $1,000 per day is a bit high. But if others disagree with me, well I will not press the point to the extent where I will refuse to vote on the law. Thank you.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. Chairman, the Fourth Elected Member of Executive Council is using the argument that is usually used by the other side of the House in trying to get this bill with this high fine. Because when we pressed for the high fines in some of the other laws, I think he is being on of the first ones to say the discretion of the court, and so forth and so on.

Well if I may echo a little bit of what the First Elected Member for George Town has just said, of course I know that we cannot pay too much attention to the papers. But in a recent case here before the court, I think it was a very high penalty of somewhere around eighteen months which I agree with, it should have been probably higher than that, was placed on some college kids for smoking ganja cigarette, yet in the very next issue of the paper the next week, we hear of a lady importing, and I do not remember whether this was in the paper or not, but I think it was, anyhow, six pounds of ganja and she was put in jail for a week.

Now this is certainly in my mind giving a lot of latitude and discretion to the judge, and I would suggest that on this that we have a further amendment saying that "a $1,000 a day for the first offence and on subsequent conviction on the same change to $500 per day for everyday the offence continues". If we do not do something like that, we are putting a certain segment of the community open to very very high penalties, and if we are going to again rely on justice being carried out by discretion, we may find that what is one man's meat may be the other man's poison. So I could not sit here in this House and agree with this, because we have had these antennas, we have had these poles, we have had the so forth and so on, for many years. We have also had the low flying planes for many years, and I cannot understand the urgency at this date, although I agree with the bill of putting such a heavy offence for one or two days, that this may still go on now when we have had this still in existence for a long time. Than you Sir.

HON. W. W. CONOLLY: Mr. Chairman, I do not think that Members are really reading this bill, you know. If you read this Section 5, and it says "whoever erects, maintains or having authority in that behalf, permits to remain any obstructions to which Section 3

applies otherwise than in compliance with the section or who being the person responsible for the purpose of Section 4". Now what Section 4 says, that if a person has this here and its for any reason damaged or any electric failure or anything, his responsibility is to notify the person in charge of the Mosquito Research Control. So this is why the fine may seem a bit heavy, but is to put the sense of responsibility on that individual to notify Mosquito Research and Control that such and such a thing is the case. Because the Mosquito Research and Control once it is noted to him it is like a pilot on a ship, if he knows a shoal is in a certain place, he will pilot his ship clear that. So if you have a pole in East End and through some impossibility there is no light on, the responsibility is yours to notify Mosquito Research Control that there is a pole, that falls within this that is unlit. Now if you fail to do that then you can be convicted, and I feel today, that the court should have the latitude to inflict the punishment which will inject a certain amount of responsibility in the person who carelessly, or irresponsibly do not notify.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. Chairman, I sort of take to what the Member said in regards to Members not being able to read this, or something of that sort, or not understanding it right. I am sure that although all of us may not use our Harvard accent, we can still read, and to misconstrue the paragraphs four and five, that I think the Member is trying to do by telling us that then the only way you would be fined would be if you failed to notify Mosquito Research. I do read that into this bill at all.

MR. JOHN JEFFERSON: Mr. Chairman I have never spoken on this bill so far, personally I did not really see any reason for me to. Because I think the bill is very necessary, and because it is straight forward.

As far as I am concerned the bill explains itself quite clearly, as far as I am concerned, and I think we are just sort of getting in a muddle, we are not clearly reading the bill as it is. Points have been raised about lighting and so forth I think that all it says is the fact that lights must be on half an hour before sundown and half an hour after sundown. And in regards to penalty; I do not think the penalty is too high, I think it deters, it will not make a man not want to pay attention, and if someone was to try to resist, after all flying is very dangerous; and I do not see anything to squabble ever here in this law, personally.

MR. CLAUDE HILL: Mr. Chairman as seconder of the amendment by the First Elected Member from George Town, in regards to the fine, reading Section 6, question of responsibility and non-compliance of this law rests upon the decision of the court before which any case of non-compliance is brought for trial. This is exactly what the Member is trying to make an amendment to. And quite true that it is dangerous flying for the pilot who flies this spraying plane, and I feel that $1,000 for every day the offence continues could be defined much lower, not saying that we do not have trust in our court, or who is in charge of the court; but I feel that we should while sitting here decide on something feasible.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: Mr. Chairman, I dare say if there would be any offender it would be the poorer class man, because while the poorer class people, as I know people are much more law abiding than the rich, the right they can take their riches and buy anything they want. I feel personally that $1,000 per day, which it could be, I am not discrediting the discretion of the court. I am only saying that it could be one dollar per day, according to the discretion, or it could go up to the one thousand a day. And I am saying $1,000 per day is not likely to be thought about. I mean we in these days look on thousands as if we would look at five cents before.

I feel that $750 a day if there is any transgression of the law that $750 is a reasonable amount. I mean we just can not fly up because we thing that money now is talked about in millions. Does this Honourable House realise what any poor man having to pay, say Rupert Moxam, forgive me for calling names but he is the most popular one that I know with these long cranes dragging through the street. Suppose he was called upon to pay 500 pounds a day for a week. I feel Sir that the amount is too high, nothing against the law except that the fine $1,000 a day is too high, $750 in my way of thinking would be quite a reasonable amount.

MR. CLAUDE HILL: Mr. Chairman at this stage Sir, I am not trying to rush anything through, but could we take a vote on this to see how it stand.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. Chairman, I have got a further amendment I would like to put forward Sir.

MR. PRESIDENT: I have at the moment the original clause, and one amendment I shall put to the House for resolution in the usual way when you have all finished.

HON. B. O. EBANKS: Mr. Chairman, I really do not see the cause for the amount of argument that is going on over this clause. The only way that I can possibly see someone being caught, or guilty of an offence under this law, is one of two ways; that is ignorance of the law, or by deliberate flouting of the law. Because in the case of a person who is unable to comply immediately with the law, or if because of mechanical failure or something of the sort, he is covered under four. He can give notice to the person for the time being in charge of the Mosquito Research and Control Unit of the circumstance which prevent his complying with this, and surely this would preclude if there were reasonable excuses from prosecution and fine under Section 5.

Now if a person deliberately flouts the law, I think when we are thinking in terms of why this law is being enacted, I think that the fine should be high. There are two reasons as I see it and that is; one the safety of the aircraft and pilot, and secondly that Mosquito and Control spraying operations, as I have observed and understand it is done as near as possible in definite and define pattern. Now if someone were to deliberately obstruct the operation of the Unit by failing to comply, I think that that person should be subject to what is an appropriate fine. Bearing in mind of course, that the fine as the Member piloting the bill has pointed out, that it is discretionary that the amount of fine imposed would be that which is considered by the judge sitting appropriate to the offence committed.

I do not think that we should cloud this issue really with discretions which have been exercised under other laws or anything else. I think we should concern ourselves with the law at hand.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: Mr. Chairman that is exactly my whole point. I do not disagree with the judge or any judges having discretion. I am saying in fact that past history reveals to us that discretion can be mix-exercised, if I may say so, because we have had cases of it cited in the last month, I would say. And I feel Sir if we are going to allow any discretion we will discard the word discretion, put it $1,000 a day for all and sundry, and to eliminate any discretionary power in this particular instance, because this is a matter of life and death, it is of very vital importance that we keep this plane flying to destroy mosquitoes and that every hindrance or encumbrance be put away. And if anybody blocks the law, whether deliberate, or not, let us put this $1,000 a day and dispel the matter of any discretion. Let us make it a $1,000 a day, a $1,000 now is like penny half penny used to be before. Let us make it a $1,000 and done with it.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. Chairman, I would sort of echo that myself, but I am afraid that discretion and latitude and if we have to have the high fine, and I say we put it a $1,000 a day for everybody.

But I would like to submit the following amendment before we go any further starting at the seventh line - "not exceeding $100 a day for every day the offence continues and whoever aids, abets, procures or having authority in that behalf, permits any other person so to do is equally guilty with that offender and punishable accordingly for the first offence and on subsequent conviction under the same charge up to $500 per day for every day the offence continues".

MR. PRESIDENT: I presume that it may be, if you are prepared to put in writing. We have the sense of your amendment, I would not like to say that we have the full text of it. Would you just read it again for the benefit of the House please.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Section 5 starting at the end of line six; "not exceeding $100 per day for every day the offence continues

and whoever aids, abets, procures or having authority in that behalf, permits any other person so to do is equally guilty with that offender and is punishable accordingly for the first offence and on subsequent conviction under the same charge up to $500 per day for every day the offence continues."

MR. PRESIDENT: Is that seconded?

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: I second that.

MR. PRESIDENT: We now have ...

HON. G. E. WADDINGTON: Mr. Chairman may we speak on that?

MR. PRESIDENT: Sure.

HON. G. E. WADDINGTON: I should merely like to point out, Mr. Chairman, that as the amendment read it could only apply of course to the people who aided and abetted, because the second conviction according to the amendment would not apply to the substantial offender, but to the person who aided and abetted. But a part from that Mr. Chairman, this section as it now stands covers exactly what the amendment is supposing to do, except that id does it by means of the discretion which is left in the court.

Now reference has been made Mr. Chairman, to cases in the past where apparently disproportionate sentences have been passed, but I do not think we should in this House pay any regard to those without a proper investigation into the matter. Because circumstances alter cases, and I am fairly sure that if any of these cases of mitigation which enabled the court to impose what appears to be a lenient sentence in one case, and a harsh sentence in another. And that is the whole reason why courts have been afforded and allowed this discretion, because when the sentence is hard and fast then the discretion of the judge's hands are tied, and he is bound to act in accordance with the law. But we can only assume that judges are reasonable beings, and that in having this flexible discretion that they will take into account the circumstances affecting each particular case, and impose a sentence which is in accordance with the justice of the case.

MR. PRESIDENT: Thank you Second Official Member. I thought I saw somebody else who wanted to speak.

CAPT. A. A. REID: Mr. President, I can not see any difference in a $1,000 or a $100. I do not think that anybody in this Island would like to pay a $100 fine. I think if the people are law abiding, and you know it is a law. The law says you must not do so and so, well then you should not do it. If you are a good citizen you would obey the law, and I do not think that any judge would fine the man $1,000, but if anything from one to one thousand. I think though that a lot of people in this country today, if you made it mandatory to five they would ignore it completely and pay the five dollar, and the law would not mean a thing.

I see no reason for an argument to go on like this, because I do not think it is necessary, and I do not think it hurts anybody. We have a man's life at stake, we have got a valuable aeroplane, and I say let the law be as hard as it likes, and let the man obey it.

MR. PRESIDENT: In that case I strongly suggest that you leave it to me to resolve the argument, which I will do in about two minutes.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: Mr. Chairman that is the position with every law. We have law but we have ignorant people doing something, for instance I read in the press, if we can go by the press; that two weeks ago four people were killed, they know they should have gone 25 miles or 50 miles as the case may be, they must have been doing 100 miles per hour. But I am saying that we must - I am not trying to discredit that the judge should not have the discretion. I am not a officer of the court for the information of people, and I have known law such as we have in Cayman in those days from the time I was 15 years old, now I am 65, half a century. So I know something about law, but I am saying Sir that I feel while I agree that the plane is valuable, and the mosquito spraying is the greatest event ever happened in the Cayman Islands, that they are at least lessening

mosquitoes. I feel that $1,000 a day is too much per day, if I would say $750, but if the others feel that a thousand or two thousand, it does not matter to me personally, because I have not got any cranes. Thank you.

MR. PRESIDENT: Right, we have spend long enough time on this, I think. I have the original clause in the bill, and I have two amending motions duly as seconded.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. **THAT THE WORDS OF THE QUESTION DO STAND AS IN THE ORIGINAL MOTION. AYES AND NOES. THE AYES HAVE IT. CLAUSE 5 PASSED.**

CLERK: CLAUSE 6 - RESPONSIBILITY.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 6 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 7 - REGULATIONS.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 7 PASSED.

CLERK: A LAW TO PROTECT THE AERIAL SPRAYING OPERATIONS OF THE MOSQUITO RESEARCH AND CONTROL UNIT.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. TITLE PASSED.

HOUSE RESUMED

REPORT THERON

HON. W. W. CONOLLY: Mr. President I have to report that a bill entitled "The Aerial Spraying Protection Law, 1974" was considered clause by clause by a Committee of the whole House and with the amendment of the substitution of Clause 3, the bill was accepted.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER

MOVED BY HON. W. W. CONOLLY
SECONDED BY HON. D. V. WATLER

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. **THAT THE BILL BE GIVEN A THIRD READING AND PASSED.**

CLERK: THE AERIAL SPRAYING PROTECTION LAW, 1974.

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members we have an immaculate sense of timing, we seem to have arrived at the precise moment for suspension of the Sitting, with your permission, until 2:30 p.m. Thank you.

THE HOUSES SUSPENDED AT 12:16 P.M.

THE HOUSE RESUMED AT 2:30 P.M.

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members, please be seated.

THE ARBITRATION LAW, 1974
INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

HON. G. E. WADDINGTON: Mr. President and Members, I beg leave to introduce a bill entitled The Arbitration Law, 1974.

SECONDED BY HON. D. V. WATLER

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. BILL INTRODUCED.

CLERK: THE ARBITRATION LAW, 1974.

SECOND READING

HON. G. E. WADDINGTON: Mr. President I beg to move Sir, the Second Reading of a Bill entitled the Arbitration Law, 1974.

Mr. President and Honourable Members at present there is no provision in the laws of the Cayman Islands for the settlement of disputes by arbitrators. The result of that is that either a dispute must be tried in Court with its consequent delays and

the expense, or if the parties decide on arbitration they have to enter a special agreement containing elaborate and detailed provisions with respect to the appointment of the arbitrators and the umpires and spelling out their powers under the agreement. The only alternative to that, Mr. President, is that the agreement can adopt the statutory arbitration provisions of some other jurisdiction. Now either of these alternatives is unsatisfactory, because it means that the agreement has to spell out every little matter that is required to be arbitrated and has to spell out all the powers, the various powers of the arbitrators or the umpires, and it is felt that with the rapid economic development of these Islands that it is high time that we had an Arbitration Law and so bring ourselves up-to-date with other jurisdictions. I cannot think of any other jurisdiction without a proper arbitration law.

Now I should say that we got along quite well apparently in the past by being able to use the Jamaican Arbitration Law, which even although it is not law her, has, I here again, this is really using the statutory provisions from another jurisdiction.

The attached bill, Mr. President is based substantially on Part I of the United Kingdom Arbitration Act of 1950 with some additional provisions empowering the Grand Court to refer questions arising in certain causes or matters for the determination by an Arbitrator or special referee. It is thought, Mr. President that this measure, this bill, will be welcomed in the commercial sector and I therefore recommend it for the favourable approval of this Assembly.

SECONDED BY: HON. D. V. WATLER

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members, opportunity for debate on the general merits and principles of the bill.

Honourable Members if no one wishes to take part in any debate, would the Second Official Member wish to make any other comment?

HON. G. E. WADDINGTON: Mr. President I am delighted to see that this is the second bill for the morning that has been accepted by the Assembly without any dissenting voice and nothing now remains, Mr. President but for me to formally move the Second Reading of the bill

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. THAT THE BILL BE GIVEN A SECOND READING.

COMMITTEE THEREON

MOVED BY: HON. G. E. WADDINGTON

SECONDED BY: HON. D. V. WATLER

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. THE HOUSE IN COMMITTEE

CLERK: CLAUSE 1 - SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 1 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 2 - INTERPRETATION.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 2 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 3 - AUTHORITY OF ARBITRATORS AND UMPIRES TO BE IRREVOCABLE.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 3 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 4 - DEATH OF PARTY.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 4 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 5 - BANKRUPTCY.

HON. G. E. WADDINGTON: May I ask, Mr. Chairman that in the sixth line, "against him so far as relates", that the word "it" be put in between "as" and "relates", to read; "so far as it relates to any such differences".

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 5 PASSED AS AMENDED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 6 - STAYING COURT PROCEEDINGS WHERE THERE IS SUBMISSION TO ARBITRATION.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 6 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 7 - REFERENCE OF INTERPLEADER ISSUED TO ARBITRATION.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 7 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 8 - PROVISIONS DEEMED TO BE CONTAINED IN ARBITRATION AGREEMENTS.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 8 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 9 - POWER OF PARTIES IN CERTAIN CASES TO SUPPLY VACANCY.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Mr. Chairman in Clause 9 (b) I would like to see the figure "7" changed to "14" it seems to me that 7 clear days is too short a time, because we know the difficulties that obtain here with people being off the Island and it seems like 7 days is a short time to give for the appointment of an arbitrator. I would like to see that extended to "14" days.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Has the Second Official Member got any comment?

HON. G. E. WADDINGTON: No particular objection to that, Mr. Chairman, except that it delays the proceedings a little longer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No strong views either way. All right resolve it.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. THAT THE WORD OF THE CLAUSE DO STAND AS IN THE ORIGINAL MOTION.

MEMBERS: NOES.

QUESTION PUT: The question is that the motion as amended to replace the word "seven" by the word "fourteen" in clause (b), line 3 be approved.

MEMBERS: AYES: CLAUSE 9 PASSED AS AMENDED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 10 - AGREEMENT FOR REFERENCE TO THREE ARBITRATORS.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 10 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 11 - POWER OF THE COURT IN CERTAIN CASES TO APPOINT AN ARBITRATOR TO UMPIRE.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. Chairman Clause 11 (d), we would also have to change that, I think to "fourteen" where we have "seven" now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is that right, Second Official Member?

HON. G. E. WADDINGTON: Yes, that would follow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion please.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Motion that in clause 11 (d) we change "seven" to "fourteen".

QUESTION PUT: That the words of the question do stand as in the original motion.

MEMBERS: NOES.

QUESTION PUT: The quest is that clause 11 (d) as proposed to be amended do form part of the bill. The amendment is that "seven" reads "fourteen, 7 lines from the end.

MEMBERS: AYES. CLAUSE 11 PASSED AS AMENDED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 12 - TIME FOR MAKING AWARD.

HON. G. E. WADDINGTON: Mr. Chairman may I ask for a slight

amendment in the second line, after the figures 18" to delete "of this Law", it is not necessary.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 12 PASSED AS AMENDED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 13 - POWERS OF ARBITRATOR OR UMPIRE.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 13 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 14 - COSTS.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: Mr. Chairman, could I ask the Second Official Member if in 14, which reads "any costs directed by an award to be paid shall unless the award otherwise directs be taxable in the Court" - could that be inserted that it could be an agreed cost or does this cover it because when we go to court we can either agree on the costs or have them taxed. Now I do not know if the Second Official Member would agree that this is taken care of by "otherwise direct" should be inserted in the Law, Sir.

HON. G. E. WADDINGTON: That is correct Mr. Chairman, that the words "unless the award otherwise directs" that means that the award could direct whatever way the costs should be either taxed or agreed.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 14 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 15 - TAXATION OF ARBITRATORS OR UMPIRES FEES.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 15 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 16 - INTEREST ON AWARD.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 16 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 17 - STATEMENT OF CASE.

HON. G. E. WADDINGTON: May I ask for a slight amendment to clause 17, opposite the reference to the Judicature (Administration of Justice) Law, in subclause 3, in the margin, "Cap. 74" should be inserted, and in the second to the last line the words "of this section" should be deleted.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 17 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 18 - POWER TO REMIT AWARD.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 18 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 19 - REMOVAL OF ARBITRATOR AND SETTING ASIDE OF AWARD.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 19 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 20 - POWER OF THE COURT TO GIVE RELIEF WHERE ARBITRATION IS NOT IMPARTIAL OR DISPUTE INVOLVES QUESTION OF FRAUD.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. Chairman I have a question on 20 that I think probably the Attorney-general could clear up for me. "It shall not be a ground for refusing the application of the said party at the time when he made the agreement, knew or ought to have known that the arbitrator by reason of his relation towards any other party to the agreement or of his connection to the subject referred might not be capable of impartiality". My question on that Sir, is "or ought to have known" in this day and age with us dealing with a lot of people from abroad that could be involved in cases of this nature whereby they might not know, or even their lawyers here might not know the relationship between different people, whether he could clarify this point for me as to how that would be taken care of.

HON. G. E. WADDINGTON: Mr. Chairman this phrase "ought to have known" is a common phrase in section of this nature, that is to say it means that where the circumstances where such that a Court could hold reasonably that a person "ought to have known" the existence of a certain fact, but for the lack of diligence on the part of that person then he will have come within the sanction of the section in that if he ought to have known then he should have known and this will depend, of course, on all the surrounding circumstances and it will be for the

Court to decide whether those circumstances were such that a person ought reasonably to have known of the existence of certain facts. In other words, if the Court found that he was deliberately shutting his eyes to certain facts, that would be a case where the Court could say "Well, on these circumstances we think that you ought to have known these facts and therefore the decision will be so and so".

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Really, what I am getting after is let us say that I was involved in a dispute with a person from abroad and he did not know too much about the Island and Mr. Haig Bodden was appointed as one of the arbitrators. Later on then he should want to bring cause to have him removed because of representing the same district and what not, whether in that case this should be legitimate reason of whether the Court would deem that he should have known before hand.

HON. G. E. WADDINGTON: Well, the thing that the person ought to have know, according to this section, is that the arbitrator may not be impartial, that is to say, perhaps I should read the entire section: --

> "Where an arbitration agreement provides that disputes which may rise in the future between the parties shall be referred to an arbitrator named or designated in the agreement and, after a dispute has arisen, any party applies on the ground that the arbitrator so named or designated is not or may not be impartial for leave to revoke the authority of the arbitrator or for an injunction to restrain any other party or the arbitrator from proceeding with the arbitration it shall not be a ground for refusing the application that the said party at the time when he made the agreement knew or ought to have known that the arbitrator by reason of his relation towards any other party to the agreement or of his connection with the subject referred to might not be capable of impartiality."

Now, this means that you can not seek to revoke the authority of the arbitrator on the grounds of his impartiality if, at the time when you entered into the agreement you either knew or hand reasonable grounds for knowing that the arbitrator, by reason of his relation towards the other party to the agreement or his connection, might not be capable of impartiality, so that if at the time you entered into the agreement there was reason for you to know this danger of impartiality, you should then open your mouth and say "sorry, we will not have that arbitrator", but, if knowing that, you proceed to arbitration, then you can not subsequently be heard to revoke the powers of the Court under this particular section. I do not know if I have made the position clear. In other words, the onus is on the party at the time if they know of anything that can cause any suspicion of impartiality to then open the matter and to make objection at that point and not knowing of it and then wait until after an arbitration award goes against them and then raise a point of that nature.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: One question of the Second Official Member, suppose the agreement appointing the arbitrators had been made a long time ago, let us say 20 years ago and certain things happened in those years to bias the judgement of the arbitrator, would there be any difficulty in removing them, although at the time they were appointed they were impartial, but circumstances change, could you remove them easily?

HON. G. E. WADDINGTON: Well, that is a matter of agreement. At that point, presumably no dispute would yet have arisen, so the necessity for the arbitrator to arbitrate would not yet have arisen. The agreement in other words, would be in an inchoate form, the agreement would not have materialized by a reference to the arbitrator. You can appoint an arbitrator today to arbitrate on any dispute which might arise in the future but those disputes might never arise, but if before the dispute arose it was discovered that an arbitrator might not be impartial, then of course that would be subject to further agreement between the parties. The parties could then terminate the agreement for arbitration and ask for other arbitrators to be appointed. And indeed the arbitration agreement itself could make specific provisions for such a contingency.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any further comments?

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 20 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 21 - POWER OF COURT WHERE ARBITRATOR IS REMOVED OR AUTHORITY OF ARBITRATOR IS REVOKED.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 21 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 22 - ENFORCEMENT OF AWARD.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 22 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 23 - REFERENCES BY ORDER OF THE COURT.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 23 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 24 - REFERENCES BY CONSENT OF PARTIES IN ANY CAUSE OR MATTER TO REGISTRAR OR SPECIAL REFEREE.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 24 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 25 - CLERK OR SPECIAL REFEREE OFFICERS OF COURT.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 25 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 26 - POWER OF COURT AS TO REFERENCES BY ORDER.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 26 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 27 - STATING CASE FOR OPINION OF THE COURT.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 27 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 28 - COURT OF APPEAL.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 28 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 29 - POWER OF THE COURT TO EXTEND TIME FOR COMMENCING ARBITRATION PROCEEDINGS.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 29 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 30 - COURT MAY ORDER WRIT OF SUBPOENA

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 30 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 31: MISCELLANEOUS POWERS OF COURT.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 31 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 32 - TERMS AS TO COSTS, ETC.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 32 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 33 - CASES TO WHICH THE CROWN OR GOVERNMENT IS PARTY.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 33 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 34 - APPLICATION OF LAW.

HON. G. W. WADDINGTON: Mr. Chairman may I ask that the words "of this section" in the second line after (2) in brackets be deleted.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 34 PASSED AS AMENDED.

CLERK: A Law to provide for the settlement of disputes by arbitration and to empower the Grand Court to appoint arbitrators or special referees in certain cases.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. TITLE PASSED.

HOUSE RESUMED

REPORT THEREON

MOVED BY: HON. G. E. WADDINGTON

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 54

MOVED BY: HON. G. E. WADDINGTON

SECONDED BY: HON. D. V. WATLER

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. STANDING ORDER 54 SUSPENDED.

THIRD READING

MOVED BY: HON. G. E. WADDINGTON

SECONDED BY: HON. D. V. WATLER

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. THAT THE BILL BE GIVEN A THIRD READING AND PASSED.

CLERK: THE ARBITRATION LAW, 1974.

THE TOURISM LAW, 1974
INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

HON. W. W. CONOLLY: Mr. President and Members, I beg leave of the House to introduce a bill entitled the Tourism Law, 1974.

SECONDED BY: HON. D. V. WATLER:

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President I beg to object to this and as I feel strongly that this bill, as presented to the House infringes on the limits of the Constitution under which this Government operates, that this bill before being considered by this House, be forwarded to the Commonwealth Office with the request that we get an interpretation from this from the constitutional lawyer.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: I second that motion.

MR. PRESIDENT: Yes the question obviously arises. I think we can deal with that, however, after we have discussed it, at least I should think so, if it is the wish of the House. So I am going to put the question, that leave be granted for the introduction of a bill be known as the Tourism Law, 1974.

HON. D. V. WATLER: Mr. President, I think - I am just going to refresh myself on the Standing Order. I think when leave to introduce a bill is opposed, the mover and the person objecting should state their facts and then the motion is put.

MR. PRESIDENT: I thought I had already done that.

HON. D. V. WATLER: It was just a very brief one - the mover has not had time to say anything as yet.

MR. PRESIDENT: No, that was why I wanted to bring the matter before the House. Do the movers of the motion wish to add anything to what has already been said?

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Yes, Sir, I will speak on it.

MR. PRESIDENT: Please do so.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President and Honourable Members, I am of the opinion that this bill, as presented to this House, gives the Member of Executive Council responsible for this powers which the Constitution under which we operate did not foresee to be given at this time to any Member. The Constitution is explicit in stating that final matters rest in your hands as the Queen's representative in this territory and under a certain section of this bill. It is clearly set out here that final recourse would really be in the hands of the Member responsible for Tourism.

Mr. President, there are other things I guess I could add to this which I will do if we go to debate, but at this point I think it is sufficient to ask this House to consider that we have been given a constitution on which there have been many pros and cons argued and either the Development and Planning Law will have

to be changed or the Constitution will have to be changed to allow this to happen, there is no provision under the Development and Planning Law for such a thing to take place, and, in my humble opinion, it would be taking powers away from your hands that you should be maintaining. I cannot see how Executive Council can act as the Court of Appeal on a hearing on application which is turned down in the Planning Department and then the same Member sits in further judgement in Executive Council on it Mr. President. I would interject here that if this was to happen we would then have to set up, in my mind, a complete impartial body to deal with appeals - appeals could not be dealt with any further in Executive Council because your Member of Executive Council would also be dealing with this as the Member for Tourism and Mr. President, regardless of how the Member might try to wear two heads under one had, it is impossible for it to be done.

So I respectfully submit that before we go any further into taking away the powers of the Constitution and giving them to someone of the Elected Members, which is not foreseen in the Constitution, Mr. President, that we respectfully submit this to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office asking for an interpretation. If they agree that it should come back to the House at that time I will be fully prepared as I am today to debate this bill, but before we do that I think every Member should, at this point, take this into consideration, whether it is in our power to change the Constitution. Frankly, I believe it is not in our power to do so and the Constitution as we have all sworn to uphold it, can only be changed at the wishes of the people after due consultation with Her Majesty's Government and this has not happened, and I respectfully submit that the Members give this some very good consideration before we allow this bill to go to debate. Thank you Sir.

HON. W. W. CONOLLY: Now, I hope I am complying with Standing Orders in putting the original question, namely that leave be granted to introduce this bill. Is that right? The Member can not speak to the bill until the bill is introduced. Now I can speak..

HON. D. V. WATLER: I think the Member has the right now to wind up the debate. I am speaking..

MR. PRESIDENT: On the motion...

HON. D. V. WATLER: On the motion, right, not on the bill. On the motion whether leave will be granted to introduce the bill.

HON. W. W. CONOLLY: I should have spoken first.

HON. BENSON O. EBANKS: It do not say that they can not grant it, you know. They can not grant it unless you were heard.

MR. PRESIDENT: Very well, the Clerk advises that the Member in question should reply on the motion submitted by the First Member for Bodden Town.

HON. W. W. CONOLLY: Mr. President and Members, I refute what the Honourable Member has said as far as this Law, taking away or changing or making any difference to the Constitution.

First of all I would like to quote the Constitution, what it says in Section 9 --

> "Subject to any instructions given to him by Her Majesty through a Secretary of State, the Governor acting in his discretion shall to the extent that he deems appropriate charge Members of the Executive Council with responsibility for business of the Government other than a matter mentioned in Section 7(1) (c) of the Constitution of any Department of Government. It shall be the duty of the Member so charged with responsibility to act in the exercise thereof in accordance with the policies of the Government as decided in the Council and in accordance with the principles of collective responsibility".

Mr. President, it is true that no legislation can override the Constitution which is the supreme legislation of the territory. As this section is the supreme authority of these Islands, that is our Constitution, the Cayman Islands Constitution Order, 1972. Now what

does this Law say? Could we refer to this Law in the interpretation of this Law. I would like to refer the Member to page 2, the definition of Member, "Member" as far as this Tourism Law, 1974 means the Member of the Executive Council for the time being charged with responsibility for Tourism in accordance with the provisions of Section 9 of the Constitution of the Cayman Islands. That means that whenever the word "Member" is used in the Tourism law, 1974 it is used in accordance with Section 9 of the Constitution which I have just read. So I can not see in any way where the Member can confuse the issue as the Member in this law being any other than the person who the Governor charges with responsibility for the time being on that particular Department.

Now it happens to be me, now, it could be somebody else tomorrow, but it is not me as a Member, as an individual. The word "Member" is used in this law is the collective responsibility of the Executive Council, and it is plain as day light, there is no question, I do not think this has to be referred any further than right on the floor of this House, because if one can read what is put before us as a definition and when it says that something will be done in accordance with something else, this matter which is the Constitution, then I can not see where the suggestion has come to mean anything else.

In any instance here where the word "Member" is used, it means the Member in his responsibility as in Section 9 of the said Constitution. Mr. President and Members I do not think that this needs any further explanation, I do not see where this, as I said before, where these different definitions of appellate body and what is coming in, because in legislation when a word is specifically interpreted and in this the interpretation section is clause 2, and it is states emphatically when the word "Member" is used, what it means. Not what anybody thinks it means, it is put down here and you can not read more into a law than what is actually here, and it says "Member" means the Member of Executive Council who for the time being is charged with responsibility for Tourism, and the Constitution, section 9 gives His Excellency the Governor the power to charge a Member with this responsibility. I can see that this is working in accordance with the Constitution and I think it goes without saying that it is well within the jurisdiction of this Constitution.

Mr. President, I do not know that I have anything further to add on this, Sir, (A Member - Section 6(4))... Section 6(4)... Could I ....

MR. PRESIDENT: May I have the Honourable Member's motion again, please?

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, fellow Members, my motion is based on the fact that section 6(4) of the Tourism Law, 1974 defines "Member" and it says that the Member may consult and further on it says; it shall not be bound by the advice of the Council, so if this is not taking away from the powers, Sir.....

MR. PRESIDENT: I do not want a second speech, Mr. Bodden, I want your original motion.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: I am leading up to that now, Sir. My motion is that this bill, as introduced to this House, takes away from you as the Queen's representative in this territory, power which is granted under the Constitution and which should not be taken away unless by consent of the people. And I move the motion that this be sent to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for a complete report as to the constitutionality of this going before the House, and that the bill be withdrawn and not submitted until such time as the House has been given that report from the Commonwealth Office.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Mr. President, I second this motion, if you need an original seconder.

MR. PRESIDENT: Well, again the Clerk advises the procedural way out of this one is to put the question that the words of the question do stand as in the original motion and then after that..

HON. W. W. CONOLLY: Could I interrupt, following on a statement, an incorrect statement that was made by the Member...

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, he is out of order too...

MR. PRESIDENT: Order - sit down, please. The advice given, which I have accepted is that the best way of dealing with this is first to put the question that the words of the question do stand as in the original motion. If that motion is accepted, then a separate question will be put for leave to introduce the bill. Therefore, Honourable Members, the question is that the words of the question do stand as in the original motion. Those in favour say aye, those against no.

MEMBERS: AYES AND NOES

MR. PRESIDENT: The ayes have it.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Could we have a division, Sir?

DIVISION

AYES: (10)	**NOES: (4)**
Hon. D. V. Watler	Miss Annie H. Bodden
Hon. G. E. Waddington	Mr. James M. Bodden
Hon. V. G. Johnson	Mr. G. Haig Ebanks
Hon. A. B. Bush	Mr. Craddock
Hon. Trevor Foster	
Hon. Benson O. Ebanks	
Hon. W. W. Conolly	
Mr. John Jefferson	
Mr. Claude Hill	
Capt. A. A. Reid	

MR. PRESIDENT: There are ten ayes and four noes. Honourable Members, the question is that leave be granted for the introduction of a bill to be known as the Tourism Law, 1974.

MEMBERS: AYES AND NOES.

MR. PRESIDENT: The ayes have it.

THE TOURISM LAW, 1974

HOUSE SUSPENDED FOR 15 MINUTES

HOUSE RESUMED

SECOND READING

HON. W. W. CONOLLY: I beg to move the second reading of a bill entitled the Tourism Law, 1974.

Mr. President and Members, in debating the Throne Speech, I tried to lay the foundation for the importance and the necessity of having legislation to control and to regulate tourism in the Cayman Islands, because tourism, as has been accepted contributes directly or indirectly more to our economy than any one other single item.

Mr. President and Members, prior to January the first of 1974, tourist activities in these Islands were regulated and controlled by a Law entitled the Tourist Board Law, 1965 and the Regulations, 1971. In an attempt to improve the supervision and the amenities generally of the tourist industry, the Government decided in 1973 that tourism should be a Department of Government, this, Members are quite aware of and from the beginning of this year we now have a Department of Tourism, which is a Government Department and run by a Director and staff, a fully Government Civil Service Department.

With tourism being a quasi commercial venture this Department is somewhat different from other Departments of Government as it has to maintain overseas offices, overseas connections.

The Bill which is before us today is a replacement to the Tourist Board Law, which I mentioned and it sets out here in the definition and interpretation of this law the interpretations of different words used in this law. A little earlier in the introduction we heard an opposition to the status of this law whether or not it was contravening the terms of our Constitution and I fee, Mr. President and Members, that this law is well within the jurisdiction of the terms of our Constitution and it can be well legislated.

There seems to have been a misunderstanding at this stage of the game because the Member who opposed the introduction of this bill referred to Section 6 (and I draw your attention, Mr. President and Members) in relation to the word "Council". The Member tried to misrepresent the words of the bill, I think section 6 is as clear as day light. It says that when this bill (if this bill is passed) there will be established that is called the Tourism Advisory Council. This is not Executive Council, this bill hereby establishes a Tourism Advisory Council to be appointed by the Governor (which means the Governor in Executive Council) and sub section (4) is what the Member is grounding his opposition on, and that says in connection with the performance of his functions the Member may consult the Council from time to time and may call meetings of the Council for that purpose but shall not be bound by its advice. This is not Executive Council, and Members I would like to read and understand .... (MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: We Understand...) This is a Tourism Advisory Council who will probably be made up of people from the private sector. This is fair, we had on the Tourist Board a Board consisting of prominent business people, some in the legal profession, some in the hotel industry, some in other forms of commerce, because tourism is so broad that it encompasses all of the varied enterprises in commerce and that is why it is good today for the Member (and it says that he is not bound to take their advice) but I would think that any sensible Member would heed and would take account of advice given to him from these sources.

Mr. President, I think one element of misunderstanding again is the part dealing with planning and I would like Members to go into this and if they have misread kindly read again.

It is as far as I am concerned, only normal that when it comes to planning permission for accommodation for tourists that the Department of Tourism should be consulted. Now when it comes to a point of planning, as far as a bank is concerned, or as far as a road is concerned, or as far as a private house is concerned, or as far as a subdivision is concerned, the Member nor the Department of Tourism would not have any business with that. But surely if a motel was applied for, the construction of a motel, who should be consulted? Would not it be reasonable to expect that the Department of Tourism, because this amenity is being provided for tourists and it is the responsibility of the Department of Tourism to see that proper accommodation and everything else is provided for people who we invite to these Islands.

I mentioned in debating Tourism in the Throne Speech how important tourism is. I mentioned that we have ourselves in the position here where we send out and we pay thousands of dollars to invite people to come to our shores, and it is our responsibility here to ensure that when those people who are led by our invitation come to us that we have the proper facilities for them. I wonder who those Members would blame, I wonder where the questions would come from if proper facilities were not provided for tourists? Surely they would be - can the Member for Tourism say why the Holiday Inn does not have more space for a bar, or why the rooms are cramped or something? Who would have been questioned? Who the questions would come from or come to? Would it be the Department, would it be the Member who for the time being is responsible for the Department? And whether I like it or whether you like it or whether the world likes it, I think it is a normal situation that the Department of Tourism in this Island should concern itself over the type of accommodation that is provided for tourists. I think that is one of their main functions and you can not say then that you must leave it alone, should we allow them, an investor or somebody else to put up anything to accommodate our tourists. I am sure you do not agree with that. I am sure you do not, deep down in your heart you do not.

Well, if it is the responsibility of the Member and if it is the responsibility of the Department of Tourism to see that this provision is made then I feel we should be notified. Now if you read this section carefully, it does not say

that the Member for Tourism can stop an application, it does not say that the Planing Board has to go by the Authority, it does not say that. What it says is this; ti say that the Member shall be notified of the said application in the manner prescribed and enclose a copy of such notification with his application to such Authority or Board. And if the Member gives notice to such Authority or Board of his objection to the said application the Authority shall not grant such application until it has given the Member a reasonable opportunity of objection thereto. Now it does not say that they will not approve it - what this law says that the Board, that is the Planning Authority or the Planning Board in Cayman Brac will give the Member an opportunity of his objection. This, Mr. President and Members is a reasonable thing, we do it in the Liquor Licensing Board. When a liquor licensing application comes before the Board a neighbour who is living next door, or any individual in the community has the right to come before the Board and present this objection. It does not follow as the day the night that the Board would just heed to that objection, the Board considers the application and on its merits, they consider also the objection, and on the merits, they either grant or refuse.

This, as far as I am concerned, I am no Parliamentary Counsel - I feel today (and I am convinced about this) that the responsibility for the development of tourism in these Islands rests with the Department of Tourism, the Member charged, the Member of the Executive Council, and his responsibility is, as I said before, is a collective way to the Executive Council. I feel like it is most important, this is an important thing, and I do not want it to be misconstrued that planning permission, no planning permit can be granted, or no planning permit can be entertained without the Department says yes. We are interested in the development of tourism, we are certainly interested in the type of accommodation, the quality of accommodation, the location and what not for our tourist. As long as I am charged with the responsibility of recommending to the Executive Council the quality for our tourists I shall do so.

Now, in the opposition to this law Members are making a lot of hew and cry over this law and what it says and what it does not say. I wonder how many people have read the old Tourist Board Law? The Tourist Board Law today in these Islands, (Law 38 of 1965) gave the Chairman of the Tourist Board and a Tourist Board comprised of Members who did voluntary service - a lot of control. It was a wide sweeping law. A lot of it was never implemented but from 1965 the year we launched out on tourism in any way - 8 years 1973, we have developed to a stage where, in any event, a new law was necessary. I would like Member not to confuse the issue with me, not to confuse this law in any way with personality. "Members" is defined, "Council" is defined, "Governor" is defined and everybody knows who the Executive Council is, at least Members here should know.

I do not wish Members to just disagree with this law because they have a right to disagree. I would be the first person to disagree with any law, or anything that in my opinion, and not in my opinion alone, Mr. President and Members. This law has been drafted by the Legal Department and despite what anybody says or does reference to London would mean referring to a lawyer, or the Legal Department, and I am not saying that man is not more than man, but I feel today that we have, in the presence of our Attorney-General, who has studied this law, who has looked after the Constitution and the implementation, I have taken his advice and I have accepted this document as being well within the jurisdiction of what could be legislated here. I would like Members to give consideration to the urgency of this law, because we need this law, if we need tourism (which I know you all agree we do need tourism), then we need legislation to protect it and to control it and to regulate it. We need to see that it continues, we do not want people, nor ourselves, outsiders nor sidewise people nor anybody to mess up our business. I think it is our concern here and if today the Department, the Member responsible, the Legal Department and Executive Council feels that this law will, in some way, go to make our achievement, what it should be, then I feel today Members should accept it and should not just try to twist things to make them try to read what one would wish.

Mr. President and Members, I am at this stage, seeking your support on this bill, a very, very important bill and I look forward on you, using your best and sincere mind to see that we get this bill pass. Thank you.

SECONDED BY: HON. D. V. WATLER.

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members, opportunity arises for a debate on the general merits and principles of the bill.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: Mr. President and Members of this House, first I would like to say that I would like the Honourable Fourth Elected Member of the Executive Council to at least accept the fact that the people on this other side can read.

I learned to read when I was three or four years old and as I said a few days ago when I went to school and passed the ABC, Anne with her doll, Infant Reader, First Book, Second Book. When I left school, I passed the Sixth Standard, I think it was called, passed my Pupil Teacher's Examination and set forth in the world. For 50 years I have been reading and at least I understand to know what I am reading. And if and when I have anything that I do not understand I have three large Webster's Dictionaries that I pursue and get my facts straight; Number 1.

Number 2: I would like the Honourable Elected Member to understand that I do not have anything personal and he must get that out of his cranium. I am not opposing this bill up to a point but what I am opposing is that the Tourist Board dabbles with planning.

You might as well tell me that the Collector of Customs (or I would call him the Director of Customs) should say what kind of a ship should be built to bring cargo into the harbour. I am not against tourism, I am not against the Director of Tourism or the Member of Executive Council, who we put there, and who has been charged with the responsibility for tourism. What I am against is this that we have a Planning Board, which I would say is not much good, nevertheless ....(INAUDIBLE - MIKE NOT TURNED ON)...

The Memorandum of Objects and Reason says; "At this stage in the development of the Cayman Islands it is considered expedient to replace the functions of the Tourist Board with a Department of Government to be called the Department of Tourism administered by an officer of the Civil Service called the Director of Tourism under the control of a Member of the Executive Council who will be the Member for Tourism and have recourse to a non-Governmental body" - what I would like to find out if a non-Governmental body is not a body, which I would say, is not a statutory board - that is what I understand from "non-Governmental" like the Liquor Licensing Board or the Educational Board which are non-Governmental. Now I believe I know what non-Governmental means. That body is to be appointed by the Governor in Council and called the Tourism Advisory Council. Now it goes on further to say that, as I understand it, this is like the two assessors in the Land Adjudication Bill, they are just there in an advisory capacity - you may take their advice and you may not take it. In the Liquor Licensing Board, which is a statutory Board, the Chairman of that Board cannot really override what the Members say - there has to be a quorum and whether we like it or do not like it the majority wins.

Now the bill provides that the funds available for the promotion of tourism by this means shall be voted by the Legislative Assembly, and that the Department of Tourism may cooperate with bodies and individuals in such manner as may appear advantageous from time-to-time. I do not object to that.

The bill provides that persons offering sleeping accommodation for more than six tourists will, in future, require to be licensed by a Board to be called the Hotels Licensing Board which shall consist of the Director and two persons to be appointed by the Governor in Council which will have power of inspection of premises and, where standards appear likely to bring discredit upon the Islands as a tourist resort, power to withhold, suspend, revoke or refuse to renew any licence; persons aggrieved by a decision of the Board in that behalf having a right of appeal to the Governor. Now, I am not like some people that I do not trust anybody. I trust some people up to a point and I trust our Government that there are Members of the House of Lords, as I heard it called, I do not call it House of Lords, I call them just our representatives to the Executive Council. I feel that they are Honourable and they would not do anything that will bring discredit on us. Nevertheless, I feel that if and when they have the authority, the Director of Tourism, the Member, or whoever it might be, have it in their power to refuse, they can do so. And to appeal, what are we going to get out of an appeal? IF it has already been decided that this premises is not suitable for tourism accommodation, we appeal, the appeal is lost, what then? I am not opposing the Tourism Bill because it is a bill brought in by anybody, what I am saying is that if we have a Planning Board that

Planning Board must function, must use its discretion and do not be led away by silly flattery and because I am so and so, I can get so and so. I am saying we have a Tourist Board which I say is doing a fine job. When we made that Tourist Law in 1965 we were scrabbling in the dark, now we are out of the dark, we are in early morning sunrise, but we are still not in the midday sun, and we must progress a little step at a time, but do nothing to at least make people think we are trying to usurp the authority that individuals would have.

I agree that we need a proper Tourist Board but I cannot and I will not agree with this. In the last paragraph of the Memorandum of Objects and Reasons "The Member is given a measure of control over planning development for the purpose of tourism in order to preserve and enhance standards as well as to ensure that the growth of the industry does not outrun the availability of manpower and other resources". I remember the First Elected Member to the Executive Council publicly stating in this House on many a time, as far back as 12 years ago, when we were talking about inviting tourists then more or less, that, and later on I think it must have been round about 1968 or so, that he and the Honourable Member from East End had to fight our own economist to get a certain hotel built on the Seven Mile Beach. That hotel has proven an asset but not everybody can build a Holiday Inn, or a Galleon Beach or a West Indian Club, or a Coral Caymanian - there are others who might have it in their minds to build smaller accommodation and I verily believe that the Tourist Board should not interfere in any way with what an ordinary poor person has to do.

Now, we are all humans and each one in this day and age of million dollars, they are grabbing to get all they can for themselves, and I am saying this, that I, if I have a large hotel on the West Bay Beach and I have the slightest inclination or thought or idea that if another large hotel is erected on the beach and I am on the Tourist Board as an adviser, Member or be what I may, and, unless I am a good solid, firm Christian who believes that each and every one of us is entitled to something good, I will use my effort and that man will not get any planning authority granted. Now, if I want to put it in East End or North Side and I am up there interested and I am not a good, solid Christian, I will manoeuvre my way and have this little small place put out of existence - it has been done before. And my colleague from George Town and myself we have fought this issue time and time again. And I still feel that as long as human is human they are hustling for themselves in this day and age. Now I do not oppose the bill as a tourist Board Law - what I am opposing is that the Tourist Board or any of its Members, Directors, Members or anybody has any authority vested in them whereby our Planning Board will have to consult them. The Planning Board is some good or its no good. I will say it is not all it should be but who is perfect? Name one human being in this Island, Grand Cayman today or the Lesser Islands that we could set up as a model of perfection and the Planning Board, I am not saying that they are all what they should be, I have my disagreement with them, this double A two ells building out here in the front, I strenuously opposed the little location of that, but I am no authority on building, I am not an engineer and while I object to its location and the small piece of land it is on, there are others who say that I am wrong and with land being so scarce and these banks want to come in overnight I suppose I shall have to bow to their rulings and accept what they in their wisdom have done. But I will not oppose this Tourist Law in principle, but I will oppose (although I know I shall be defeated) that any Member of tourism should have any say whatsoever in planning.

As of now I have heard people say that the accommodation here is alright - the objections that I have heard is this that these larger and better hotels are going to eventually out-price themselves to the stage where tourists will have to live only in these little small houses, so Mr. President, I will not oppose the bill on the ground of it being a remedy for what we now have in the Tourist Board: my objection is that the Tourist Board must bow to the Planning Board, or else do away with the Planning Board and put the Tourist Board in full control of planning, tourism and everything else. Thank you Sir.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, Fellow Members, in debating this issue I think that probably three of us will feel like the Bible said about John the Baptist - lone voices crying in the wilderness and I wonder why I guess we do take the time of the House to debate it, because we have already known, it has been shown as a foregone conclusion that the vote is ten to three. But be that as it

may, I think I should like to make a few remarks on this anyhow.

The Member referred to the bill and the controversy and the Members opposing sort of for opposition sake. I would like to remind the Member that yesterday there were several bills that passed this House and had let us say the unanimous consent of this House because those bills were not opposed and I am sure we could have found things in them to oppose if we had been opposing for opposition sake. But in coming here, Mr. President, we have to think what is good for the overall use of this country and although I would not oppose a Tourist Law I must say that I oppose the law, the Tourism Law which tries to make the Planning Board subservient to it.

I must, though, in criticizing, and the Fourth Elected Member to Executive Council a compliment, because I would say that so far in the handling of this matter, he has accomplished a quick conception, an early delivery, and in my mind, headed towards a miscarriage.

Once again we meet here to debate a law which we have copied. So few things we can do on our own. What has been good or what has been bad for Bermuda would not probably be good or bad for the Cayman Islands, but before we debate this bill any further, I would like to draw Members' attention to one fact and that is the overall implication of what is involved in this bill should we enact this into law. It is human for people to err and err we will. (I had to wake some people up). Anyhow, Mr. President, no human being is infallible. I am not saying that the Fourth Member or in any way trying to impugn him or whoever may follow him, but Mr. President, we still have to consider that this is a lot of power that we are contemplating today to vest in the hands of one individual. If we take the Objects and Reasons for the Tourism Law, 1974 and read them we will see that the aim is to cooperate with bodies and individuals in such manner as many appear advantageous from time-to-time. I will agree that it is very difficult for us to sit here and limit or put into this law a definition as to how the Fourth Elected Member should cooperate, but again, Mr. President I am always afraid of that word that we use so many times, "discretion". And this, Mr. President gives discretion above the knee and I feel we should cut some of this discretion out.

To go further along in the definition of the Objects and Reasons we read; "to revoke, or refuse to renew any licence; persons aggrieved by a decision of the Board in that behalf having a right of appeal to the Governor". Mr. President, when you take away a man's means of livelihood you are then forcing his back against the wall. So much power as the revocation of a licence or the renewal of a licence is certainly pushing an investor's back against the wall. Any animal, even the human animal, will fight when his back is against the wall. Mr. president, I feel like in the stage of our development that we are in we cannot afford to push two many animals back against the wall. I cannot agree to these Objects and Reasons, but before I leave this, I would like to touch on something else which is the definition of "Governor". It says here "Governor" means the Governor in Executive Council. Now this is where, to my mind, a lot of this controversy comes in, because on one hand we give this Member, who is a part of this body known as Executive Council, certain powers, and then we define "Governor" as being Executive Council composed of all these bodies, so then we are putting this man up in a position to where if, he turns down something, who do we appeal to? Can we appeal from Caesar unto Caesar, which is apparently what we are attempting to do in this case?

I cannot see how this can work. If this bill should be passed in this House this afternoon, or tomorrow morning, then I think another body should be set up which would handle appeals and appeals would then not rest to Executive Council, but the Fourth Elected Member cannot usurp the powers of the Planning Board in his Portfolio and make a decision against an applicant and then tell the same applicant, "Well, appeal it back to me, may be I will have a change of heart". Mr. President, this cannot work. Something or the other must be presented to us to convince us that this plan would work. We must have another board or some other definition to this law other than what we are attempting to do now.

To go further on this, the Objects and Reasons say that the Member is given a measure of control over planning development, for the purpose of tourism in order to preserve and enhance standards as well as to ensure that the growth of the industry does not outrun the availability of manpower and other resources. Mr. President, that is something else that we should touch further on - are we also putting this man in the position that he is

going to dictate to us all the manpower reserves, the economic resources for the Islands? Are we going to put our entire growth for the future into the hands of this one man? Mr. President, I think this is quite ridiculous for us to even be in here this evening discussing this matter - to think that under our present Constitution which I have alluded to before that we would think of giving this amount of power to one man. We are not just putting him in the position to control planning development for the purpose of tourism - he is also going to be judge and jury for the complete industry as to what will happen with manpower and what will happen to the economic resources that we may need in this territory. And if I am not right in saying that then something is wrong with the wording of this last sentence in here.

I feel, Mr. President, that anytime we talk about revoking or refusing a licence that that appeal should not just rest to the Governor in Executive Council but it should rest to the fullest extent of the Law Courts of this territory. That, in my mind is where justice would be carried out, not putting into our laws that the final control and the final say stops with Mr. So and So in Executive Council. I think we are not treating our people right when we subject them to this. In saying this, Mr. President, I can only come to one conclusion that the Member responsible for this is trying to legitimize illegitimate action that his Board has been taking and denying to us. February of last year, Mr. president, a Member from this House placed question before this Assembly asking and trying to get information as to whether the Board had taken such action in a certain case and if I remember correctly, and I stand to be corrected on this point, I think we have not yet really obtain a right answer to that, so Mr. President, what the Fourth Member to Executive Council is trying to do today with the support of the Government Bench is to legitimize the illegitimate action that his Board has been taking in the past because there was no where in the Planning Law that called for any application to go from the Planning Board to the Tourist Board before it would be acted on.

I was brought up quite short on the word "Council" as meaning the Tourism Advisory Council established under Section 6 and being human again I will admit that I was wrong there because I acted too quickly in trying to rebut my Honourable colleague from the other side, but I still have not changed my mind as to what the Executive Council and what the word Governor and what the word Member means, because it is completely defined down here and the word Member as defined means; the Member of Executive Council for the time being charged with responsibility for tourism in accordance with the provisions of Section 9 of the Constitution of the Cayman Islands. That is the Member, he is being charged under Section 9 of the Constitution, he is a Member of the Executive Council, he is responsible for Tourism. Section 9 of the Constitution tells us that subject to any instructions given to him by Her Majesty through a Secretary of State the Governor acting in his discretion (a beautiful word again) shall to the extent that he deems appropriate charge Members of the Executive Council with responsibility for any business of the Government other than a matter mentioned in Section 7(1) (c) of this Constitution in any Department of the Government.

Section 2; it shall be the duty of a Member so charged with responsibility to act in the exercise thereof in accordance with the policies of the Government as decided in the Council and in accordance with the principles of collective responsibility and to support in the Legislative Assembly any measure decided upon in the Council unless he has received the prior permission of the Governor to act otherwise or to support such a measure. They gets us right back, Mr. President, I would say to the gist of my argument that Council Members and Government you cannot break them away, because the Fourth Elected Member acting in his position as a Member of Executive Council and passing upon a decision has to act in accordance with the policies of the Government as decided in Executive Council, which means that if he turns down an application or before he can first turn down that application he must go to the Executive Council to find out if he has its approval of the Executive Council to turn that application down. When an appeal is made on that one point, Mr. President the appeal then has to come back to the Executive Council of which he is a part of it, and your decision has already been made. So we must remember one important point here that anytime we are talking about justice, justice must also appear that it is being carried out, not just done and Mr. president justice to our people will not be given under the Constitution if we apply this as it is mentioned in Section 9 of the

Constitution and in the definition of the Tourism Law.

In regards to the Planning Law, this has been a very controversy law as all of us know but I still say that the Planning Law and its Regulations should be comprehensive enough to where we could employ Civil Servants who would sit there, your application comes in, you have the standards with you into that Law and Regulations that you are supposed to go to, you pay your fee and it is either rejected or passed on right there. But do not tell us that the Planning Board, which we have legally constituted in this Assembly, on which we have some learned men, (sometimes I might think otherwise) sitting on it and then you are going to usurp the powers you have given them to place them in the hands of another man to say your decision is not final? Well then we must change the Planning Law because it cannot be applicable here. If you have given and set up a Board under the Planning and Development Law, now you are going to take it away from them and say you have no more powers? You can rebut me - you will have the opportunity.

When the Member speaks about tourism I do not think there is any Member in this Assembly that is not fully cognisant of all the good that tourism has been to this Islands, it is a very important thing, but the Member must also consider that today we may be reaching a point where we might be out pricing ourselves as far as tourism is concerned. There might come a time when it might be necessary for a lower type of building to be built that will not cost as much money as the Holiday Inn or a Galleon or a West Indian Club hotel, in which to cater to a certain class of tourists that might be coming here. We might not be fortunate in the next five years to continually getting the middle income bracket and above and the rich people coming to these Islands. But Mr. President, also the other important point that my learned colleague over there should consider is the cheap wages that are being paid in these establishments. I agree I went off, I strayed. But I wanted to get the point across to you.

Section 4(1) of this proposed bill (d) improve the basis of tourism and to control factors which may affect it adversely, who will be able to define these factors? Who will define whether the affect is adversely? Mr. President, what is one man's meat may be another man's poison. We are here giving power into the hands of an individual that is going to affect not only what is in existence in Cayman today or in the Cayman Islands today but what will probably be in existence for the next 15 to 20 years. Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power tends to corrupt absolutely.

Mr. President, when I think about these factors and how they may affect it adversely, I immediately think of the Natural Resources motions where we had to have a building completed by 1st April. This could be something that could be interpreted again under this that would be detrimental to someone who might be trying to build a hotel.

Section 5 (2) - "The Department shall, subject to the direction and control of the Member, be under the supervision of a public officer known as the Director of Tourism". Once again we are defining, we are saying the powers of this man, Mr. President, what a subtle way to tell us that we have reached the powers of Internal Self-Government and that we are giving them to the Fourth Elected Member. I am sure he is very pleased to see it because this is a matter, Mr. President that he has pushed in the background for so many years and now he can sit over there and say "It is a bad thing now"., but for so many years it was a very good thing. I am sure he is very pleased this afternoon to know that when we are through debating this evening and this Law is passed that he will finally have in his hands the power, at least for one Department, that he has been preaching for so many years.

Section 6, in regards to this Council. I will agree with the Honourable Member over there that my interpretation is looking at it in a hurry was wrong, that Council here is the Tourism Advisory Council, but if we take subsection of that it says; "In connection with the performance of his function, the Member may consult the Council from time-to-time and may call meetings of the Council for that purpose but shall not be bound by its advice". He is not bound by any advice, because we have already given him all the advice, we have already given him all the power that could be delegated from Executive Council, so Mr. President, I still have to try, in my mind, to get an answer as to what is going to happen when a person has had an application before the Planning Board, it is turned down by the Member in question and then that applicant makes an appeal to Executive Council, (Ah, you are shaking your heads) I would like

you to tell me, where you are going to put it, where is the appeal going? There is no place here to take care of it because the man has already acted on it.

Section 9 (1) - the minimum requirements. Where are we going to get a standard? Where are we going to get a standard that is going to tell us what these minimum requirements will be? Who will set this up? What will be the guidelines under which we will work? Does anyone know? Can anyone tell the people.

Section 10 (2) - "An operator or prospective operator who is aggrieved by a decision of the Board made under Section 9 may within 15 days of service upon him of notification of the decision appeal there against to the Governor by notice in writing in the prescribed manner and in accordance with prescribed procedure and the decision of the Governor shall be final and binding upon the operator". Mr. President, again we get to the cornel of this argument. We have defined the word "Board", we have defined the word "Member", the word "Governor", now this is where the shaking of the heads is going to tell me that this appeal was handled, but I say again how can it be handled under Section 10 when in the first place that decision was made by Executive Council. We must get something else into this Law that will guarantee the rights of the people, than you sitting in judgement twice. This is all you are trying to do.

Mr. President, in dealing with that section there it reminds me of a section in our present Planning Law where on the waterfront property it gives certain grid reference and tells of certain areas in the George Town vicinity on which no buildings can be built. Yet, Mr. President under our Planning Law it says that no building, yet I want to bring to the attention of this House in case none of you have noticed it that contrary to that a building is going down on the waterfront now inside of this grid reference - how did we get it approved? Who approved it? This Honourable House owes an explanation to the people of this community as to how this happened and I would not like to have to be back in here arguing this one again because I see that is what is going to happen. We are going to give these powers, and we are going to give them until every one of us is going to be sorry we have given them. I will be posing a question shortly in this House asking for a full explanation and if it means asking for a Royal Commission to study it I will do that too. But these are the very things that we have to argue about, when we stop and think that today we are willing to give up, or let us say, bind ourselves in the chains of oppression, just to please some few.

Section 11 Mr. President, once more I will have to ask how can we grant such powers to one man answerable only to his maker, because he can fully block anything under this section that he would like to do and we hear about the reasonable opportunity, what is reasonable? How reasonable must we get? We should further define that, but, Mr. President, one of the things that worries me about this bill and what has worried me for a long time, the very things that we are debating here is what has caused the disillusion of the great British Empire, is the insular approach to problems and politics. Believing that the advice can only come from the inside circle and that on the outside circle all people are idiots. And I hate to see such a bill as this put or foisted upon the people of these Islands just because people, I think, are not fully understanding all the implication of this bill and just because you are telling us from that side that it is a good thing.

Then we come to Section 12, the fines are really not too bad, I can see his compassionate heart was working at that stage.

Mr. President, I would like to sum up by saying I stand strictly against this bill as a law that would give these powers of the Planning Board into the hands of a Member from Executive Council, I do not stand in one sense against the Tourism Bill, because I can fully realise that some control is necessary and a man should be able to control his Department to an extent, but Mr. President, I cannot agree that that extent is large enough to involve giving him the powers that usually rests in the hands of the Planning Department.

Those powers should remain where they are at and I would not be against the Member, may be, acting in an advisory capacity without a vote but I certainly would not want to see him in charge, not just him alone, it could be any of you, I am not fighting this from the point of personality, I am fighting it from the point of what I believe in that to give this power into the hands of

just one Member of Executive Council, taking away the right of appeal from an individual, that it is wrong. And I can only hope, Mr. President, that in the near future, the wise men of the House of Lords will wake up and see visions instead of dreaming empty dreams, because we must be dreaming a lot of these to try to bring them before the House and foist them upon us to where it becomes a law.

So Mr. President I hope that all the Members of this House will fully consider this bill and not be embarrassed to have to say "No" when they have already said "Aye". Thank you.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Mr. President and Honourable Members, I rise in opposition to this bill. My colleague from Bodden Town and the Lady Member from George Town have pricked a few holes into it. I intend to blow it up completely. This law is bad, many sections of it are bad. It puts too much powers into the hands of one man. It should be rewritten. Some sections of this come very near to contravening the principles of British Justice. The penalties are bad, the fees are bad, the appeals are bad, everything about it is bad. (MEMBERS LAUGHTER). I intend to go through it very quickly but at the same time I hope that I will get a lot across.

I heard on the outside that this law was copied from the Bermuda Law, I do not know if this is true. The Member, in introducing it, did not see fit to tell us, although the Second Official Member told us awhile ago where the Arbitration Law had come form, but I can only say this if this law is copied from the Bermuda Law there is no wonder that the Governor was shot.

Now I would like to examine certain sections of this Law. I read about the setting up of the Tourism Advisory Council, but on closer examination I see that the Council is useless. The Member, to read the exact words "shall not be bound by its advice". If this is a dummy institution we are setting up what is the purpose of it? Is it to blind the eyes of the public or it is just a camouflage. The Tourism Advisory Council will consist of five Members who shall hold office, not for a certain time, although a calendar year is mentioned, but there is a qualifying clause, "only or at the pleasure of the Governor". You not only appoint the Members for a time but the appointment is subject to the pleasure of the Governor. But since the dummy institution of the Tourism Advisory Council really has no effect and has no power at all, I will not deal with that in any greater detail.

Now I come to a Board - the Hotels Licensing Board, which is set up under this Law. One examination we see that the Hotels Licensing Board will consist of the Director of Tourism, who, because he is a public servant, is appointed by the Governor. The other two Members of the Board are also appointed by the Governor which here means the Governor in Council and these two other Members also hold office at the pleasure of the Governor, meaning the Governor in Council. So we have a situation where the entire Board is set up by the Governor in his capacity as Head of State and also by the Governor in Executive Council. There are three Members, set up by the Board, and by the Governor in Council. Any decision from this Board must go again to the Governor which means to the Governor in Executive Council. Not only does the decision go to the Governor, but his decision, reading the exact words in the law, "shall be final and binding upon the operator of the Hotel", or whatever it may be in which the tourists would be housed. So what do we have here?

We have a case where a Board is set up. If a person is aggrieved by the decision of the Board, that aggrieved person can appeal, but he could only appeal to the Governor in Council, which means that he will be appealing against the body that had been appointed by the Appeal Body, a very peculiar situation. If you are not satisfied wit the decision of the Hotels Licensing Board then you can go to the people who set up the Hotels Licensing Board and ask them to consider your case. I cannot see how this can be right, the appeal should not be final. Your appeal in this matter should go to the Grand Court. Why should it rest with the Governor in Council who has been instrumental in setting up the lower courts. I do not feel that any appeal from this matter, from the Hotel Licensing Board should go to Executive Council at all, but even if it did go there, there should be a further appeal, because the Hotels Licensing Board, set up under this law, consists of the Director, who has been appointed by the Governor in Council. And the peculiar part about it is that the Members of the Board hold their office "at the pleasure of the Governor", which means that they had better behave themselves or

they cannot hold the office. If the office was held for a period of time, well they could do what can be kicked out at any time, because they hold their office at the pleasure of the Governor.

Tell me in ordinary language what chance would a person appealing against the decision of the Hotels Licensing Board have, if they make their appeal to the people that set up the Hotels Licensing Board. What is the use of Caesar appealing unto Caesar? To me this is a flagrant violation of the principles of British Justice. Now I could understand such a situation existing in a country that did not pretend to have a democratic Government. I cannot see why it should exist here. Furthermore, I see no provision for a quorum for this Board. Will there have to be a majority vote of the Board or can one person determine the results? If a meeting of the Board is called for Monday morning and only one person turns up, as far as I can see, that one person could carry out all the business of the Board. The only stipulation is that the Board can regulate its own procedure. If the Board, it seems to me, decides that one Member can carry out the business the others can stay at home. Perhaps they may take it in turns and come out on alternate sittings and each person decides on the thing that is peculiar to him.

I see that certain fees will be charged and the operator must pay the prescribed fee and conform with the prescribed minimum requirements. Will these fees be made by the Hotels Licensing board or will they be made by Executive Council? Will the Members of this Assembly have an opportunity to see what these fees look like before they are charged?

The Board has very broad powers, it has the powers to revoke, suspend, refuse to renew and operator's licence, may impose conditions subject to which such licence shall be granted or continued. Now, a hotel operator is not a criminal, he is a man trying to make a reasonable living in an honest way. If you refuse to renew his licence, you will be putting him out of business. I think it was Shakespeare that said, "You take my life, if you take the prop that doth sustain my life". Because his licence can be refused unless he meets the stipulations of the Board within 21 days. It says, let me read Section 2 or 9 (2), "If in the opinion of the Board any operator has failed to comply with the prescribed minimum requirements the Board may withhold, revoke, suspend or refuse to renew such operator's licence or may impose conditions subject to which such licence shall be granted or continued by giving 21 days' notice to the operator to that effect in the prescribed form". How much time will this man be given to correct whatever is wrong?

Now Section 11 is the section that has been attacked by the Lady Member from George Town and the First Elected Member from Bodden Town, but I consider it the worst section in the entire bill and I will make a few comments on it. In it I read that when a person is putting in an application to the Planning Board that person shall notify the Member of the said application in the manner prescribed and enclose a copy of such notification with his application to such Authority or Board. Here we have a marriage of convenience between the Planning board and the Hotel Licensing board, or perhaps we have a death bed marriage, like the one mentioned by the First Member this morning. When your plans go to the Planning Board you send a copy to the Member and no action can be taken right away. The Planning Board has to wait for 21 days to find out whether the Member is going to object. I read that here, "If no objection is made by the Member within 21 days of the receipt by such Authority or Board of the application for planning permission accompanied by the copy of the notification the Authority or Board shall proceed upon the assumption that the Member has no objection to the application". A would be hotel operator puts in his plan to the Planning Board, sending a copy to the Member and the Board cannot do one thing, it must wait out 21 days to find out if the Member will object, why should you have such a situation? If you want to say that the Member can object, well let him object right away, as soon as he receives the plan. Let him call the Planning Board, or write a letter to the Planning Board saying that "I have some objection and will set them out later, "but no the hands of the Planning board are tied automatically for 21 days, everything is held up to find out whether the Member will, or will not object.

Does it always take the Member 21 days to give his assent or his dissent to a question involving tourism?

Now the Member has a right to make an objection, the bill does not set out what would be the result if the Member made an objection, perhaps they know that we would know the result if the Member objected there would be no hotel. The Planning

Board would not proceed with the plan. This is where the human factor enters into it. We could have a situation where the Member might himself be a hotel owner, he might have a close friend in the business, it is quite possible, although our present Members does not, at this time own a hotel, it is quite possible that if the First Elected Member from Bodden Town remains in the House and becomes eventually the Member for Tourism that he could have places which cater to the accommodation of tourists, it is quite conceivable that this situation could happen. So we may have a Member that has an interest in an Hotel, he might have his own ownership of the hotel, his wife might own it, a very close friend might own it and here this one person has the right to object to a plan. We are only human beings and I would think that any Member who had a direct pecuniary interest in a hotel would not want another hotel on his door step and if he had the power to object, he would be a fool not to object to it. And if he were a fool I do not suppose he would be the Member responsible. But not only that, look at the great responsibility you have thrown in the lap of this Member - he is asked as a layman, to do what the architect at the Planning Board would not be able to do. Planning is a specialized business. We pay large sums of money to the Planning Department so that we can employ men with the knowledge and the expertise and the skill in planning, men who have spent years in training, they know about building, they know what is good and they know what is bad, yet we are going to take a layman to object to the putting up of a hotel? This does not seem right. We must remember that if an investor is going to put up an hotel he too must have previously consulted planners and architects to design his hotel and yet a layman can say this is no good for tourist accommodation. Do you think any investor, whether he be big or whether he be small would put in plans for tourist accommodation if he had not previously consulted somebody with some little knowledge of planning? Would he be spending money to put up tourist accommodation if he knew that the tourist accommodation were not up to a certain standard, and yet we will call a layman in these matters, a man off the streets, in these matters to say that this accommodation is not good. It does not matter whether it be a three bed room house that will sleep six tourists or whether it be a multi million dollar hotel, remember that the man who is putting up the two cottage resort his little investment is just as much to him as the multi million dollar hotel, so that whether the accommodation be big or whether it be small, the would be investor would have gone into this matter and would have known before hand that he was providing suitable accommodation which would be rented by tourists. If the would be operator was a fool he would not be investing his money, he would be throwing it away, so when he goes to all the expense and all the trouble of getting plans ready for the Planning Board he knows in advance, he would know in advance, whether his plans were good, or whether his plans were bad. And if they were not, the Member for Tourism, unless he were a man skilled in planning, would not know whether the plan was good or not. It is quite possible that the Member for Tourism would be just as ignorant as I am of what is proper accommodation and what is right in planning.

I will not belabour that point any longer, although I feel so worked out about it that I could probably continue until adjournment.

Here I would like to disagree with the Member from Bodden Town, just on a little point. He said that the fines did not look to be exceedingly harsh, or some words like that. They are very bad, they are the worse I have seen. If you examine them closely you will not that they are far worse than even the one thousand dollars a day that has gone into the Mosquito Safety Law, or whatever it is.

One section says that there is fine not exceeding five hundred dollars or imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or both (HON. W. W. CONOLLY THANK YOU). And what is this $500 fine and six months imprisonment for? Whoever fails to make any return required of him to be made under this law, or to comply with any order or direction of the Member no matter how stupid it may be (although that is not written in the law) but the implications are there. I am glad to see that the conscience of the Members of Executive Council are not disturbed by these heavy penalties for this type of offence as they would be if this was applied to some crime.

We have here again an operator, is an honest business man trying to do a good job, contributing his share to the development of tourism in this Island and here we have a penalty of $500 or six months imprisonment or both, if he is not lucky. For

what? Because he failed to make any return or because he failed to comply with any direction of the Member.

But Section 12(1) is not where the heavy penalties are, 12(2); but it is put in such a manner that it deceived me on the first reading and has also deceived other Members, because when they objected to the $1,000 a day fine this morning they did not realize that the way this is written it could be far more. Let me read it, it says;

> "Whoever after the 1st day of January, 1975, operates or attempts or offers to operate any tourist accommodation when not licensed in that behalf is guilty of an offence and is liable upon summary conviction to a fine not exceeding $100 per day in respect of every tourist to whom such accommodation is provided or offered".

A hundred dollars a day does not sound like much money, it is not, but a $100 a day for every tourist is a lot of money.

In the Throne Speech we were told about plans for a 194 room hotel which I assume could accommodate 380 persons. Now if the operator of that hotel failed to, lets say, renew his licence, he could be fined for a single day $38,800 under this law $100 a day for every tourist and that is 271,600 weekly or over one $1 million monthly. And if he was persistent he could be fined $14,162,000 in one year. (MEMBERS LAUGHTER) It is ridiculous but that is what is written in this law.

Now even the four Member like the ones on this side who have just graduated from Anne and her Doll, even us, can look into this and see how ludicrous, how ridiculous is the fine. $100 per day in respect of every tourist to whom such accommodation is provided or offered. This is certainly some food for thoughts, that we have here a law on our books to deal with the man who is doing us good, the investor who is bringing in his money here or to the local person who is ambitious enough, and we put such a thing in our law where he could be fined fourteen million dollars for one year's operation, where he could be fined nearly forth thousand dollars for a single day's operation. This is certainly not the kind of penalty we should have in a law like this. If this was arson or murder or treason I could understand it.

I wonder if this section, if these penalties come from the Bermuda Law or whether they came out of our own Executive Council, I would rather believe that they were copied, because I would not like to think that we have Members who would devise this in the recesses of their own minds. And the law is so clear on it "every tourist" written in the singular gender, there is no ambiguity here. Very clear cut and very convincing, you had better obey your Member of Tourism.

If a family of five, let us say, father, mother, three children stayed at a little cottage for 21 days, the fine would be ten thousand five hundred dollars for each person, no I am sorry, it would be a total of then thousand five hundred dollars for the 21 days stay. I mean, is this the way to treat an operator who we are trying to lure here so that you can develop your business? These are frightening things and I hope they will not get around to the ears of the investors, but they had better complain because it is written and I know that once it is written our seven man party system will guarantee its passing into law.

I hate to come to the end of this (MEMBER - LAUGHTER) but there are certain things I do not like. I do not like to pass this - if there is any deficit after winding up the tourist Board it shall be met from the revenue of this Government. I do not like to see that at all. Apparently it will not even be necessary to have an Appropriation Law to cover it, the expense to which this law has gone has put an all powerful and an all embracing umbrella over this particular business and into the hands of this particular Member. But there is one little mitigation clause, that is the final clause, Clause 16 which says that "for the removal of doubt....." it will not be necessary to have a licence under the Trade and Business Licensing Law. This is heartening news for anyone who has the courage to seek an operator's licence.

The Memorandum of Objects and Reasons is the longest one I have seen on any bill that has come before this House during my time. If any one reads the law you can see why it needed such a long memorandum and you can also see why it had such a rousing introduction by the Member.

Fellow Members, I cannot vote for any section of this Bill, it is no good of me saying that I support it in principle. I do not. I support the tourist industry and I realize that we must have a law to govern the tourist industry but this bill is not the answer. And I am glad of one thing, no Member, so far, has spoken in support of this bill, and the way the debate is going, the Member who introduced the bill, must be getting worried; three Members so far have spoke, none of them have had a good word for it and from the expression on the faces of other Members, I think this bill is going to get similar treatment from the other Members, and I hope that this bill will be defeated. Thank you.

MR. CLAUDE HILL: Mr. President, Honourable Members I think the last Member has a surprise. I rise to support this bill. I may be called a "yes-man" but I would like first of all to bring to the last speaker's attention the remarks made of other countries, in speaking disrespectful of one of Her Majesty's servants who died through circumstances in that particular country. We here in the Cayman Islands, I quote the Throne Speech; "are most fortunate, or the fortunate Islands". Let us try to continue in our fortune and remarks made on happenings in other countries do not get us anywhere.

As I say my contribution of this bill is a surprise to the Member because he said that other Members apparently may not be speaking in favour.

As we should be aware of the fact that this bill seeks to make a law to control our planning development for tourism. This is made in order to preserve and to build standards so that the industry does not outrun the ability of our manpower and other measures. It is a known fact that we are running out of man power here mostly in skilled labour and we have complaints continually in this House that immigrants coming here taking jobs from the local people.

I do not think that the accommodation for the tourist should be left in the hands of the Planning Board, I feel that the Tourist Board should have some say in the tourist industry as far as the accommodation for tourists in the Islands and that we have a Member who will bring back to us a report to this House in respect as to why certain things take place in the tourist industry and we should not sit here this afternoon and tie the hands of the Member who is in charge of tourism.

We live in a democratic world and we are here to express our views and I feel that we must be conscious, self-conscious in expressing our views. I thank you, Sir.

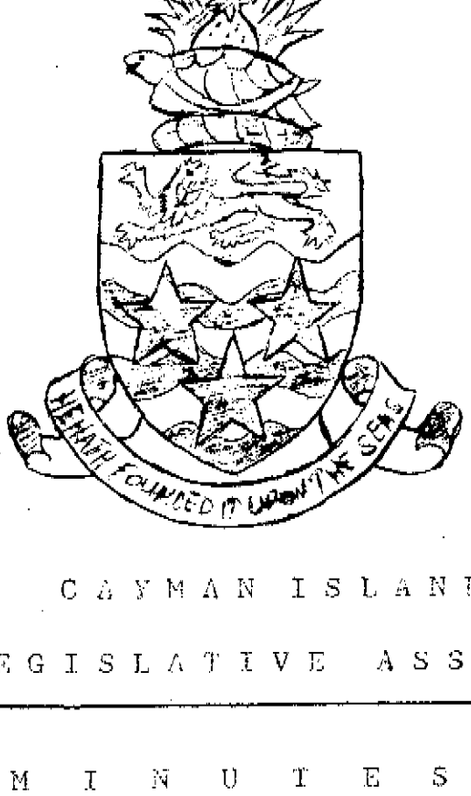
MR. PRESIDENT: I was just going to say that I am prepared to go on as long as anybody likes, but I do not see much chance of finishing this tonight. I am quite prepared to entertain a motion for the adjournment if anyone wants to make it.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, I move that we adjourn until 10:00 o'clock tomorrow morning.

MR. JOHN JEFFERSON: Seconded.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. **AT 5:40 P.M. THE HOUSE ADJOURNED UNTIL TUESDAY MORNING, 19TH MARCH, 1974.**



C A Y M A N I S L A N D S

L E G I S L A T I V E A S S E M B L Y

M I N U T E S

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OFFICIAL REPORT

BUDGET AND FOURTH MEETING

OF THE

1974 SESSION OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY 20th NOVEMBER, 1974

PART I

WEDNESDAY 20th NOVEMBER, 1974

PRESENT WERE:-

His Excellency the Governor, Mr. Thomas Russell, CBE - President

GOVERNMENT BENCH

Hon. D.V. Watler, OBE., JP	First Official Member
Hon. G.E. Waddington, CBE., QC.	Second Official Member
Hon. V.G. Johnson, OBE	Third Official Member
Hon. A.B. Bush, J.P.	Second Electoral District, George Town (Member for Works, Communications and Public Transport).
Hon. Trevor Foster	Third Electoral District, Lesser Islands (Member for Inter-Island Co-ordination and Information).
Hon. B.O. Ebanks	First Electoral District, West Bay (Member for Education, Medical, Health, Social Services and Labour)
Hon. W.W. Conolly, OBE., JP	Sixth Electoral District, East End (Member for Tourism, Lands, Natural Resources, MRCU, Agriculture and Surveys).

ELECTED MEMBERS

Mr. John Jefferson	First Electoral District, West Bay.
Miss Annie H. Bodden	Second Electoral District, George Town.
Mr. Claude Hill	Second Electoral District, George Town.
Capt. A.A. Reid	Third Electoral District, Lesser Islands.
Mr. James M. Bodden	Fourth Electoral District, Bodden Town.
Mr. G.Haig Bodden	Fourth Electoral District, Bodden Town.
Mr. Craddock Ebanks	Fifth Electoral District, North Side.

ORDER OF THE DAY

BUDGET AND FOURTH MEETING OF THE (1974 SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND PRESENTATION OF A MACE TO THE CAYMAN ISLANDS LEGISLATURE BY THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA AND THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA TRUST COMPANY (CAYMAN) LIMITED.

WEDNESDAY, 20th NOVEMBER, 1974

COMMENCING AT 10 A.M.

1. PRESIDENT'S PROCESSION (SEE PROGRAMME)

2. PRAYERS REV. DR. A. N. BANKS

3. PRESENTATION OF THE MACE (SEE PROGRAMME)

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

RESUMPTION OF THE HOUSE

4. GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF BILLS,ETC. TO BE PRESENTED AT A SUBSEQUENT SITTING: BY HON.D.V.WATLER, OBE., J.P. FIRST OFFICIAL MEMBER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.

5. UNOFFICIAL NOTICES OF MOTIONS TO BE PRESENTED AT A SUBSEQUENT SITTING: BY MESSRS. JAMES M.BODDEN AND G. HAIG BODDEN (CONSTITUENCY OF BODDEN TOWN)

6. CAYMAN AIRWAYS, LIMITED - FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDED 30th SEPT.1973. CAYMAN AIRWAYS, LIMITED - DIRECTORS' REPORT TO BE TABLED BY FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

7. DRAFT ESTIMATES OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR 1975 LAID ON THE TABLE BY THE HONOURABLE VASSEL G. JOHNSON, OBE., FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND THIRD OFFICIAL MEMBER.

8. THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1975 (FIRST AND SECOND READINGS).

FINANCIAL STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

SUSPENSION OF THE HOUSE
LUNCHEON PERIOD

RESUMPTION OF THE HOUSE

9. GOVERNMENT BUSINESS: -

BILLS; -

(a) The Banks and Trust Companies Regulations (Amendment) Law, 1974
(b) The Companies (Amendment) Law, 1974
(c) The Customs (Amendment) Law, 1974.

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS.

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BUDGET AND FOURTH MEETING OF THE (1974) SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND PRESENTATION OF A MACE TO THE CAYMAN ISLANDS LEGISLATURE BY THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA AND THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA TRUST COMPANY (CAYMAN) LIMITED.

WEDNESDAY, 20th NOVEMBER, 1974

MR. PRESIDENT: Please be seated.
I call on Mr. Craddock Ebanks.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: Mr. President, Honourable Members of the Assembly, the Honourable Fleming and his Party, distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. Someone has said the best way to make a welcome speech is to make a big joke and keep the tears back, this I will try to do.

Even though time will not allow me to wander around to find the most appropriate words for this occasion, as I will move along I will be brief. I must say that it's a privelege, and an honour to be able to extend to the Honourable Donald Fleming and his Party a warm welcome to these our shores, and not only to our shores, but to the Chamber of this Legislative Building. And as you and your Party are welcomed to this Chamber, I trust you will be relaxed with the feeling that the relationship between your Bank and the Legislators, and the people on the whole will grow stronger and stronger as the years come and go, that there will always be that bonded relationship.

On behalf of the Honourable Members of this Assembly, I again welcome you to the building for the unique occasion of presenting to this Honourable Legislature the Mace as a token of true relationship, which will go down in the history, for which I am proud.

Mr. Fleming, I further extend to you and your Party the warm welcome to visit the Assembly at any time while in Session, when time and opportunity will allow you. Again, I say, I am proud to be able to take a part in this ceremony, for such an occasion, and wish for you every success in the future, and may the Lord bless you. Thank you.

MR. PRESIDENT: I call on the Honourable Donald Metheun Fleming, PC., QC., to reply.

HON. DONALD M. FLEMING: Mr. President, I esteem it a singular honour to have this opportunity of addressing you and the Honourable Members of this Legislature. I begin by thanking Mr. Craddock Ebanks for his kindly words of welcome, and thank him and Mr. Bush for escorting my colleagues and myself into your Chamber today.

I represent here today, two institutions, one, a very old Canadian institution, the other a strictly Caymanian institution. It's a happy blend, and I hope that these two institutions together are rendering their constructive, and I hope durable contribution to the growth of this community, and to its expansion in importance in all the world.

Associated with me, are Mr. Smith, the Manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia, and Mr. Ellis, the manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia Trust Company (Cayman) Limited. I extend to you, the sincere regret, which I personally share very deeply, of Mr. Thomas Boyles, the Chairman of the Bank, that he is unable to be here today. He had looked forward to being present and taking part in this ceremony, with your permission. The date, however found him engaged in preparation for an annual meeting, which experience must be not unlike the experience through which the Financial Secretary has been passing in recent days in preparation for the duty that he is to perform in this Honourable Chamber, later this morning. And I cannot fail to express to the Clerk of this House, your distinguished and esteemed Clerk, Mrs. McLaughlin, my personal

HON. DONALD M. FLEMING (CONT'D): thanks, and the thanks of the two institutions which I have the honour to represent, for the most considerate and highly efficient way in which she has conducted all the preparations involving us today.

I, having delivered six budgets myself, in other days, I can sympathise with Mr. Vassel Johnson, this day, Mr. President, I can only commend to him the words of a famous french Minister of Finance, the Baron Louis, who was Minister of Finance in the days of the Restoration after the Napoleonic period, who coined this expression, "un Ministre des Finances u'a d''autre virtue que ferocité." Mr. President, in case you don't follow my french very well, perhaps I should translate it rather loosely and say,"that there's only one virtue that a Minister of Finance can hope to attain to, and that is ferocity." Another Minister of Finance, no less a person than Gladstone himself, countered that kind of remark by saying, "give me good policies, and I'll give you good finance."

We are here today, to ask this Honourable Chamber to accept a Mace. This fact brings a challenging demanding thought in balancing the things in life that are material, and the hings that have hidden and symbolic significane. And nowhere is this union and contrast more vividly portrayed, than in the parliamentary institutions which are before us this morning.

The Mace that is to be presented to you, is, we believe an excellent piece of workmanship. On the materialistic side, it is a work of really exquisite craftsmanship. It is a polished bronze fabricated in the United Kingdom by artificers, who are to be congratulated. Supremely, it is of Caymanian design. It comes to you with a design approved on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen. For its size it is a weighty object. Our hope is, that it will long adorn this Chamber, and be a credit to it.

But Mr. President, I think we are much more interested in, and impressed today, by the symbolic significance of what we do and what we present. Weighty as is the object in relation to its size, far weighter is its symbolic signifance. It comes to you draped in a flag - a very good flag.

I call to mind that tragic incident in World War II, when the Japanese overran the islands of the South Pacific, and took under detention a British missionary. They brought him out in the open, cast the Union Jack on the ground, trampled upon it, and bade that missionary spit upon the flag. Instead he kneeled down and kissed it. They took him out and shot him. It was only a piece of bounting worth at most a few cents, but such was the symbolic signifance of that piece of bounting, that that missionary was prepared to forfeit life, rather than dishonovr that piece of designed bounting.

In the Mother of Parliament, and in all the parliaments and logislatures throughout the Commonwealth, in which this one has its honoured place, everyday, we handle things symbolic. We handle things of spiritual significance that far out run in importance the outward significance of our acts, and of the forms in which our proceedings are couched. Parliament is itself a mingling of history and symbolism, these we must preserve, these we must teach to those who come after us, for it is essential that that significance be truly understood.

The Mace is a symbol of the authority of Parliament; and this Mace, if you accept it today, will be a symbol of the authority of this Honourable Legislature. It will be in the custody of the President, and the Clerk of the House. The idea of something like a Mace has very ancient origins. In ancient Rome the Magistrate, the Praetor was precedent, whether in conducting his court, or going about the streets of Rome, by a man carrying a bundle of sticks, the Fasces, as they were called. And this simple element, was the symbol of the authority of the Praetor, and of the majesty of the law of Rome.

In the development of Parliament, the institution through the centuries, the orb and the sceptre were appropriated to the sovereign as symbols of his authority. The Mace became appropriated to the Commons, as the symbol of its authority. The Sovereign, of

HON. DONALD M. FLEMING (CONT'D): course is part of parliament. For Parliament consist of the three recognised bodies; the Sovereign, the Mother of Parliaments, the Lord's Spiritual and Temperal, and the Commons.

The Crown is part of Parliament, and the Sovereign is a participant in the legislative process of Parliament, and that is why it is so fitting that this Mace should be surmounted by the Crown, as are the Maces of virtually all the Houses of Commons, and legislatures throughout the Commonwealth. This Mace bears also the Royal Sceptre of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

There are some later thoughts that trespass across one's mind, Mr. President, at a time like this. The Mace, as such, of course dates from Mediaeval times, it was a very nasty weapon of offence, used for combat at close quarters. A sphere mounted on a long handle, and that sphere with ugly spikes sticking from it. It must have been a very terrifying weapon to contemplate, and perhaps it was not without reason, that in early times the Mace, this nasty offen sive weapon was appropriated by the Commons, and placed in the custody of the Speaker. I'm sure many a Speaker since, Mr. President, has wished, that the Mace had been retained in its original Mediaeval form, rather than in the more ornate form, in which it appears today. It might the better to have enabled him to a preserved order in the House.

We had in the House of Commons in Canada, the eighteen years that I was there, one Speaker who had been a dentist - a dental surgeon in private life, and he confided in his friends, that after spending so many years of his life tellling people to open their mouths; once he became Speaker, he found it very difficult, to tell them to do something else with their mouths at times. I'm sure a spike Mace, under those circumstances, would have been of great assistance to that Honourable Speaker. One calls to mind also, that this Mace, if you accept it, and adopt it as the Mace of this Chamber, will be borne into this Chamber by the Serjeant-At-Arms, for all your sessions, and deposited on the Table of the House; and then prayers will follow.

A little girl one time, was curious when visiting Parliament for the first time, about the prayers; and she said to her mother,"mother why do they have prayers?" And the mother said, "well child, you see the Speaker comes into the House, takes one look around at the members, and then prayers for the country."

Cayman has not yet included a Senate in its structure of Government, perhaps, if you ever reach the point of contemplating such a thing, you may wish to have regard for the Canadian experience. The Canadian Senate is an appointed body, up til recently memberswere appointed for life. Recently that has been changed, so that there is retirement at seventy-five years of age. It's a very quiet,and very respectable Chamber, in which decorum is very properly observed.

There was another little girl visiting Parliament one day, and she was taken to the gallery of the Senate, a very beautiful Chamber; and she looked around, there were speeches being made, and she leaned over to her mother, and said, "What are they doing?" And her mother said, "oh, one of the Senators has died, these are tributes that are being paid to him." And the little girl looke over the rail again, looked around and around, and said, "one of them has died?" her mother says "yes," The little girl says, "oh, which one?"

There is one other story, and it's the last one, with which I will detain you. It's one that begins in the same form as the parable of the Prodigal Son. A certain man had two sons, only this one runs to this effect, that one of them went to sea, the other was appointed to the Senate, and neither of them has been heard of since.

Mr. President, these two institutions that I have the honour to represent today, in association with Mr. Smith,

HON. DONALD M. FLEMING (CONT'D): and Mr. Ellis, are grateful for the opportunity of making the presentation of this Mace to this Honourable Chamber. We're grateful because it enables us to testify to our identification with Cayman, with its history, with its institutions, and with its brightly glowing future. If you adopt it, it will become the symbol of the authority of this Legislature. It will be the constant reminder to Honourable Members, and to visitors, that we are all heirs of British Parliamentary Institutions. That these are products of centuries; that this is a proud heritage indeed. It is the best of all forms of defense of our freedoms. I once heard Winston Churchill say of democracy, it is a very slow, very unwieldy, very inefficient form of government. But, this you can say of it, that all the others are worse, and all the forms of government, democratic government we hold an indominable confidence, that the constitution of monarchy is the best. As Sir Winston once said, it's a great system our constitutional monarchy. In days of great national victory, the people turned out and cheered the king, in days of national setback, they turned the government out.

Well this is our proud heritage, and in today asking you to accept this Mace, and to make it the Mace of your Chamber, it is the hope of those who are engaged in this act of presentation, that Cayman in choosing her path, the path of parliament the institution, the path of constitutional monarchial government under the law may long prosper and abide. Thank you.

MR. PRESIDENT: I call on the Honourable A.B. Bush.

HON. A.B. BUSH: Mr. President, Honourable Members of this Legislature, distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Today is indeed a great day for us here in this Chamber, and the meeting this morning is of great siginficance, because at this meeting, the first Mace will be presented to this Legislature. This Mace has been, as you have heard donated by the Bank of Nova Scotia, and the Bank of Nova Scotia Trust Company (Cayman) Limited, and will be presented to this Legislature by the Honourable Donald Fleming, who is the General Manager of these firms. And I would like to say to Mr. Fleming on behalf of the Cayman Islands Government, how grateful we are to your firms for the generous gift they have given to this Legislature, and to you and your colleagues our appreciation this morning for being herewith to present this Mace.

I would like to express on behalf of government our grateful thanks to the various organisations in our islands who so willingly and generously contributed to the furnishings of this building, which you see here this morning. It is indeed grateful to know that we have organisations in our islands who can make such contributions, because by so doing they have enabled us, as Legislators to sit in this Chamber in great ease and comfort to carry on the business of this Legislature. And I would like to say to those organisations this morning, that I do hope they will never have cause to regret the contributions which they have made in this direction.

Now getting back to the Mace, I thank Mr. Fleming for outlining the purpose of it, the significance of it, but I must too add something to it. The Mace is a gift of great significance, in that it symbolises protection, order, and authority, and when it is introduced to this Chamber, it will occupy a position of honour, and will symbolise the authority which is vested in this Legislature. In its absence from its position, on the front of the Table of the Clerk's desk, the House, this Legislature will be stripped of its authority, and will therefore not be able to carry on any business whatever. And so as we sit here in this Chamber, and deliberate on the affairs, and the very important matters of our islands, may it serve as a symbol to us of our responsibility to defend the rights and freedom of the people whom we have the great honour to represent. And may order and dignity at all times characterise the proceedings of this Honourable House.

HON. A.B. BUSH (CONT'd): Mr. President, and Honourable Members, it is indeed a pleasure to have Mr. Fleming and his colleagues here with us this morning, and I would just like to say that the gift from his firms today, signifies the faith and trust which they put in the Cayman Islands. I remember when the Bank of Nova Scotia was opened, the beautiful building in central George Town, that in the opening remarks from the officials of that bank, they emphasised the faith and trust that they had placed in the Cayman Islands; and they had shown this by the beautiful building they had erected. I am very happy this morning to say, and to see, that this trust has not in any way diminished, but has increased, in that they have found it possible to present to this Legislature such a symbolic instrument. Thank you Mr. President.

CEREMONY OF PRESENTATION

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members, distinguished guests, It is my privilege, on behalf of the Cayman Islands Legislative Assembly of past and of future Members of the Legislature, to thank the Honourable Donald Metheun Fleming, PC, QC., as representing the Bank of Nova Scotia, and the Nova Scotia Trust Company (Cayman) Limited, for this important and finely fashioned gift, which in future will grace the proceedings of this Honourable House.

Other speakers will no doubt encompass the historical significance of the Mace, its symbolism, and its place in history, and pay tribute to the design Committee, the designers, and the manufacturers for producing an emblem which is worthy of this fine building, and the Members, and the staff which make it a living institution.

For my part I should like today, to underline with the gift is yet another link with the Mother of Parliaments, on which we model the conduct of our business. While the Commonwealth embraces nations of so many constitutional forms, political creeds, and racial origins among its strongest bonds, is the form of parliamentary procedure, and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, which links members of legislatures throughout the Commonwealth as one brotherhood.

It is significant that citizens of the Dominion of Canada, the largest Commonwealth country in this area, should elect to strengthen in the Cayman Islands, the parliamentary traditions which they have inherited, and nurtured, and which are the roots of their great democracy, It is fitting too, that this gift is made to us today, by the Bank of Nova Scotia, and the Bank of Nova Scotia Trust Company (Cayman) Limited as representative of the banking and financial community, which has so largely contributed to the economic stability of our country. Perhaps in token of the importance that the private sector attaches to the orderly, democratic, and representative government reflected by the proceedings in this Honourable House.

The Mace represents many things, the authority of the Sovereign, the House, the Speaker, and the Serjeant-At-Arms. But most importantly, it is a symbol of parliamentary dignity, which in turn reflects the dignity of each individual voter in these islands. In the final analysis, a Legislature draws its powers from those who, according to the Constitution determine at the ballot box who shall be its constituent member.

On behalf of the Legislature, the people of Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac, and Little Cayman, of many Cayman Islanders at sea, and resident in other lands, I convey as President my thanks for this impressive and symbolic gift which we shall honour with the freedom of speech, decorum and in fond debate characteristic of our parliamentary proceedings.

We now have a Motion for the acceptance of this gift.

HON. D.V. WATLER: Mr. President and Honourable Members, I beg to move a motion of thanks in acceptance for this gift as follows:-

"RESOLVED THAT THE CAYMAN ISLANDS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ACCEPT THE GIFT OF A MACE AND THAT SUCH MACE BE ADOPTED AS THE OFFICIAL MACE OF THE LEGISLATURE TO BE USED FOR THE PROPER PURPOSES ON THE APPROPRIATE OCCASIONS".

Much has been said here this morning, Mr. President on the Mace, and its significance, significance in respect of authority. But I go back to the Parliamentary Dictionary on it which says, that its an ornamented club carried by the Serjeant-At-Arms who is assigned to the Speaker. It is the invested authority of the Crown, and its also significant of their power of the Serjeant to arrest without warrant.

Mace goes back quite a bit, as the Honourable Mr. Donald Fleming has told you, back to medieval times, when it was used as a weapon of war. Used to break the spears of the opponents, used by the knights in their tournment, the same as was the case with the ball and chain sometimes that was used. Which if the knights used it correctly, could almost decapitate his opponent. It was also used by the Bishops and the Clergy too, who did not like the idea of shedding blood.

So you will see that a Mace goes down, and takes authority, and it is the authority for the House. This Mace is the authority for the sitting of the House, and there had been various incidents connected with Mace. There is a case in one of the islands just to the north of us, where the opposition was having some difficulty in getting its points across, and it seemed as though the government was going to win, and the Leader of the Opposition, very agilely got out of his seat, took the Mace, and threw it out of the window, and brought the whole House to a stand still.

And then there is also the case of the one just to the east of us, when again in another great debate, a Member seemed not to have been getting his way, and he was even more agile; and he grabbed the Mace, and took out of the door with it; and they had to chase him down to bring it back.

I do trust that in accepting this Mace here, that our history will not follow some of those. As I said it is the authority of this, for the Speaker, and the Serjeant-At-Arms; and don't think in many instances Speakers wear these full bottomed wigs, it's not in order to protect his head, as in the case in the old medieval times, and getting it knocked off. Nor in the case of our President here, when he comes out in his full uniform, that he's going to do battle with us. And I do hope that in accepting this Mace here, that it will have a very happy and pleasant time here, and we look forward to its use. Thank you.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: Mr. President, and Members of this House, I have the honour to second that motion.

MR. PRESIDENT: The Motion is, that it be resolved that the Cayman Islands Legislative Assembly accept a gift of a Mace and that such Mace be adopted as the Official Mace of the Legislature to be used for the proper purposes on the appropriate occasions.

The Motion has been moved and seconded, and is now open for debate.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Mr. President, Members, the Honourable Donald Fleming and his party, distinguished guests. This is indeed an historic occasion for us in the Cayman Islands, because not only is it the first time that a Mace has been presented to an Assembly, but it will probably the last time as Maces tend to have a very long life, running

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONT'D): into hundreds of years. And because this is the only time that I expect to be able to speak at the presentation of a Mace, I hope you will pardon me, if I tend to ramble in my usual fashion. But there is so much ground to be covered, that we should not unduly hasten the debate. And all Members as usual will undoubtedly take advantage of exercising their vocal cords.

The First Official Member for Government has put an idea in my head, and I was trying to decide whether the First Member from Bodden Town or me should be the one to run out of the House with the Mace, when things get real hot, since there're no windows through which it can be discarded. He aslo cited the interesting case in the Bahamas in 1965, when the Leader of the Opposition, not only threw the Mace out of the window, but caused it to be broken in two. And it is perhaps a coincidence, that the Speaker of the House in Canada came to the rescue of the Bahamas, because they were unable to hold a sitting which was scheduled to take place shortly afterwards, and they could not get their Mace repaired in time; and the Speaker of the House in Canada graciously lent them a museum piece Mace, that was sitting in mo balls in Canada. And so the House in the Bahamas, was able to function, and I see Canadian institution has today given us a Mace, by which we can really begin to function as a parliament should function.

Without the First Official Member for Government I would be unable to make my contribution, because he brought out a very salient point in saying that the Mace is not only the authority of the Sovereign, but it is also the Serjeant-At-Arms warrant for carrying out his duties. And I would like to warn Members, that one of the primary functions of the Serjeant-At-Arms, is to place under arrest cantankerous and belligerent Members of the Assembly.

It is very fitting that at this time we should have a full time Serjeant, at the very Session in which a Mace is being presented. Because the Mace is a part of the Serjeant's duties. And I am very glad that a person from Bodden Town has been appointed to this high and loftly position, of Serjeant-At-Arms of this House. Some people may say that I am only glad because he will be excluded from the next election in Bodden Town, having been a candidate in the previous one. But that is not the purpose I'm truely glad, because I believe there is no district in this Island that could preform the functions of this noble office, as a Bodden Town Member. In fact even before we had a full-time Member, you will know that the person who acted, was from Bodden Town. And he carried out those duties in a very dignified manner, and was a credit to this House. But I can see from the way that our present Serjeant has undertaken his duties this morning, and the graceful manner in which he lifted the Mace, and the loving care with which he put it down, that he too, will carry out his duties as a professional Serjeant-At-Arms.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to the Clerk of this House, and her able assistants, who have given the Members all their time, and their enegeries when the Members came to do their research on the Mace. Because the Mace is something new to us, up to a few minutes ago when I was entering this Chamber, a lady stopped me, and she said,"what is a Mace?" And I don't mind trying to not cover up my ignorance, but until I heard that this Assembly would be presented with a Mace, I didn't know too much about it. But I have done a little research, and I would like the indulgence of the House to point out a few of the facts about the Mace. Because I believe that if we are to have a good government, we must also have a well informed public, which understands the functions, and the proceedings of the House; and they will know that when we obey the sway of the Mace, we are doing what is right, and what is common procedure. The Members here will have to get used to working with a Mace, there will be some confusion at times, perhaps in the early stages, but you can overcome that.

This reminds me of the first time I visited a Catholic Church, and I was very confused with the procedure. Everytime I stood up, the other people were sitting down, and everytime I sat down,

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONT'D): everybody else would stand up. Until I became so frustrated that I decided I would sit with my head bowed through the entire proceedings. When I opened my eyes the church was empty. But I hope we won't have that much confusion with the Mace.

The Mace was used in England for many centuries, but from the very beginning the power of the Serjeant to arrest by the authority of the Mace was used as early as 1575. I'm stressing this point because I know that the Bodden Town Members would probably be amongst the first members to be put in detention.

A certain mystical quality surrounds the Mace. Due no doubt, as the Honourable Mr. Fleming pointed out, because of its remoteness, its use came in from the time of the Romans, perhaps even much earlier, and nobody really seems to know why it began, or why it is still used today. But it is accepted, I guess it is because in other businesses everybody has to have some little thing. The conjurer must have his crystal ball; certain people must have their talisman and so on, and the Parliament should have its Mace. And so the Mace has become an essential part of the regalia of Parliament. But the Mace has had a colourful history, and I would like to cite a few examples. But, as I mentioned before, the First Member has picked upon the most colourful incident in the West Indies. But as late as 1961, there was a debate in the House of Commons, a very heated debate, in which the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee had to assume the Chair, as Deputy Speaker. Perhaps the Speaker had fled in despair. But in the confusion, it was forgotten to remove the Mace, and put it in the Committee bracket. Later on the proceedings of that Committee was challenged, because the Mace was not in the proper position.

But perhaps the most famous case in history occurred in 1653, when Cromwell dismissed the long Parliament. You know he came in with his soldiers, and he had the Speaker forcibly ejected from the Chamber, and then he contemptuously called upon his soldiers to remove the Mace. But this back-fired on Cromwell, because he was seeking to reduce the Mace, to an object of contemptible insignificance. But his actions had the contrary effect, and it established even more firmly the tradition that the House of Parliament could not sit without a Mace.

I will not go into all the details of how the Mace is used, the House of Commons, even for the most trivial things. But I would like to mention that it is used during the election of a new Speaker. And I mentioned that only because we may soon have the final touch on our parliament, by having a Speaker. But when we start to use the Mace, the Speaker will not be able to enter the House, he will not be able to function, without his Mace.

Now this Mace follows the pattern of all the Commonwealth countries, it is the same pattern of the Mace at Westminster; but there is always one difference, and that is, the Mace is generally decorated with some ornamentation of local significance. There are some unusual Maces, Kenya has a Mace that is made of solid gold, and ivory, and certain countries have provided special rules for their Maces. For example in Jersey, the Mace is never covered when the Sovereign is present. In all other Commonwealth countries, the Mace is draped with a flag, during the presence of a Sovereign, as it was draped this morning, when it was not in use.

In the United States of America, the Mace is a very important object, the Serjeant-At-Arms only has to lift the Mace, and order is immediately restored. And any member who disregards the authority of the Mace, can be expelled from the Chamber. So we see that it is not only in the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth countries, that the Mace has a real symbol of authority.

We do not have a Standing Order covering

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONT'D): the use of a Mace, but Standing Order (75) provides that the practice and procedure of the House of Commons would follow when we do not have a specific Standing Order. Undoubtedly when we get our new orders, a special order will be put in to cover the Mace.

I would like to say thanks to the Bank and the trust company that have supplied us with this Mace, and the only sour note that I'm going to cast in this debate, is that I would have preferred to see the Mace presented by the banking institutions as a whole, instead of from a particular bank. Of course with so many banks I know the cost would have been so small, that the banks would not have been able to figure out their proportionate parts. But I'm not ungrateful to the Bank of Nova Scotia, but I do not like for government to accept a gift from an individual or from an individual institution. Because it is possible that the particular bank, giving the particular object, would receive publicity, which would not be shared by other banks, although nobody has kept them from presenting a Mace. And I am particularly grateful to the Canadian banks, because, it is my belief that the Canadian financial institutions are amongst the best in the world, and in this island in particular. They have brought to us a supply of money unheard of in the past; they have brought to us safety with our deposits and investments. They have brought to us affluence, they have even perhaps brought inflation.

Banks have grown and prospered despite increased competition from other financial institutions, despite criticisms from people like me. They have done well, and it is only right that they should put back, and that they should become a part of our parliamentary institutions. The banks have managed to convey to the public an image of responsibility and strength, and the progressive attitude towards meeting all the legitimate needs, and all the credit needs of the public.

We are grateful for this gift, and undoubtedly the Financial Minister will show his appreciation by increasing the license fees for the banks. I thank you.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, Honourable Members of this Assembly, Honourable Members of the Civil Service, Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr. Fleming and his group. It is also a great privilege of mine to be able to stand here in a democratic party today, and say what would be on my mind, without having to worry about recriminations from it.

Mr. President, today's proceedings so far reminds me of the words of an eminent cleric, who said of the eskimoes, "you know for years we couldn't do anything with the eskimoes, they didn't have any sin; we had to teach them sin for years, before we could do anything with them." I think that this is going to be quite symbolic of this particular occasion. So much honey has dripped here this morning, that I'm afraid it's going to mushroom into a mountain that will cover this Honourable Assembly.

The raising of a discordant, or dissident voice in an assembly such as this, is like trying to explode a hand-grenade in a thimble. This is truly a historic occasion for all of us, and I am sure that it is one that I will not participate in again, because I do not expect to live that long. I am very proud that the people of my constituency has given me this privilege this morning to be able to stand here as their representative. And I can assure the honourable guests, that I do not wish to appear unappreciative, or to look a gift horse in the mouth. But, I am afraid that my arthritic legs will not allow me to bend in humble servitude. I call a spade a spade, regardless of where it stands. I am of the firm conviction, Mr. President, that truth will out. My convictions, my desires, and my hopes, lead me to believe that in spite of all the hurdles that this country has had in the past, or will have in the future, that it will continue to develop along the lines of greatness, reflecting all the aims and aspirations of our people. Develop

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN (CONT'D): into a country where truth and right are always foremost in everyones minds. My hope is that everyone who inhabit these shores, will realise and appreciate what a good thing we have, and strive at all cost to maintain it. Welcome the banks, the investors, and the expatriates, remembering at all times, that but for the grace of God goeth I.

I have not been privileged as probably some other members of this Assembly have been to know that led to the giving of this particular gift, that we are assembled here to honour. I am sure the motive was an excellent one, but in reading the resolution, which came to the Members of this House, it can be said, that all the trimmings of a marriage are evident. And I hope it will be one based on respect for this government, its people and its policies. In reading the resolve section, it fully explains what a beautiful job people can do with words, but how empty and bereft of true meaning, most words, sentences, and phrases are.

We've had a lecture this morning, as to what the Mace represent it is truly symbolic of authority, and of acceptance to obedience and respect for a parliamentary system of government. I adhere to that, as much as any other member in this Assembly. But Mr. President, I cannot help but think today, that we have helped to desecrate that very symbol which we have come here to honour. In the past our government has spurned the acceptance of worthwhile gifts, from its citizens. And yet this morning, we are ready to tolerate and grant such publicity to one particular institution. I could have been very happy to have joined in this occasion this morning, if this had been going to be presented to this House from the entire banking community of this island, to symbolise the true meaning of it's greater to give, than to receive. Or if this had been given by a foreign country, to symbolise our unity with the entireworld. But Mr. President, I cannot tolerate it, and I must say, that this cheap publicity bites me to the core. My firm conviction has always been, that when you live in a country, be it your native land, or your adopted land, you must strive at all times to be a part of that community. And like the farmer tilling the soil, you must fertilise it, if you expect to harvest a good crop. If not, that verdant farm will soon become nothing but wasteland, and this is what I worry so much about, for our little country. Our people have suffered over the years from a lack of knowledge. It has only been the past few years that have seen college graduates from our shores come back, and take up the professions among us.

Mr. President, much more true meaning could have been applied to the giving of a gift, if this morning we had been told that a scholarship had been set up to train some of our worthwhile students abroad, in order to bring them back to participate in our system, and to grow with it. But if that had been done, Mr. President, I am sure it would not have had the amount of publicity that will be attendant to this. For the first time in history, since I have been able to sit in this Hall, have I seen photographers in the Hall. And I ask why was it allowed, if it is being allowed now, it must be allowed at all times in the future, not for any particular group.

I could have been happy this morning, if I had been told by this institution that they were setting up a system of education to train our local employees in order to allow them to take the advancements which they should be taking in their banks. I referred awhile ago that this reminded me of a marriage, but if this is to be a true marriage, true fertilization of the soil, this is not that,Sir. When we have a twotier system operating in most of the financial institutions, to where there's one pay for the locals, and one pay for someone else, one fringe benefit for one, one fringe benefit for the other. Participation is the main thing in any country, we must build a country through participation. But that is full participation, with everyone who inhabits our shores. We cannot blind ourselves to the fact, our country is becoming

MR. JAMES M, BODDEN (CONT'D): afflicted, it is becoming afflicted with the ills that affect most developing countries. But, we must not allow them to raise their heads. They will raise their heads, if we continue as we are doing this morning, and as we have done in the past. We need many things in this island, and I'm not one to say that anyone should be getting a gift, we do not want it that way. But let us participate, let us work together, let us see if a system of financing low and medium cost homes cannot be found for our people. A system of financing small industries and businesses, we cannot tolerate the use of our country..

MR. PRESIDENT: I think the Honourable Member is straying somewhat from the text of the original motion.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: I accept that Sir.

But in our haste today, Mr. President, I hope that the other people, and the other institutions who helped so much, in the furnishing of this building will not be not beforgotten in all this glear of publicity. I would like to remind this House that other institutions, Barclays Bank, Royal Bank of Canada, Mercantile Bank and Trust Company, First National City Bank, the Bermuda branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Interbank, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, the Bahamas Government, St. Lucia's Government, Caribbean Bank, British Virgin Islands, the Jamaica branch of the CPA., the United Kingdom branch of the CPA., the CPA headquarters in London, Sir Frederic Bennett, Mr. Ed Oliver, Sir Cyril Black, Mr. Bob Mackin. All these people also gave worthwhile gifts to this Legislative Assembly, and I do not believe and some of them were much more costly, than what has been presented to this House this morning, and I do not believe that any of them got the publicity that has been attendant to this.

Mr. President, I would have liked to have spoken much longer on this, but I'm sure there will be other ones that will follow, and I'm sure the honey will begin to drip again. But I will close my speech this morning, by reminding this House, and these Honourable gentlemen of the Sermon on the Mount, which I think can be found in St. Matthew's Gospel chapter 6. And if I'm permitted to read it - "when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: that thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly. And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Fatherwhich is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." Thank you Mr. President.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: Mr. President, the Honourable Fleming and his party, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, visitors, Members of this Honourable House, I rise to say how much I appreciate having this gift given to us today. Without a good strong stable government, such as we have, we would not have any banks. And the banks have played tremendous part in our economy. Those people here who are very young, perhaps they do not know of the hardships we have endured in the past, when we had only one bank, the little Government Savings Bank. I will say this Sirs, that my great confidence is in our Government Savings Bank, because I'm very sure, as long as time lasts, we shall always have a good, stable, firm government, as we have today.

We have had a history of three hundred

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN (CONT'D): years, and I'm saying that the good Government which we enjoy today was built on a foundation, perhaps those people who then ran the Government, were uneducated, but they had what it takes, and that was good morals, good relationship with each other, and being such, they were able to build the strong foundation, on which we build today. And that my hope and prayer is this, that we as legislators shall continue to forge ahead, on the respect of what they have done in the past, and go forward to accomplish even greater things than we have up to now.

As the First Elected Member for the district of George Town, I'm very sure, being in the opinion of some, just an ordinary woman. I'm very proud to be associated with this occasion, and I can only say, that the Mace which is presented here will, I hope, be a symbol that we have law and order, and most of all good behaviour in our Assembly.

As for parliament, we have conducted ourselves I would say fairly well, We have had differences of opinion, we have argued very strong points. We have disagreed with Government, but nevertheless, I feel confident that our arguments were not to provoke wrath, but rather to see that the good which we have accomplished thus far, is carried on to future generations.

Caymanians I will say are not educated up to a point, in a past, they did not have the opportunity, they never had the money, we never had banks here that would loan us money; our seamen, those who were fortunate enough to have seamen to send abroad, they had to send back the measly little wages; build their houses piecemeal, I would say. But nevertheless, they continued, they fought, and we have today, what we have, because of their firmness, because of their strength, because of their good character. And I hope, and pray, and trust, that we shall continue in this course.

I feel that other banks had opportunities to give gifts to this building, and which they have done in the past; and I'm sure they will continue to do in the future. But this emblem which we have here today, I feel that we should be proud of. It is authority, and if this bank, this particular branch of bank, they were thoughtful enough, and understanding enough, and have law and order in their minds enough, to present us with such a nobel gift; I certainly do appreciate it. Thank you Sir.

MR. CLAUDE M. HILL: Mr, President, and Honourable Members, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I rise to make my small contribution towards the presentation of this Mace. Today marks another day in the history of the Cayman Islands. This ceremony of the presentation of a Mace to the Cayman Islands Legislative Assembly marks a day to remember.

As the Third Elected Member from George Town, on behalf of the constituency in which I represent, I extend my thanks to the banks involved in this donation of a Mace.

We here as legislators in this building are very proud of the gift. And I bear this in the minds to Members, let us not destroy, but continue to build this country, a sound and safe place, by God's help, where we can look at each other as men.

Seeing that the symbol for authority is more than ever represented by the placing of the Mace on the Clerk's Table, being used during Sessions. The Mace, as history has it, was first used in the year 1480, that Mace was then called a War Mace. A Mace used, as we've heard by previous speakers here, it was a Mace used during a war. Then in the 16th century, the use of a ceremonial Mace

MR. CLAUDE M. HILL (CONT'D): was introduced, which was carried by the Serjeant-At-Arms, in parliament, coronations. As I've said the appreciation goes to the banks who were involved in this presentation. And I don't think for one minute that we here should discuss anything pertaining to any particular bank, who was not involved in this ceremony here. The chances were given, and if certain banks accepted this, and we here should accept this as a gift, seeing that it is a gift which was needed in this House, and which gives this House more authority than ever, at its sittings. And I do hope that the good relationship between banks in the Cayman Islands, and the Legislature will continue, regardless if they gave a gift or not. We here represent the people of thses islands, from different constituencies, and I think it is our duty to put forward a good face showing our appreciations, and letting our constituencies know the surroundings of such presentations. And with that Mr. President, and Honourable Members, distinguished guests, I thank you very much for your kind gift to this House.

MR. JOHN JEFFERSON: Mr. President, Honourable Members, Mr. Fleming and his able party, I count this Mr. President a very happy hour, in the history of these islands. I have been deeply moved with the previous speakers, particularly the warm welcome extended by the Honourable Member from North Side, and then the warm reply by Mr. Fleming. The quotations have been very touching, and on this historical event, taking part in this ceremony in this Chamber this morning, marks another milestone in the history of this Legislature, and the Cayman Islands.

I first want to say how humbly proud I am of the honour bestowed upon me by my constituents of having elected me to be in this Chamber this morning, to be able to take part in this ceremony.

I tried to note carefully some previous statements made by other speakers, and I go back to the speaker making his reply, and the fact that this is a most touching occasion. It is this morning a fact that we are all heirs of the British Parliamentary form of government, of which we are proud. I remember the former President in this House, on another occasion, having spoken to Officers and Clerks of the Parliamentary Association said, Parliamentary Democracy, might not have to be the last word, but until we can find something better, let us use that form.

The Speaker making the reply spoke of the occasion of a British missionary, being held by powers that would no doubt try to bring degrading things to that particular man, and country. Let me say this, that I believe under the same circumstances,, I would do no less, in the fact that I believe that we have something that we are and should be proud of. We have a heritage to which I believe no other people on the face of God's earth today, have anymore reason to be proud, than we have here this morning. I too would rather give my life, than to trample the heritage that has been passed on to us, by our forefathers.

The Mace is a symbol of law, a symbol of authority, it carries great spiritual values. The Member in winding up - of Executive Council, reminded us as we look around in this Chamber, we see other gifts, we see other contributions, that have helped us in the days of deliberations, the days of gruelling, hard, toilsome labour, have helped to make our day pleasant, and far easier, than it would have been otherwise.

We are very grateful, Mr. President, and yet let me say this very emphatically, that as we accept this gift, and

MR. JOHN JEFFERSON (CONT'D): any other gift, we feel in no way obligated to any special person, or any special group in these islands. Because we believe in the equality of man, and we believe that we must, and we will continue to build the kind of society in our country where our own people are respected and looked after,and the people from the otside that are investors, will be able to respect our traditions, and our people, and thus there will be a spirit of harmony, goodwill, and equality, that will exist in our country, because we will not accept any less than this; I can assure you.

The Member of Executive Council, said that he trusted that the institution making this presentation, will never have cause to regret a contribution of this sort.

I have said Mr. President, in previous campaigns, that it has been an established fact, as far as I'm concerned, that once you tell the people of these islands the facts, they are capable of coming up with the right answers. And I believe the people of these islands will guarantee, will see that a government of the people, for the people, by the people, a government of stability will always exist in these islands, and to this I vouch my life, and my time. The dignity of order I trust shall always be characterised. That we shall always continue,,though a people of thirteen thousand, that we shall always continue to set an example for greater nations, or nations throughtout the entire Caribbean, and the world, that a people can work and labour together. And that there can be harmony, and love and unity. And there can be no place in our society for any less than this.

This Mace, Mr. President, given by the institution, as the Member of Executive Council rightly, I believe stated, signifies the confidence and trust that they place in the people of these islands, and the government of the Cayman Islands. I accept this gift this morning, and I am saying that I'm humbly glad to be able to accept a gift of this nature. This is not just an ordinary gift, this is not just an ordinary occasion, but it is a special occasion. And I trust, if I'm fortunate one of these days, I will be able in the sunset years of my life, if I am so fortunate, to tell my grandchildren about the occasion here this morning.

The welcomer spoke of someone having said that the best way to welcome people is to give a joke and keep back the tears. Well the second speaker from Bodden Town, I believe did that, when he said, that he believed that no other district was capable of having a man of this nature, as our Serjeant-At-Arms. Now I appreciate our Serjeant-At-Arms, but on the other hand Mr. President, I cannot let this slip by either, Because I represent one of the largest districts in this island, and one of the most progressive, I believe. And I want to also think, that in my district there are also persons that are as well capable. And I just couldn't let that part slip, because as I said I believe that I represent also one of the most progressive. But I'm wondering if the Second Member was not afraid, after having made his point about the Serjeant having the authority to make arrest. I'm wondering if he wasn't sort of soaking the Serjeant a little bit, and maybe spreading some honey around him. I can assure you, the party from West Bay will not worry about whoever is Serjeant-At-Arms in this Chamber, because I believe we are capble of conducting our business, and we are capable of representing our district and these islands. And I will say in a very orderly manner. I'm sure the Second Member from Bodden Town knows that that is given in a spirit of jest. But on the other hand, I must say this, that I cannot for one accept the fact that any other district in this island is ahead of the district of West Bay.

Mr. President, what we have all been trying to say here this morning, if I would try in just a few words to sum it up, is to say we thank God for what we have, we thank God from where we came, and we thank God and trust for His guidance to lead us, that the future will be no darker, than the past. Thank you very much.

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: Mr. President, Honourable Members, Distinguished Guests. I'm going to be very brief with my remarks on this particular motion, and in fact, I had no idea, and no interest in just duplicating words on behalf of gratitude to the bank while we accept this gift. But when I heard certain words uttered by the Honourable First Member from Bodden Town, I was forced to say a few words to clarify certain statements.

As a member of this Legislature during the occasion when this particular building was being erected, I kept very close to the construction procedures. And late in 1971 when this Building was being completed, time was given then t[illegible] consideration for furnishings and other equipment for this particular building.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Branch of the Cayman Islands, this branch comprises of active members sitting, and past members, who are active members of the association. We met, and one of the things we considered, was the acknowlegement of gifts from other governments, other parliaments, and other institutions who desired to present gifts to this our new home. This is not an unusual procedure, the Committee was set up, and the Committee considered: receiving - we let the banks, we let the governments, we let the parliaments, we let other business concerns know that here our new building would be opened the certain time; and we asked them, if they cared to make any contributions towards the furnishing. The request didn't go from the government, the government didn't beg anybody, this was a request from the branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in Grand Cayman.

A lot of institutions a lot of parliaments around the Caribbean, a lot of private citizens volunteered gifts. It happened that the offer made by the Bank of Nova Scotia, and the Bank of Nova Scotia Trust Company (Cayman) Limited, happened to be what we see before us today - the Mace. If this Mace had been just an ordinary instrument of furnishing, surely there would not have been this ceremony here today. Surely, this ceremony would have been included, the names of the Bank of Nova Scotia and the Bank of Nova Scotia Trust Company would have been included at the day of the opening of this building, when all of the names of the doners for other furnishings were read out, and tribute and gratitude were paid to them. But we must consider that before we could design, before we could accept, before we could use the instrument before us today, permission from Her Majesty the Queen had to be sought, and that's the reason why this is being late in coming, and this is why that we as parliamentarians, not because that we have any special interest, or special favour of the Bank of Nova Scotia, or Nova Scotia Trust (Cayman) Limited. But the fact is, that the Mace is important, and we had to go through the format that surrounds it. It is very unfortunate that those remarks were made, I feel they, Mr. President, were a bit insulting, and I would take this opportunity of offering the officers of the Bank of Nova Scotia, and the Bank of Nova Scotia Trust Company (Cayman) Limited, my apology, and I believe that I'm voicing .....-"-.....

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, no apology is needed on my part Sir, please.

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: I believe I'm voicing the sentiments of a lot of Members here today. If the Honourable Member from Bodden Town had been in this Chamber, on the opening day, and if a lot of other people that I see here today, had been in this Chamber, on the opening day, when this Hall was opened in 1972, there would be no need for me to make these warranted remarks. But I feel that they are worthy, because it may be misconstrued, that the banks have offered government, or that government has been accepting gifts. I would like to say, government in this respect, has not

HON. W.W. CONOLLY (CONT'D): accepted a gift, this Legislature is accepting it. And it was the Legislators and Members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, who asked these companies if they would like to contribute. I shall not amend my words Sir, I feel like I duty bound, being the Chariman of that Committee, in 1971, and being the Member who organised the opening ceremony of this our Legislative Assembly Building, to offer my apology, and as I said, I think it goes for a lot of Members here Sir.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, it's not necessary for the member to offer any apology. If he wishes on his own, it is fine Sir, but not on my behalf; I can quite speak for myself.

MR. PRESIDENT: I think the Honourable Member may express regret that certain things were said, but he may not of course apologise for remarks offe d by the Honourable Member.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: Mr. President, and Honourable Members, Distinguished Guests and Visitors. I will again be brief, I'm not here to retalitate against any statement that might have been made by any Member. We've built a good government on free speech, which should exist and does exist in a good democratic country. A Member is free to say what he feels like saying; and when I say, I'll be brief, I will remind Members that we've got coming up the Financial Budget - the speech from the Financial Secretary, when I will use a lot of my energy in replying to.

I am glad for the privilege of finding myself in this Honourable House, to associate myself on such an occasion. If I may say, I've waited twenty years for this. And my being in the House today, as an Elected Member, it's not just by my feelings that I would like to be there, but the people of one of the smallest constituencies in this island, the little remote and most times forgotten district of North Side have put me here, and I think I can shout with praise, for I am now enjoying my third unopposed election, which no other Member in the history of these islands have enjoyed. It isn't that. I have achieved all of their desires, very limited amount of what they and I would like to have seen. But I stand for what is right, for the people of this island.

The Mace that is being presented to this Honourable House today, is the symbol of everything that is good, respect, behaviour. I have seen some awfully warm debates in my years in this House, and I will look forward to those times still to continue from time to time. There came a time when I walked out of a sitting, and probably if we had had the Mace then, I would have taken it along with me. So I am glad we've got something in the House now that a Member or Members can really stop the debate when they want to. While I won't put up any resistence for being arrested, I will go along wholeheartedly. But I would like to say, I do appreciate this token, and I look forward to having the opportunity, and the privilege of having, if life lasts; and I'll say, as the triplets sisters enjoying their sixtieth birthday, life starts at ninety, and I'm a long way from that. So I am looking forward to many more years if my people so desire that I should be here And again I say I thank Mr. Fleming and his party for being with us, to present to this Honourable House this outstanding gift, which I'll be happy to work under. Thank you Mr. President.

CAPT. A.A. REID: Mr. President, and Honourable Members of this House, the Honourable Donald Fleming and Mr. Smith, and the other gentleman of the Bank of Nova Scotia, and Distinguished Guests in the gallery; I welcome you all here this morning. I first want to thank the Honourable Donald Fleming for the elegant speech he gave, and the humourous one. Only from a QC can you expect such speeches.

CAPT. A.A. REID (CONT'D): In spite of the fact that I may be considered conceited, I do consider myself not only an able bodied sailing ship sailor, but a knowledgeable one. But I'm afraid that so much has been said this morning, although not all of it I agree with, that they have taken the wind out of my sails.

As I looked at the Mace, when it was first put down, I wondered if it was by design from the other side that the fighting end of it points here. And then I thought to myself, that the side that's nearest to it, the three Official Members, they're so placid, that I haven't got to worry about them.. Then I looked over on the other side, and I saw that the two warriors over there, the only Elected Member for East End, and the Third Elected Member for West Bay, that I believe I could get to it first. It reminds me of a cartoon I saw, I think it was in "Time" or "Newsweek", few months ago. A volcano was erupting, and two men were talking, and one looked up and saw it, and he said, look, there's a volcano, you know the C.I.A. started that - spread the news.

Mr. Fleming, I want to thank you very much for completing this Honourable House for us. I always felt that we were missing something, not that I know too much about parliamentary procedure, because I'm the infant of the House, I'm the newest man here. But I did know that a Mace was necessary. But I want to tell you, you needn't fear my taking it outside and smashing it up, anytime anybody in this House says anything, rather than fight with that, I shall walk out of that door, and come back when he is through. I shall not destroy the Mace.

I think that we all have a lot to thank the banks for, in this country. I am one member of the community, and one member of the House, who knows quite well what the banks have done for this little country. They've taken us out of an age, I wouldn't say that we were unheard of, because we have produced some very able sailors, and well sought after sailors too. And I don't mean sought after by women, I mean sought after by many, many shipping companies. But we have been more or less unheralded before; but the banks have certainly put us from that age into a jet age, which I'm afraid we've not really prepared for, but which we are very grateful for, because everyone likes prosperity. It is a bit sad that a lot of our people are not really in a position to take over the better jobs. But that is not something to be envious of, that is something to motivate us into becoming to reach that position, to get in that position. And I would say to our people just don't criticise the banks or the bankers, or the man who is doing any job in this country that helps the country, and don't be envious of him, but get out there and get educated, and be able to take that job, when the time comes, when you're capable of taking it. Don't be envious ofanyone. If I had my life to live over, I would keep myself, if I were in the same unfortunate position that I found myself in. I would keep myself in the school until I was thoroughly educated, and I mean not a high school, but a university education, and I would, because there're ways and means of doing that, I know only too well how easy it could be done, until I knew three languages fluently - English, French and Spanish. But I would probably do the same thing; I'd go to sea and I'd become a ship owner if I could. I have nothing in the world to regret, and I certainly have nothing in the world to envy the banker for. We are all a link in the chain, that big long chain.

I am very proud to represent my little country, the land that gave me birth, and I'm proud to be here. I'm very proud to look out on that Mace this morning, to know that it completes our House of Assembly. And hope that we will continue under the guidance of that British constitution - the Crown. I hope as long as time lasts, I know that nothing better could be done for the country than keep it the way it is. Not too much of an advanced constitution, because the minute we start with an advanced constitution, we are going to frighten a lot of the people who have confidence in this country. And I think we

CAPT. A.A. REID: are better off respecting well enough, and leaving well enough alone. Let us not get too greedy or too ambitious about who represents who, who has the most to say in the House, or who has the most power in the government. I think it is well placed and kept, if it is kept where it is. I have ve., often said that a lot of these countries need a mild dictatorship. But I'm sure you'll appreciate that I myself wouldn't want to live under a dictatorship unless I could be the dictator. But there have been a few mild dictatorships such as the one that Alcasar who was normally successful, and I would say, he was a lot more successful than the government that has come up since, unfortunatley. But we've seen great countries fall, we see Italy now in the throes of bankruptcy. We see communist taking over in Portugal, the same country that was so well handled by the former dictator. But it is not every dictator that can be benevolent. Power is a bad thing, and the average man, when he gets too much pwer, he wields the big stick too hard. I thank you, Mr. President.

MR. PRESIDENT: Does the Honourable Mover wish to reply?

HON. D.V. WATLER: Mr. President [illegible] Honourable Members, bringing this debate to a close, much has been said about a Mace, and as we are aware that the Mace is significant of authority. Authority into the British System of Parliament, of which we are a colony of the United Kingdom and we follow on to the Westminster system of government. We are on of the few territories that did not have a Mace before, Jamaica lost its first Mace in the earthquake of 1692, it tells you how far back it was that Jamaica had a Mace. The island of Grenada has a Mace that dates - 1781. The one in Monserrat is so old that they cannot even distinguish and make out the date on that Mace It is good that at this time that for us to be able to complete this House - this lovely House, and home of the Legislature, in having a Mace in it. As was said by the Member from East End on the programme that was handed around - the Background, you'll find where it stated that a Committee of the Cayman Islands Branch of the Parliamentary Association was set up to receive and consider gifts; the Mace is not the only gift that this Committee received and accepted with gratitude and appreciation. Many of those gifts were acknowledged, and when this House and this building was opened unfortunately, the Mace could not then form part of it, as permission had to be had for the use of the Mace. We have now had that permission, and we are now here now completing one of the last habits of this House - a very important part of the House. We are indeed grateful to have this Mace, and accept it with great pleasure and honour. And trust that it will rest on its Table of the Clerk, and will long serve the purpose and uphold the dignity of this Legislature. We accept it with gratitude and appreciation.

MOTION FOR ACCEPTANCE OF GIFT:-

"RESOLVED THAT THE CAYMAN ISLANDS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ACCEPT A GIFT OF A MACE AND THAT SUCH MACE BE ADOPTED AS THE OFFICIAL MACE OF THE LEGISLATURE TO BE USED FOR THE PROPER PURPOSES ON THE APPROPRIATE OCCASION."

QUESTION PUT: AGREED.

MR. PRESIDENT: Next item, is a Resolution of Appreciation, and I call upon the Honourable W.W. Conolly , O.B.E., J.P.

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: Mr. President, I beg to move the following Resolution standing in my name:-

"RESOLVED THAT WHEREAS THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS LEGISLATURE AND THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA AND BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA TRUST COMPANY (CAYMAN) LIMITED, HAS BEEN OF LONG STANDING:
AND WHEREAS SUCH ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN MOST CORDIAL AND WITH RESULTING SATISFACTION TO BOTH PARTIES: AND WHEREAS IN TOKEN OF THE APPRECIATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP WHICH HAS EXISTED BETWEEN THE BANKS AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS LEGISLATURE, THE BANKS DESIRE TO EXPRESS SUCH APPRECIATION IN A TANGIBLE WAY BY THE PRESENTATION OF A MACE:
AND WHEREAS THE MACE HAS, FROM MEDIAEVAL TIMES, BEEN CONSIDERED A SYMBOL OF AUTHORITY, AT FIRST CONFINED TO ROYALTY AND SUBSEQUENTLY EXTENDED TO PARLIAMENTS;
AND WHEREAS THE BANKS DEEMED THAT THE PRESENTATION OF A MACE WOULD BE A MOST APPROPRIATE METHOD OF EXPRESSING THE BANKS'APPRECIATION TO THE LEGISLATURE;
AND WHEREAS AT A MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, HELD THIS TWENTIETH DAY OF NOVEMBER, A.D. 1974, THE SAID PRESENTATION WAS MADE BY THE BANKS TO AND WAS ACCEPTED BY THE LEGISLATURE;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AS CONVENED,, DOES NOW EXTEND ITS APPRECIATION AND GRATEFUL THANKS TO THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA AND THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA TRUST COMPANY (CAYMAN) LIMITED AND HEREWITH SETS UPON RECORD IN THE MINUTES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY THE THANKS OF THE LEGISLATURE AS REPRESENTED HERE TODAY BY ITS PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS."

CAPT. A.A. REID: Mr. President, I have the honour to sanction that motion.

MR. PRESIDENT: The Motion is as set out on the Order of the Day. It has been moved and seconded, and is now open for debate.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED.

DISPERSAL OF DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

HON. D.V. WATLER: Mr. President, and Honourable Members, I beg to move that the House be suspended for half an hour.

SECONDED BY HON. G.E.WADDINGTON

MR. PRESIDENT: Is there any contrary opinion for suspension?

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: Mr. President, I kind of somewhat feel, like this would probably be the appropriate time to adjourn then until one thirty or quarter to two or somehting or other then.

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: Mr. President, I would suggest now that the House adjourn til two thirty this afternoon.

HON. G.E.WADDINGTON: I beg to second that motion Mr. President.

MR. PRESIDENT: Any contrary opinion?

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: HOUSE ADJOURNED AT 12.30 P.M. UNTIL 2.30 P.M.

MR. PRESIDENT: The Assembly is resumed - Please be seated. Government NOtices.

HON. D.V. WATLER: Mr. President, and Honourable Members, it is hoped that immediately following the Financial Secretary's Address, which will be on the First and Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, that we will be able to take the First and Second Reading of the Following Bills. The Banks and Trust Companies Regulation (Amendment) Law, 1974, The Companies (Amendment) Law, 1974 and The Customs (Amendment) Law, 1974. To be able to take the First and Second Reading of those this afternoon, and then tomorrow, will follow the debate on the Financial Secretary's Address, that is on Thursday and Friday; and on Friday evening it is hoped to be able to take the Third Reading of these three bills, The Banks and Trust Companies Regulations (Amendment) Law, 1974, and The Companies (Amendment) Law, 1974, on Friday afternoon, after which the House will adjourn for the Finance Committee, which should be about a week, and when we resume after the Finance Committee, then we'll have the Third Reading of the Appropriation Bill, and the Third Reading of these other three Bills. And it is possible at that time, there's two other Bills, which have not been circulated, but will be printed and circulated in the mean time - Oil Pollution Bill, and the Hotels Aid Bill. This is an idea of the programme for this sitting of the Legislature.

MR. JOHN JEFFERSON: Mr. President, did I understand the First Official Member, in setting out a time table; he's hoping that we will after Friday afternoon go into Finance. Is that correct?

HON. D.V. WATLER: That is what I trust that we will be able to do. If we don't, that is the privilege of the House, and the will of the House. But it is hoped that we will be able to get through the debate on the Second Reading of that Bill.

MR. JOHN JEFFERSON: I can assure you Mr. President, that that time table coundn't adhere to this House, because when the Financial Secretary makes his address, and the debate begins, there's no how in the world that that debate will finish this week. I can assure you that that time table, they would be completely out of phase, because we intend, and I will go back and be more personal, and say, I intend, as far as my section of the debate is concerned, to last at least half a day; and there're other members here.

MR. PRESIDENT: I think all that the Honourable Member is trying to do is, to give the House some guidance as to business before it. The intention being that, there should be the Second Reading on the Budget Address, which can take as long as Honourable Members wish. Plus three Bills, and after the Finance Committee has met, then the business of the House will continue with a further two bills, and Private Members' business. I don't think the Honourable Member is trying to lay down a strict time table to be observed in the Budget debate.

MR. JOHN JEFFERSON: Thank you very much, I just wanted to make that point clear.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, and Honourable Members, my worthy colleague from the Bodden Town district and myself, have tabled several motions before this House, and we are hopeful that we will get them all passed by Friday evening.

The first one is in regards to the playing field at the Bodden Town School, which has been so long neglected. The next thing Sir, is an introduction of a motion, to change the Maritime Laws of the Cayman Islands. The next motion is dealing with the type of

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN (CONT'D): films that is being shown at the cinemas in this Island. The fourth one is a motion dealing with the recent balance sheet of Cayman Airlines, which has been tabled in this House by the Honourable Financial Secretary. At this point we seek the indulgence of all the Members, and are hopeful that we will get their support. Thank you.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Mr. President, Honourable Members, at a subsequent sitting of this House, I will be moving a motion in connection with the staffing of the clinic at Bodden Town. This motion will be seconded by the First Member from Bodden Town.

MR. PRESIDENT: We shall proceed to item 6 on the Order of the Day

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: Mr. President, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House the following two documents. One, the audited Financial Statement of Cayman Airways Limited for the year ended 30th September, 1973. Second, the Directors' Report Cayman Airways Limited dealing with the audited statement of the company for the year ended 30th September, 1973.

MR. PRESIDENT: So ordered.

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: Mr. President, and Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House the Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Financial Year 1975.

MR. PRESIDENT: So ordered.
Item 8 on the Agenda.

THE APPROPRIATION LAW, 1975

CLERK: THE APPROPRIATION LAW, 1975 - INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

MOVED BY HON. V.G. JOHNSON
SECONDED BY HON. D.V. WATLER

QUESTION PUT: AGREED.

CLERK: THE APPROPRIATION LAW, 1975 - SECOND READING

SECOND READING

MOVED BY HON. V.G. JOHNSON

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: Mr. President, and Honourable Members it is my pleasure to present to this Honourable House the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the ensuing financial year 1975 together with a brief outline of the economic situation as it is against this background that the Budget is framed.

The view has been expressed that the Cayman Islands have become increasingly prosperous in recent years and that the Territory probably enjoys the highest standard of living in the whole Caribbean. Like other small regional countries of tax haven status the Cayman Islands have established over the last few years a viable business in the areas of tourism and the financial operation which has created a fairly stable and satisfactory economic growth. There is no indication as yet that the present trend of growth in these areas will be of a short term nature.

HON. V.G. JOHNSON (CONT'D): The growth in Gross Domestic Product in recent years has been quite significant. In 1974 it is estimated at CI$28 Million as against CI$25 Million in 1973, calculated at January 1974 prices. This growth of 12% a year will depend largely on the future of the financial and tourist industries unless of course it is stimulated by way of other sources of income; diversification of the economy is being strongly advocated in any case.

The financial industry has been encouraged by the absence of stringent fiscal restrictions and also by the absence of a direct tax system. Furthermore, continued political stability and good relations between Government and private sector continue to contribute to the country's popularity as a business centre. In fact this has been one of the major attractions, at a time when other Caribbean tax havens have been beset with domestic problems. Another attraction was the recent move to stabilise the local currency by its revaluation upwards of approximately 10% and the switching of its link with sterling to the United States dollar: I will comment further on this subject at a later stage.

Other Sectors of the economy that deserve private and public increased support are agriculture and livestock, and small scale industry. The former is becoming increasingly important. Given the very high prices of imported food in these Islands, local food crops and livestock production could become profitable operations which would offer wage levels approaching those of the tourism sector. But a more valid argument in favour of developing agriculture and livestock is to enable the Territory to become as self-sufficient as possible in food production. Although there are obstacles in the way of achieving any measure of success, support in agricultural development in these Islands should continue because unless agriculture is promoted there is the possibility that the country will be faced with foreign exchange problems in years to come, and indeed increasing world food shortages may make food purchases overseas more difficult. Just a short downturn of say one to two years in growth in the finance or tourism sector with the likely accompanying sharp downturn in investment and construction would no doubt result in a shortage of foreign exchange. If this happens then it will be impossible to continue importing such large porportion of the local needs without excessive foreign borrowing if in fact foreign loans could be obtained for this purpose. Agriculture and other forms of industrial development to strenghten and support the economy must always be kept very much in mind.

A Director for the Department of Agriculture has recently been appointed and with his assistance the Department should be off to a good start in its advisory service. Some of the programmes being planned are a large demonstration and experimental farm on which local producers will be shown the latest methods of animal and plant production. A spray race has been installed in West Bay and it is hoped to install another in the central area during 1975. Crop protection will receive attention during 1975. The service will assist home owners having fruit trees requiring attention, to have these trees service on a regular basis.

The development of small scale manufacte uring and processing industries could be examined. It is the view that this form of activity should be promoted, as it would offer an opportunity to further diversify the local economy so that these Islands would not, as at present, be almost totally dependent upon foreign tourism and foreign bank trust company operations. The admittance of small scale industires should probably be limited in the early stages to those industies of low labour intensity because of the local full employment situation, but they should offer reasonable wages and they should arrange their own foreign market outlet for manufactured products, Examples are

HON. V.G. JOHNSON (CONT'D): electronic and watch assembly operations. Oil storage and refinery installations could be considered. In fact the latter, that is, oil storage and refinery, has become a subject of great interest in recent months.

At the beginning of this year, 1974, there was much concern over inflation in these Islands. Although inflation is a universal problem small territories such as the Cayman Islands are more severely affected because of their inability to become self-sufficient in basic needs of everyday life. This results in their having to import price increases as well as other countries' inflation which automatically sets in motion domestic wage increases. This chain reaction creates a vicious circle which calls for consideration of anti inflation measures. Many measures against inflation can be suggested and perhaps recommended but it is almost certain that the Cayman situation in which the economy is so fragile and which is unlike that of sophisticated developed countries would not withstand many of the suggested treatments as the consequential effects could be a greater evil than the disease itself. It is therefore important that careful thought and research go into any measures before they are implemented. In the wake of local concern this Government made a brave attempt at relieving the situation somewhat when it introduced early in 1974 a measure to put the brakes on the rapid rise of inflation. The action was the revaluation of the Cayman dollar upward to the former exchange rate of CI$1.20 and the linking of its parity to the U.S. dollar. This had the effect of the Cayman dollar buying more foreign goods and at the same time establishing a fixed currency status quo with the countries offering the bulk of trade to these Islands.

Mr. President, I am happy to report on this occasion that the rate of price inflation is now tapering off, following the explosive world-wide rise in petroleum and other commodity prices last fall. During the last six months of 1973 prices rose by an overall 23% but during the first six months of 1974 the rise was only approximately 10%. It is the sincere hope that the rate of price inflation will be reduced still further to a more tolerable figure of 10% to 15% a year; however, this can only be achieved through the concerted efforts of private business groups and community organizations and individual restraint on purchasing, pricing and consumption in areas vulnerable and sensitive to inflationary trend.

The general outlook for the economy of these Islands is fair. However, in order to ensure its continued growth, the rate of price inflation should be brought under control as stated in the last preceding paragraph. Secondly, the development of tourism and the financial industry must be carefully planned and guided. I must mention as well two possible threats to the economy. The first is the possibility of Cuba opening its doors to American tourists; if this happens, (which could perhaps take place within the next two or three years) it could affect many countries in this region. The second threat is the proposed implementation by a number of developed countries of special tax legislation aimed specifically at tax haven operations. It is understood that such legislation is now under consideration and could become effective fairly early which would cause a levelling off of growth in the finance sector within the next five years unless the tax haven aspect of the financial operation will have little significance on the position of the financial centre. These possible developments will be watched closely but meanwhile as partial insurance against

HON. V.G. JOHNSON (CONT'D): these threats, there is need to consider the encouragement of agriculture and livestock production as well as the development of small scale or other industries as a means of diversifying the economy.

Tourism and the financial industry continued their usual trend of growth as experienced over the past few years. Tourists for the period January to September 1973 were 34,521 and for the same period in 1974 were 49,591, an increase of over 7,000 arrivals. Arrivals for the year 1975 could very well reach the 60,000 mark. Hotel occupancy averaged 53.44% over the past two years which is considered quite an improvement over the previous almost stagnant rate of approximately 40% a year. In March 1974 a new Tourism Law came into effect which established a Tourism Advisory Council and a Hotels Licensing Board. With these added administrative tools in the Department of Tourism, Government should now be better able to carry out its policy of control and promotion of the industry. In the other sector of the economy, that is the financial industry, company incorporation and registration continues to grow. The total number of companies on record on the 23rd October, 1974 was 5,904 as compared with 5,071 reported on the 2nd November, 1973. Banks and Trust licences granted to date are 188 an increase of 50 over the past year. However, as rosy as the picture may appearto be, there is some speculation at the present time as to whether this trend of growth will continue in these areas of the economy in the year ahead. The two industries are to a degree inter-related so that external economic disruption would affect both areas almost simultaneously. The Department of Tourism has reasons to believe that traffic in certain sections of the tourist industry will be curtailed in the coming year. There are indications too that proposals by local hoteliers to increase accommodation facilities are being postponed and that small hotels especially are faced with financial problems. On the other side the financial operation is experiencing some difficulties as well. A number of banks here and abroad closed their operations recently. Some were small private banks whose failure could have been attributed to the fears of world wide economic recession and the resulting loss of credibility in such institutions resulting in the desire of customers to switch their business from smaller to bigger institutions. Others failed because of heavy losses in foreign exchange transactions. However, most failures could be related to world economic tension which strikes in various forms.

Mention was made previously of the local currency exchange rate adjustment and the switching of its parity to the United States dollar early this year. As this was considered a very important decision by Government perhaps a few more words on the subject would be appropriate. Early in January this year when inflation was at its worst it was discovered that the Cayman dollar, which was tied to the pound sterling and which was floating with that currency, had suffered a 14.5% devaluation since it floated its fixed exchange rate against the United States dollar in June, 1972. Due to exchange rate fluctuations and rising prices of imported goods it became apparent that the purchasing power of the Cayman dollar had weakened considerably. The popular view at the time and a view which was supported by the entire financial community was that the traditional link of the Cayman dollar with sterling be broken and a new relationship to a U.S. dollar exchange system be considered. In examining this Government also came to the conclusion that in order to re-establish its parity to the U.S. dollar an exchange rate would need to be set. At this point the opportunity presented

HON. V.G. JOHNSON (CONT'D): itself to consider a revaluation of the Cayman dollar since it had been weakened by the pressures created by floating with the pound sterling. It was seen that an upward adjustment in the exchange rate would be advantageous to the Cayman Islands as Caymanian iporters could buy more foreign goods with their dollar and the measure would be a provisional control on rising inflation. It was also seen that the action would have no adverse effect on the economy as the period during which the dollar suffered the greatest loss was short and tourist and visitors would not be aware of any difference resulting from an upward adjustment at that stage. The decision was therefore taken and put into effect on the 28th January, 1974 to revalue the Cayman dollar and to switch its parity to the U.S. dollar. The latter was fully implemented on the 1st April when a new Currency Law was introduced.

It is the opinion that the currency adjustment had an outright and immediate effect on inflation. When the position was reviewed in July this year by the Government's Economic Adviser it was discovered that inflation had moved downward from the 1973 figure of 33% per annum to 20% per annum over the first six months of 1974. The ease could have been short term, we have not been able to examine the position since. As I said before it was thought that the currency adjustment contributed to this but we hope in any case that this downward trend will continue until a reasonable and acceptable growth is achieved. We hope too that the business community which also played an important part in applying the brakes to the growth of inflation will continue to exercise every effort in this direction. It is appreciated that the task is difficult. Government is also aware that as long as development continues and the country moves on in prosperity there is bound to be a long term rate of inflation. What we must seek to do, one and all, is to restrict the growth beyond that point.

THE YEAR 1974

I will now present Government's financial position for the current year 1974 as it is seen from the Revised Estimates. The surplus revenue balance at 1st January, 1974 was estimated at $1,144, 498 but the actual figure as revealed in the audited accounts for 1973 reached $2,173,610 or an increase of over one million dollars. The revenue for 1974, estimated at $7,175,317, was revised at $8,277,337; an increase of approximately 15%. Revenue and reserve will therefore provided a sum of $10,450,947 to finance the revised ordinary expenditure of $8,702,874 and leave a budgetary surplus of $1,748,073 to supplement the 1975 revenue requirements. 1974 will therefore end in a fairly healthy state.

The increase in revenue was mainly in the areas of Customs import duty, bank and other licences, stamp duty on land transactions and companies fees. These all resulted from increased activities beyond those envisaged a year ago in the main areas of the economy, i.e. tourism, the financial industry and construction. For instance, the tourist traffic increased considerably; over 800 new companies were incorporated, about 50 new bank and trust licences were granted and the building boom continued at full pace.

As a result of the healthy position revealed in the 1973 final accounts supplementary expenditure was recommended and approved in 1974 amounting to approximately $1.4 Million. This together with the estimated expenditure of $8,319,718 amounted to a total expenditure for 1974 of $9.72 Million; however, the revised figure is only $8.7 Million or approximately one million dollars less. The reason for this is that a number of projects including Hospital renovation and reconstruction and purchase of lands for airport development will not be finalized in 1974; the unspent balances are carried forward to 1975.

HON. V.G. JOHNSON (CONT'D): The Hospital reconstruction programme was initially estimated at a capital cost of $600,000: the actual cost will not exceed this sum. This programme is intended to expand and remodel the in-patient section of the George Town Hospital complex and improve two health clinic centres in the districts. At the completion of this phase of development in 1975 the programme of improvement will continue on a phased basis according to availability of funds.

Recurrent expenditure for health services was increased considerably in 1974 to provide more salary and more personnel to operate the service. The staff in the Grand Cayman Health Services with new bodies recommended for 1975 is quite a large force numbering 145. This represents a fairly big increase in staff over the past two years: it is perhaps the greatest increase of staff in any department over the same period. The quality and efficiency of service in the Medical Department should now be greatly improved.

I must also mention Education since the Department is the largest, staff-wise, in the entire Government; the staff numbers 173 which includes 13 new members recommended for employment in 1975. Outside of the Department of Finance and Development, the Department of Education ranks the biggest spender of public funds. Its allocation is approximately 14% of the recurrent expenditure.

In my budget address delivered in November last, I had cause to comment at some length on the problems then being experienced at the Cayman Islands High School. According to recent reports major difficulties have now been overcome at the school and the 1974/1975 academic year promises to be one of success for the comprehensive secondary system. The school is now under the administration of a new Principal. I am sure this is good news to all interested parents and students.

During 1974, Development Aid funds in the sum of $428,116 were provided by the British Government for further expansion at the Cayman Islands High School. Twelve new classrooms and a modern Home Economics Block were added while the High School at Cayman Brac had the addition of two new classrooms. Furniture and equipment for the new facilities were provided from local revenue to the tune of $70,000. Government's building programme for 1974 also included the extension of the East End Primary School in the form of a modern, infant block. Development Aid funds from the British Government in the sum of $48,000were made available for this project.

In expanding its education programme, Government undertook in 1974 to cater to the special needs of handicapped children by providing a Unit for the education of the Deaf. The Unit will be in full operation before the end of the year under a Caymanian teacher fully qualified in this field.

Another major development in Education in 1974 was the establishment of a Teacher's Centre, also under Caymanian headship. The Centre will be developed fully in 1975 mainly as a professional base for teachers to provide a continuing programme of in-service training at various levels. In this connnection it is of interest to note that 88.4% of teachers employed in the public school system are graduates and trained teachers, a standard of which this Territory can be proud. To maintain this standard, however, and to provide modern educational facilities for the 20% of the Territory's population now registered in Government schools, the Government will need to face up to its financial commitment.

HON. V.G. JOHNSON (CONT'D): Mr. President, another important area of development in 1974 which needs mention is Government's decision to establish a Radio Broadcasting Station. After approximately eight years of study it was finally agreed that the Cayman Islands had reached the stage in development when it was necessary to provide a modern system of internal communication and contact for the benefit of Government and the people of these Islands. A broadcasting system was therefore considered the most acceptable method.

The British Government made a grant of $210,000 towards the capital cost -building and equipment - of establishing the station. However, the recent revised estimates revealed that the cost had escalated to $290,000. It is hoped that the British Government will supplement the shortfall by a loan under the new aid arrangements failing which this Government will need to provide the funds from other sources. Equipment for the station has been ordered and construction of the building should begin at any time now; the site is by the new Administrative Building. Staff recruiting is actively under-way as training of local staff will be necessary before the station is opened. It is not known definitely when Radio Cayman will go on the air as serious delays in constructions and delivery of equipment are sometimes experienced. It would be most appropriate if it were possible to open the Broadcasting Station and the Administrative Building simultaneously in 1975.

In late 1973 the Legislative Assembly in reviewing the position regarding the Development Plan required under the Development and Planning Law 1971 (which plan has been long overdue), directed that the proposed draft plan be presented to this Honourable House not later than mid 1975. The Central Planning Authority constituted under the Development and Planning Law 1971 is the body which will prepare the plan. In January 1974 the Financial Secretary was given responsibility in Government to ensure that the Plan was produced as requested by the Legislature. The Central Planning Authority is being ably assisted with the development plan by a Development Co-ordinating Committee, a body appointed by the Executive Council and operating within the Department of Finance and Development. The Committee which is chaired by a Development Adviser under British Technical Assistance, deals with all development matters within the Country but at the present time is mainly concerned with assisting the Central Planning Authority in the preparation of the Development Plan. Beside the involvement of Central Planning Authority and the Development Co-ordinating Co-mittee, the machinery for preparing the Development Plan includes this Government's Director of Planning and a United Nations Planning Adviser who is stationed here. Unfortunately there have been vacancies in these two posts over quite a long period and this could have adverse effect on the work involved in the preparation of the plan although we hope not. The United Nations post has been vacant since May 1974 and it has not yet been filled; hopefully it will be by the end of 1974. However, in the mean time the United Nations Physical Planning Unit in St. Lucia with responsibility for assisting the Cayman Islands in physical planning has been keeping in touch and doing all that is possible from that end. Two team visits were arranged since the middle of this year and much work undertaken in conjunction with the plan; the teams have been working with the Central Planning Authority and the Development Co-ordinating Committee. This Government is most grateful for the assistance. A temporary appointment was made recently to the local post of Director of Planning which will partly fill the immediate need.

HON. V.G. JOHNSON (CONT'D): It is the intention of Government to have the Plan laid before the Legislative Assembly in the time specified after the processing laid down by the Development and Planning Law 1971. A tentative programme and procedure will be prepared shortly. The plan will cover the period to 1990. While it is a physical plan based on land and land use it will of necessity touch on the social and economic aspects in certain areas of the Country's development. The plan will be based on policy decisions of Government covering important areas of growth. The plan is important because it will form the basis for improved control and will serve as a guide for future development. I hope it will be accepted by the Legislature in that spirit.

I must also say a word on Government's attitude towards Social Services. With the development of the Islands has come a greater need in the field of social service because of the change in life patterns and the gradual loosening of family ties. This means that whereas elderly people were formely well cared for by their families, many are now neglected and in need of care; small children are left with insufficient care while mothers go to work; and instances of juvenile deliquency increase.

Thus in 1970 Government felt it appropriate to have an Adviser to survey the social scene and give indication of the needs in infrastructure and personnel to meet the situation as it existed and prepare for the future. At Government's request a Social Development Adviser to the British Government visited the Island and high on his list of priorities recommended was the establishment of a National Council of Social Services.

In January this year the matter was again examined by way of British Technical Assistance in an effort to proceed with the establishment of such a Council. Government subsequently accepted the recommendations set out in the Reports. In consequence of this the Budget for next year shows a substantial increase in the amount set aside for the assistance of social welfare agencies. During the year a Steering Committee has been working on a constitution to set up a National Council of Social Service in order to integrate and co-ordinate the work of all voluntary agencies and Government to ensure the proper selection of priorities in social services and to avoid duplication of effort. It is hoped that the Council will be in full operation in the near future.

In support of the recommendation, Government is providing, as their share of the operation, the salaries of a Social Development Officer, a Social Welfare Organiser and an Assistant to the Social Development Officer (Secretary) and also an amount to cover the rent of an office so that the Council can get well established. Government has also undertaken to finance the operation of a Boys Home the establishment of which is being undertaken by the Rotary Club of Grand Cayman.

Voluntary agencies and the private sector, probably through a Community Chest type fund, will it is hoped, provide other funds necessary for welfare work such as the opening of creches, agencies for the care of the elderly, sports facilites, youth work and the many other opportunities which are presenting themselves and which are extremely necessary if we are to preserve the stable and harmonious social climate which now exists in the Cayman Islands.

As air transport services are most vital to the economy of these Islands I should mention developments in this area in 1974. Cayman Airways Ltd. continued a very successful operation. The financial year ending 30th September 1973 revealed a fair trading profit as will be seen from the Audited Accounts and Directors Report for that year. The Board of Directors took the decision to declare dividends and distribute $135,000 to the shareholders. This Government's share was $68,850 which sum was placed to Government's reserve account. The year ending 30th September, 1974 was also quite successful

HON. V.G. JOHNSON (CONT'D): but the financial position will not be known until the audit is completed.

While Cayman Airways and L.A.C.S.A. kept well abreast of traffic growth and provided adequate equipment to operate a reliable service there was still some criticism voiced against the two Airlines. I must in fairness to the Airlines state quite frankly that during the period of operation without competition they have never attempted to abuse the position or to embarrass the service. Grounded aircraft have always been replaced at the earliest possible opportunity in order to avoid long delays and panics.

It has just been reported that Southern Airlines have been granted temporary permission by the Civil Aeronautic Board of the United States to operate scheduled flights on the Miami/Cayman/Miami route. We welcome Southern Airlines as the first American Carrier to serve these Islands on a reciprocal basis. The schedule will be announced as soon as the British Government has concurred approval of the application.

Although we welcome the addition of another airline to serve these Islands, Cayman Airways, the National Carrier of the Cayman Islands still provides valuable domestic and international services. It must be supported and patronized and not allowed to be forced out of business.

The following big projects under Capital Expenditure, Administrative Building, the West Bay/Bodden Town Roads Programme, Port Facilities and Airport Development made some progress during this year. The first two projects, Administrative Building and the Roads Programme have been under construction and more than 50% of the cost has been expended so far. These two projects are being financed by a Consortium Loan from six local banks. The Loan Agreement was signed on the 25th October, 1974 and the funds became available on the 1st November. The Administrative Building is scheduled for completion before mid 1975. It is difficult to give a date for the Roads project. The equipment was ordered a year ago and only now parts of the order are arriving. In the mean time Public Works Department has gone ahead with thepreparatorywork which has resulted so far in quite a large expenditure.

The Port Project is progressing steadily. Consultants have been appointed and tender documents are now being prepared. The contract should be awarded by the end of this year and being early in the new year. The project is to be financed 80% by a loan from Caribbean Development Bank and the balance by this Governmentfrom its revenue resources. The Loan Agreement with the Bank was signed earlier this year. The cost of the port project which has escalated since the original estimates will not be determined before the contract is awarded. The new facilities should be completed by late 1976.

The Airport project has also moved on quite well. The first phase which provides for Freight Shed and Water Tank is now nearing completion. The next phase will provide the Terminal Building and parking facilities and the study for this development is now being conducted. The first phase is being financed from local revenue but the second phase will need to be financed by a loan. Caribbean Development Bank has been requested to finance the project. This second phase should now move ahead without delay.

THE NEW YEAR 1975

I will now deal with the New Financial Year 1975. The Budget is presented with a deficit of $458,655 and quite honestly this is the end result of several pruning exercises and with no provisions being included for a salaries review. The Budget was prepared on the basis of the surplus revenue balance at the end

HON. V.G. JOHNSON (CONT'D): of 1974 estimated at $1,748,073 plus ordinary revenue for 1975 estimated at $8,734,055 (calculated at the normal growth rate) producing a total sum of $10,482,128. Against these estimated funds are Recurrent Expenditure $8,650,700, New Services $407,293 and Capital Expenditure financed from local revenue $1,882,790 a total of $10,940,783. The difference between these receipts and payments is of course the deficit stated above. The total expenditure including those under British Development Aid ($995,936) and Loan Funds ($2,009,859) is $13,946,578 or an increase of approximately 20% of total budgeted estimated expenditure in 1974.

Mr. President, the salaries review put into effect on the Ist January, 1974 was quite substantial as it was an attempt to close the wide gap which existed between Government's basic wages and those of the private sector. It was agreed at that time that every endeavour should be made to maintain the newly established position by annual adjustments according to the rise in cost of living and the availability of funds. According to the investigations made in July this year on the state of inflation, cost of living has risen only 10% in the first half of this year or 20% per year which is a great improvement over 1973 when it rose to 33 1/3 per cent.

The question which arises now is whether a salary increase should be considered and if so to what extent. First of all funds would not be available unless new revenues are recommended. After giving the matter much consideration Government has decided to grant an award of approximately 10% increase in salary effective January 1975. This will create an additional expenditure in Government of approximately $450,000. The award is considered reasonable and should fill the gap until the position is re-examined.

The present Budget overdraft of $458,655 plus the provision of $450,000 for salaries will produce a shortfall of over $900,000 which means that new revenue measures must be recommended which will in 1975 produce these additional funds. With regret I must announce two new tax measures which are being recommended and which will be introduced in this Honourable House shortly.

The first measure is the increase of Banks and Trust Companies Licence fees. The Class A" Licence which is now $5,000 will be increased to $10,000 and the Class "B" Licence which is now $2,500 will go to $3,500. This measure will produce additional revenue of $400,000 for the year. The increase applies to initial and annual fees.

The second measure is an increase in Companies incorporation, registration and annual fees. It embraces the three catagories of companies, exempt, foreign and ordinary. The proposals are to increase fees between 25% and 50% and this measure will produce approximately the same sum as the first measure, i.e. $400,000 a year.

The two recommendations together will produce $800,000. If we are searching for $900,000, then the difference is not very large and adjustment could, if required, be made during the year if no other tax recommendations are put forward. However, there are plans for other proposals in 1975. For instance it is hoped that Medical fees will be revised and put into effect early. If the new medical fees are in line with the new and health services of Hospital and if they are to some extent related as well to the cost of comparable medical services abroad, then they should provide quite an increase in the Department's revenues. In fact medical fees should be reasonable enough to bear a substantial part of the operating cost of that service.

In the area of secondary education, I believe Cayman is one of few countries granting completely free secondary education today. Although this is a good thing for the

MR. PRESIDENT (CONT'D): Estimates, it is normal procedure for such bills to be given special treatment, for very good reasons. But had today's Estimates suggested, for example modifications of the Customs Tariff, and had this House not today passed a law to give effect to these proposals, then there could be very severe repercussions in the community, because of speculation on such revenue matters. So this perhaps Honourable Members is something to which the House should bend its attention when amendments to Standing Orders are being considered. But I'll leave it for the Honourable Financial Secretary to agree with Honourable Members a date at which these three bills should be set down for First Reading. This may mean a motion for suspension of Standing Order 21.

HON. D.V. WATLER: Mr. President and Honourable Members, I move that the House adjourn until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

HON. G.E. WADDINGTON: I beg to second the motion.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED HOUSE ADJOURNED UNTIL 10 O'CLOCK ~~THURSDAY~~ THURSDAY MORNING.

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: Mr. President and Honourable Members, I would personally have no objection if Members will wish to postpone the reading of these bills for a time to be set, either tomorrow or the next day. But one other thing that I would like to remind this Honourable House, is that we should not go into Finance Committee before we have an understanding regarding these revenue bills. Because as already been intimated in the Budget Address, the budget is now carrying an overdraft of over four hundred thousand dollars, and if the Government is to recommend a salaries increase of approximately 10% to Civil Servants, this again is going to require a sum of approximately four hundred and fifty thousand dollars. If these revenue bills are not going to be accepted by this House, then it means that the salary reward will have to be cancelled, and furthermore the budget will have to be further pruned by another four hundred and sixty thousand dollars. These should be known before we go into Finance Committee. And that's the reason why these revenue bills are being introduced at this early stage. If it is the view of Members that they should have had these bills prior to the presentation, well it's a different matter.. The publication of bills and the receiving of papers from the Legislative Assembly are two different things, and I would hate to know that these bills would be forced through this Legislative Assembly with the number of opposition that I see on the other side this afternoon. And for that reason I would prefer to leave it at a more convenient time, when Members will agree that these bills should be taken. But I would strongly recommend that this should be before we go to Finance Committee, because it is most necessary.

MR. PRESIDENT: Is the Honourable Member withdrawing his motion for the introduction of the bill.

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: Well, if we could put it to the vote Mr. President, but as I said before I don't want to force the issue, it's best to withdraw it, until an acceptable time.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, I crave your indulgence Sir. We have departed from the Standing Orders 52, to the extent that I think it should have only been probably two speeches, which was the one from the Honourable Financial Secretary, and I opposed it first, I think from just the two of us. So being we have departed from Section 52, and the Financial Secretary has really spoken twice on the issue, and should we adopt one of our other Standing Orders, that should give me the prerogative to reply, giving me the second speech, and I crave your indulgence to allow me do so.

MR. PRESIDENT: Is the speech to the point of the withdrawl of the First Reading of the bill? I think I must disallow this. I allowed the Financial Secretary to make a statement, and I then allowed him to wind up as the Member presenting the motion. So I'm afraid I must disallow the Honourable Member to address the House on this.

QUESTION PUT ON WITHDRAWL OF INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING: AGREED

THE BANKS AND TRUST COMPANIES REGULATION (AMENDMENT) LAW, 1974 WITHDRAWN AS WELL AS THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) LAW, 1974 AND THE CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) LAW, 1974.

MR. PRESIDENT: I would observe having listened to the debate, that under Standing Order 21, it seems mandatory that a printed copy of every bill shall be sent to each member seven days at least before it is proposed to be read a first time. I would also observe that in the case of financial bill, connected with the annual

MR. JOHN JEFFERSON: Mr. President, I wonder if I would have an opportunity to just make one observation after the First Official Member spoke last.

MR. PRESIDENT: I'm afraid not, the Honourable Member has spoken.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: Mr. President and Members of this House, I must agree that we are falling short of what we have known to be right, and that is, that we should be presented with these bills seven days in advance. Now I resent the fact that if, which I must say, I will give the benefit of the doubt to, the idea behind the holding up of this bill, is because we were not competent to keep what I would call a secret. I feel that we are really responsible men, and I call myself a very responsible woman, and I feel we are put here, and we are not to be treated as babies. If this bill was coming up, we had every right to know about it. Now I'm not saying personally I might not have had a hint of it, but, that's not good enough for me. I feel that we must follow proceedings, do what is right, and there cannot be any questions hereafter.

I know we are headed for taxation, I'm quite aware of it, because you cannot spend money which you have not got, unless you get it from some other source. Now I feel that when we go to spend money, we must know where it's coming from, and not hopefully wish that it might come from some source. Thank you Sir.

HON. A.B. BUSH: Mr. President and Members, I am in a sense surprised to know that there's so much opposition to the introduction of this very short and simple bill. As had been explained by the Financial Secretary, that it is a bill which imposes a type of taxation, and it has not been the practice to publish this prior to presenting it in the House.

The Members objections seem to be that they haven't had time to study it. But this first bill, The Banks and Trust Companies Regulation (Amendment) Law, it couldn't be any simpler, it couldn't be any shorter, and the Objects and Reasons couldn't be any clearer set out than what they are. What is it? It is a desire to increase the licence fee payable by Banks and Trust Companies and to impose sanctions for late payment thereof and to amend section 4 of the Law for this purpose. I don't think it needs very much study for members to arrive at a decision, as to whether this is a law they want or not. To my mind it is something that is necessary, and has been explained by the Financial Secretary, it hasn't been the custom to do otherwise in this House. So I really don't see, Mr. President and Members, why the opposition to this very short and simple bill.

I do not want to go contrary to the Standing Orders, but as has been explained, it has been the custom in this House, not to publish a bill which imposes any taxation until it was introduced in the House. And for that reason, Mr. President and Members, I support it. I'm sorry that the Financial Secretary in a way gave in to what is considered the opposition, but I think it is necessary for us to get through as quick as possible now with this bill. And I want to say Mr. President and Members, that I support it.

CAPT. A.A. REID: Mr. President and Honourable Members of this House, I am afraid I can't agree with the objections to reading this bill this evening. After all it only takes two minutes to read it, and there's not much study in it. And there're two items on the other bill, the Trust Companies, and the Banks - the proper banks; and I see nothing wrong about it going through.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONT'D): other Members to agree with us, that any debate on this bill be deferred until a future time.

MR. JOHN JEFFERSON: Mr. President, I too want to add to this. I see our able Financial Secretary just a few minutes ago stated that something of this nature would be done. We are aware of the fact, we need the revenue, but this House will after dealing with some business go into finance, then come back. And I too disagree with the fact that a bill just laid on our desks could be debated this afternoon.

Mr. President, it is a matter of principle, it is a matter of the rules laid down in our Standing Orders in this House, It's not like we were going to adjourn this afternoon, and maybe the House would be Sine Die until another three or four months. But we are going to be in session for a while, and I would object to this bill being debated at this particular moment. It could be brought back before our sessions are closed - the fourth session, and the debate on the bill this afternoon. I would certainly oppose, and ask that government withdraw it until we have had a chance to study it. I thank you very much.

HON. D.V. WATLER: Mr. President and Honourable Members, it is unfortunate that the Members haven't had these bills, and the Third Official Member is apparently in agreement not to press this at this time. They are short bills, these with the tax measure, and I am wondering whether the House would not be prepared to have the First and Second Readings of them before you're adjourned to go into the Finance Committee, since these tax measures may effect your budget, that you will be studying into the Finance Committee. Maybe when you have gotten through with the debate on the Financial Secretary's Address, then you could take the First and Second Reading of them, so that you will be aware of what is coming up, and thus be in a better position to study your budget into the Finance Committee.

Now as far as the other two bills that I mentioned was coming up, the Oil Pollution, and the Tax Aid one; I did say that those would be taken after the House resume from the Finance Committee. The Members would then have sufficient time - their seven days, because I'm expecting that the Finance Committee will take at least seven days, or may even be more, I don't know, and you would have sufficient time. You may not have the full seven days, before you adjourn now, but the House has on other occasions suspended a Standing Order to allow a bill, say to be taken through all of its stages at one sitting. Normally you should do it at two sittings, it's not anything irregular that the House could not do, because we have done that on many occasions, to suspend the Standing Order. So I would trust that the Members would give that a consideration, say before you adjourn to go into your Finance Committee, that you take say, the First and Second Readings, thus being in a better position to deliberate on the budget. Thank you Sir,

MR. CLAUDE HILL: Mr. President and Honourable Members, I rise also to oppose the introduction of this bill, seeing that this has only been brought to our notice during the recess, and Members here who have already spoken, said they have not had the time even to read the bill, which is correct.

As one Member said, it is for the principle of the thing that the Standing Orders are being broken, and which the First Official Member just stated that, there are certain sections of the Standing Orders which give us permission to introduce the First and Second Readings. That could be quite true, but if we have the First and Second Readings now, definitely, we are breaking the first rule in the Standing Orders. Thank you Sir.

HON. V.G. JOHNSON (CONT'D): before the Legislative Assembly must be circulated to Members, within the time prescribed by the Standing Orders. It has been the practice in the past when we're dealing with measures of taxation presented to the Legislative Assembly, that the publication of the bill is withheld, until the First Reading is taken by the Legislative Assembly. But as far as the bills are concerned, these are sent to Members in the normal way as other papers.. And I noticed today, that my papers have just been given to me. I perhaps know what I am dealing with, but other Members are not aware, and for that reason, Mr. President, I do not wish to persue the presentation of these bill. If it is the views of this Honourable House that they have not had sufficient time to examine it. There is no intention, I can assure you Mr, President and Honourable Members, on my part to restrict Members from seeing these bills before they are introduced. I thought that they would have gone to members in the normal way.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Mr. President, I would like to second the motion put forward by the First Member from Bodden Town. I have only been in the House a short time, but if I remember right on previous occasions we have received bills to increase revenue sometime prior to coming into the Chamber. If we should start now debating a bill which has just been handed to us, we would be setting a precedent, which would do the country no good. The precedent would make a mockery of the Standing Orders under which this Assembly works. and I have to go along with the First Member from Bodden Town, in his attempt to block the introduction of this bill. And although this perhaps is a little off key, we have just been told that a bill to control pollution will be coming in this sitting, and even if we stretched over backwards, and allowed this revenue bill to be dealt with, I can't see how one can have the nerve to put forward something like an oil pollution bill, which has no urgency. I can understand in the case of a revenue bill, that you wouldn't want too much publicity in advance, because every company would run to be registered, every bank would run to be licenced, every person would take advantage before the revenue went up, or whatever tax there was.

Nevetheless the principle of members having to come here, and be expected to intelligently debate a bill, a complicated Bill drafted in legal language, which poor laymen like the members here do not even understand after many days of study. It is out of order, I would say to expect members to deal with any bill at a moment notice. I do not have any claim to understanding legal language and legal terminology, and I do not propose to deal with any bill without even an opportunity to read it. And Mr. President, I'm hoping that other members will feel this way, and if I have captured the thoughts of the Financial Secretary, it seems that he too is willing to postpone the debate on this bill until some future time, even say tomorrow morning. But it is without all reasons to ask the Assembly to deal with a bill which seeks to impose a tax upon the people of this Island. Because although this is only a bank fee, I am of the opinion that anytime a bank is charged, that bank charges somebody in return. Because banks are in business to make money, and they can't just pay out an extra five thousand dollars, without putting on a penny on your service fees at the bank. They must recover the money which they expend.

So this is a bill of great importance, because it does impose taxes upon people, not directly, but those who indirectly use the services of the banks. And we do not want to act contrary to our parliamentary procedure, especially at a time when we have just this morning introduced the Mace which is the very symbol of parliamentary procedure, and the very symbol of good decorum in the House; and we also have just employed a full time Serjeant-At-Arms to see to the proper carrying out of the Standing Orders, or anything directed by you, Mr. President. And with these few words I would ask the

HON. V.G. JOHNSON (CONT'D): Mr. President, I recommend the Appropriation Bill with provisions for recurrent and capital expenditure for the financial year 1975 in the sum of $13,368,999. This does not include the sum of $577,579 which is now authorised under statutory financial provisions made under other existing legislation.

QUESTION PUT: 1975 APPROPRIATION LAW READ SECOND TIME

MR. PRESIDENT: I think that Honourable Members will wish time to digest the Honourable Financial Secretary's Address, and if Members feel it appropriate, I would welcome a motion from the floor under Standing Order 23 (6), for the adjournment of this debate.

HON. D.V. WATLER: Mr. President, and Honourable Members, I beg to move that the debate on this address be adjourned at this time.

HON. G.E. WADDINGTON: I beg to second the motion.

MR. PRESIDENT: Are there any speakers on this motion? If not I shall put the question.

QUESTION PUT: DEBATE ON THE SECOND READING OF THE APPROPRIATION LAW 1975 ADJOURNED UNTIL TOMORROW: AGREED.

HOUSE SUSPENDED
HOUSE RESUMED

MR. PRESIDENT: Proceedings are resumed. Item 9 - Government Business.

THE BANKS AND TRUST COMPANIES REGULATION (AMENDMENT) LAW, 1974.

CLERK: THE BANKS AND TRUST COMPANIES REGULATION (AMENDMENT) LAW, 1974 - INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

MOVED BY : HON. V.G. JOHNSON
SECONDED BY: HON. D.V. WATLER

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, under Standing Order (32), I think it is, and Standing Order (6), I beg to object to this introduction, because this Bill has not followed the regulations as set down under Section (6), and that we have not had any prior notice of this, and the House should not be expected to go into debate on this. I do not even know what it's about, I have only seen it on my desk since I returned from the coffee break. But if it is like what I have heard, circulated a couple of minutes ago, that this was being done because it's a financial measure, and the House could not be trusted with it before hand. Well then Mr. President, I take very strong objections to that, because we are all elected members, elected here by the vote of the people, and elected for the good of this country. And it hurts me to believe that that could be the reason for this, to think that the Members of this House, who may stand in sometimes in opposition could not be trusted to know what is going on. And I crave the indulgence of this House, Mr. President, that this bill be not considered at this time. Thank you.

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: Mr. President, I wonder if I could make a statement on this. I think I will have to agree with the submission made by the Honourable Member for Bodden Town. All business coming

HON. V.G. JOHNSON (CONT'D): the realm of your responsibilities. Of course the financial implication in these matters is always my escape.

The Civil Service seems to have improved somewhat since the implementation of the salaries review recommendations effective the 1st January, 1974. The calibre of new recruits has improved considerably. If this trend continues the Service, with good management and the strengthening of the Establishments Division. could be built into a fine organization. This is why it was necessary to recommend a salary increase in 1975.

There are few new recommendations under Capital Expenditure. Most of the provisions are for the continuation of current projects, some of which have already been mentioned. The education building programme will be financed partly from local revenue and partly from British Aid (Loan) funds. The High School 1975 programme includes a learning resources centre (library) (Aidfunds) and facilities for physical education (local revenue). The programme will extend into 1976 and beyond this perhaps. In primary education there is the urgent need to consider extension of the West Bay School which is presently overcrowded. Provisions are included in the 1975 Estimates for this project.

The Mosquito Research and Control Unit has had many problems in 1974 following resistance to the insecticide malathion which led to a new capital programme for 1975. Since use of other insecticide would have posed a high probability of cross resistance making matters worse, it was decided to do a programme of larviciding by oil in 1974. However, the fuel crisis made this impossible. The 1975 programme will concentrate on increasing methods of physical control and drainage while investigating other modern larvicides.

The Islands of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman are still struggling for some form of activity to boost their economy and activate social interest. The talk of an oil transfer terminal on Little Cayman recently created much interest as such an industry could solve many of the problems. There is talk of an oil refinery as well which is also interesting. Government has not declined any invitation to discuss these developments; in fact the British Government was requested to provide a team of consultants to examine proposals for oil installations on Little Cayman. Consultants have been appointed and they are already at work on the oil transfer terminal proposal. While Government supports this form of industry in the smaller Islands it is nevertheless concerned that all precautions be taken to safeguard the long term interest of the Islands and their people.

I have been speaking for quite some time Mr. President, and although I could perhaps continue I think this is a convenient point to conclude the address. I apologise for any areas of the Budget deserving mention at this time and which I have overlooked.

I would like before ending to say what a great pleasure it is to present another Budget to this Honourable House. The year that is passing has seen a number of interesting developments. The most inportant to my mind is the change of Governors. The past is spent and gone, the future is uncertain so we need only give thought to the present. I am confident that we have in you Your Excellency and Mr. President, a man with the keenest interest in the welfare of these Islands and a man whose attitude towards administration will undoubtedly be based on constructive thoughts motivated by a deep desire to see these Islands move forward in the right direction in their progress and development. During your term of Office you will, I am sure, rely on the advice and assistance from Members of this Honourable House. I am sure I speak for all members in saying, Mr. President, that you can depend on our whole-hearted support. I wish for you and Mrs. Russell and your son a happy and successful stay in Cayman.

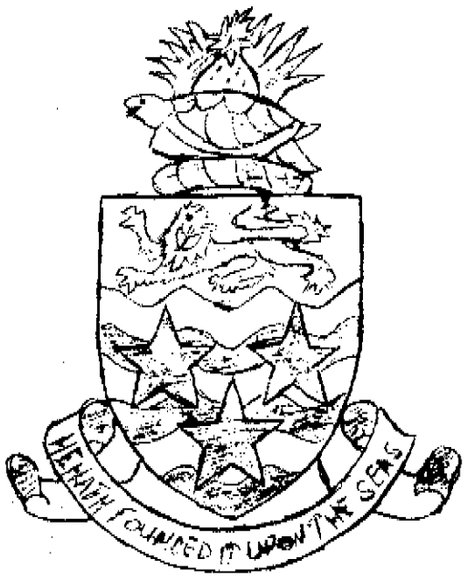
HON. V.G. JOHNSON (CONT'D): country and no doubt it has been of tremendous help to the people, I have always felt that the cost of transportation should not be borne by Government, as is the case at present. I appreciate the fact that the cocept might have originated from the decision of Government to centralize secondary education in George Town and provide a system of transport for the children rather than establishing small units of secondary schools in the various districts. However, as I mentioned earlier the recurrent cost of education is in the neighbourhood of over 14% of the recurrent budget which is considered quite substantial. The cost of transportation of school children in 1975 is estimated at $100,00 or approximately 8% ofthe education recurrent budget. It has always been my contention that in the absence of any form of direct tax contributing to the education system parents should pay at least the bill covering transportation, although I am sure there will be cases requiring special consideration. I hope Government will examine this proposal in the new year.

Mr. President, another potential revenue earner which Government may examine in 1975 is a licence fee on insurance companies. The fee could be categorised as in the case of banks - domestic and off-shore. In any case there is much concern at present about locally incorporated companies doing off-shore insurance business without control. The present domestic operators are not of much concern as yet since they are all off-shoots of fairly big reputable foreign companies. An appropriate form of legislation is now being examined.

A word on ship registration which has been a much debated subject here over the past years. In 1970 this Government amended the Law dealing with annual tonnage tax to accommodate and attract registration of large foreign vessels but obviously there are other snags to overcome. The registration fee has never been revised and this needs to be done now especially if other hurdles are cleared. It is the intention of Government to examine the matter further in the new year because undoubtedly the system could provide a fair income to Government which would supplement the anticipated shortfall of future years.

The recurrent expenditure section of the Budget is quite straight forward and there is nothing of particular interest to report other than a new Department, Broadcasting, which will appear in the final Estimates. For this the financial provision of $100,000 is recommended under the New Services Estimates.

The requests under New Services for additional staff were quite substantial. They were in the vicinity of about 25% of present strength. Before any of the recommendations were put forward a Committee was appointed to examine the applications. Although the Committee's recommendation largely reduced the number of requests the reduced number is still questionable in relation to the present staffing in some Departments; especially those in which the staff was increased considerably in the last year or two. Government has no objection to improving the Service where this is necessary; the best and most acceptable method of achieving this must be employed, but this is not always achieved by increasing staff. Improvement in methods and systems and management followed by greater efficiency of staff must be advocated as well. In future all requests for increase in establishments should be supported by very good grounds showing the existing staff utilization and the areas of stress and strain which require strengthening. Mr. President, the Civil Service is the Governor's subject so please forgive me if I have ventured too far into



C A Y M A N I S L A N D S

L E G I S L A T I V E A S S E M B L Y

M I N U T E S

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OFFICIAL REPORT

B U D G E T A N D F O U R T H M E E T I N G

O F T H E

1974 S E S S I O N O F T H E

L E G I S L A T I V E A S S E M B L Y

THURSDAY 21st NOVEMBER, 1974

PART II

TUESDAY 21st NOVEMBER, 1974

PRESENT WERE:-

His Excellency the Governor, Mr. Thomas Russell, CBE - PRESIDENT

GOVERNMENT BENCH

Hon. D.V. Watler, OBE., JP	First Official Member
Hon. G.E. Waddington, CBE., QC	Second Official Member
Hon. V.G. Johnson, OBE	Third Official Member
Hon. A.B. Bush, JP	Second Electoral District, George Town, (Member for Works, Communications and Public Transport).
Hon. Trevor Foster	Third Electoral District, Lesser Island (Member for Inter-Island Co-ordination and Information).
Hon. B.O. Ebanks	First Electoral District, West Bay, (Member for Education Medical, Health, Social Services and Labour).
Hon. W.W. Conolly, OBE., JP	Sixth Electoral District, East End, (Member for Tourism, Lands, Natural Resources, MRCU, Agriculture and Surveys).

ELECTED MEMBERS

Mr. John Jefferson	First Electoral District, West Bay.
Miss Annie H. Bodden	Second Electoral District, George Town.
Mr. Claude Hill	Second Electoral District, George Town.
Capt. A.A. Reid	Third electoral District, Lesser Islands.
Mr. James M. Bodden	Fourth Electoral District, Bodden Town.
Mr. G. Haig Bodden	Fourth Electoral District, Bodden Town.
Mr. Craddock Ebanks	Fifth Electoral District, North Side.

ORDER OF THE DAY

THURSDAY, 21st NOVEMBER, 1974

1. GOVERNMENT BUSINESS:-

BILLS:-

(a) The Banks and Trust Companies Regulations (Amendment) Law, 1974 (FIRST AND SECOND READINGS)
(b) The Companies (Amendment Law, 1974 (FIRST AND SECOND READINGS)
(c) The Customs (Amendment) Law, 1974 (FIRST AND SECOND READINGS)

2. DEBATE ON FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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THURSDAY, 21ST NOVEMBER, 1974

10 A.M.

MR. PRESIDENT: Please be seated.
Proceed with the item 1 on the Order of the Day Government Business: Bills.

CLERK: The Banks and Trust Companies Regulation (Amendment) Law, 1974 - INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING.

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: Mr. President, I would like, Sir, before moving on with this and the other three Bills on the Agenda this morning to say that there was a bit of difficulty yesterday afternoon when these were presented.

Members have agreed that we deal with them this morning, but it would appear that there is still the need for me to ask for the suspension of Standing Order 3 (6), which require that business papers and supporting documents for each meeting for distribution to Members should be sent to Members not less than seven days before each meeting. Now, therefore, before I begin to deal with these matters I would ask for the suspension of Standing Order 3 (6).

MR. PRESIDENT: On a point of clarification Standing Order 3 (6) seems to deal with Mode of addressing the Assembly. Twenty one gives notice of Bills - a printed copy of every bill shall be sent to each Member seven days,at least, before it is proposed to be read a first time.

HON. V. G. JOHNSON: I'm sorry, Mr. President. It's Standing Order 21. I beg to move the suspension of Standing Order 21 so as to deal with the three bills now on the Agenda for this morning's business.

SECONDED BY: HON. D.V. WATLER.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, as far as I am concerned I'll agree with the suspension of Standing Order for the first one on the Agenda - the Banks and Trust Companies Regulations - but I'd like for the other ones to be submitted separately because I will be objecting to those.

MR. PRESIDENT: So we can take that this motion is in respect of the first bill on the Order of the Day.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. STANDING ORDER 21 SUSPENDED.

CLERK: The Banks and Trust Companies Regulation (Amendment) Law, 1974

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

MOVED BY HON. V.G. JOHNSON
SECONDED BY HON. D.V. WATLER.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. BILL INTRODUCED AND GIVEN A FIRST READING.

CLERK: The Banks and Trust Companies Regulation (Amendment) Law 1974.

SECOND READING

MOVED BY HON. V.G. JOHNSON

HON. V. G. JOHNSON: The Memorandum of Objects and Reasons. Mr. President and Honourable Members, it is desired to increase the licences fees payable by Banks and Trust Companies, and, therefore, it is necessary to amend section 4 of the Banks and Trust Companies Regulation Law, 1966 for this purpose.

In the Budget Address delivered yesterday Members will recall that the state of the 1975 financial position was given and it was pointed out that there would be need for this Legislative Assembly to consider new measures of taxation to supplement the needs of 1975. Already the Budget was presented with a deficit and there was another proposal for further expenditure which would increase that deficit. And in the Budget Address recommendations were put forward as to how Government would finance this shortfall.

One of the measures was to increase the licence fees of Banks and Trust Companies operating within the Cayman Islands. The increase in fees to Banks and Trust Companies was investigated to some extent and not just merely thought of within the closed doors of Government; because it is usual when taxation is being introduced against any sector or section of the financial operation or in any area that would affect the economy or affect the cost of living that this be examined before the recommendations come forward.

Government has decided on this occasion to examine areas that are less inflationary since it was inevitable that additional revenue should be sought in any case. And this measure was considered to be one of the likely methods.

It is a simple amendment to the Law, Mr. President. There are a few minor amendments which I will mention when we get into Committee stage. But generally it is an amendment to change two sets of figures. One is to increase the fees payable by Class "A" Bank Licence, operator and the other is to amend the licence fee paid by the Class "B" operator.

I have no doubt that the measure will be accepted in good spirits by the banking faternity; I've had that indication in fact from many of them. And so I would ask Honourable Members to give due consideration to the proposal as it is put forward, and to support the Bill.

Thank you, Sir.

SECONDED BY HON. D.V. WATLER.

QUESTION PUT: DEBATE ENSUED.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, Honourable Members, yesterday evening in this Chamber a Member said that taxation seemed to be not important. That it was a trivial Bill and we were wasting the time of the House in not proceeding with it.

My humble opinion on this matter, Mr. President, is that any Bill that deals with taxation is one of the most important Bills that will come before any Parliament, and it shocks me to think that we have Members in here that would think otherwise.

This Bill if passed into law, and I have no doubt but for what it will pass into law, will give about $400,000 into the Treasury. One of the next Bills that we will shortly be debating will give an additional $400,000 - Now if this is not a point to consider and called taxation then we are really in the wrong place.

I would like at this part of my speech to say that I do not envy in any respect the Financial Secretary with his position, because I feel he has done a remarkable job in the past, he is continuing to do it now and I am confident he will continue to do so in the future. I know that he is the main one that is faced with the problems in trying to find out how this Government could get the money to operate with. So I am quite in sympathy with him. The only thing that worries me, Sir, is

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: (CONT'D): whether he is getting unqualified support from someone else.

This is an important Bill, but the main objection I personally have to this Bill was the manner in which it was introduced to this House. We continually in this Parliament try to set precedents and if we had allowed the Bill to have gone through yesterday evening as it was tried to do then we would have set another precedent. Once precedents are set it is very hard to get away from them.

Now our Standing Order under which we operate does call for seven days notice, and to my knowledge, as much as I have researched it, there is no place in that Standing Order that differentiates between a common Bill and a tax Bill.

The Members of this House must realise and realise it quick that every Member that is elected in this House is elected by popular vote, is elected to represented the people of their constituency. And whether we share the same political beliefs or not this s a forum in which we can voice our opinions freely and represent our people as we see fit with the peoples support.

I would further remind Members of this House at this point that when the Executive Council was constituted about two years ago, precedent was tried to be set by the Chair instructing the Members that they had to vote four votes on the ballot or it would be considered a spoilt ballot. No place in the Standing Orders, no place in the Election Law, no place in any Rules and Orders governing a Parliament is this set down. And I am hoping that although a precedent has been set that if I am allowed to be here for the next election, God's willing, and that you as President of this Assembly will be allowed to be here that you will not consider that precedent, because my recommendation would be that we would boycott it in full. Because if it had not been for that, Mr. President, some of these Honourable gentlemen would probably still been voting to try to get in to Executive Council.

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: Mr. President, on a point of order we are debating the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Banks and Trust Companies Law and I see nowhere that the election of officers of Executive Council is relevant to this debate.

MR. PRESIDENT: I think I must uphold that objection.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: (CONT'D): Mr. President, I quite agree with you but I am only building my case to get into the root of this thing.

I mentioned what I did, Mr. President, to point out to this Assembly that the disregard that is being shown to Members of this House must not continue if we are going to have any kind of co-operation and a participatory type of Government as we are supposed to have.

Now, Mr. President, I was shocked when I heard on the street yesterday morning that these Bills were coming before the House. Because we had not yet received any, not even marlroad talk that these were coming before the House. And to point out to you, Mr. President, and to this House why I injected what I did awhile ago is leading up to this newspaper that appeared here yesterday.

This newspaper is printed every Wednesday I understand and is usually circulated about 4.30 in the afternoon. The debate on the Financial Report ended about 3.30, Mr. President. We the Members of this elected House could not be trusted to know what was going on and what was planned yet the Honourable Financial Secretary in his speech just a few minutes ago said he had canvassed the banks or some of them, and he felt there would be no objection. Now, Mr. President, the banker plays a very important part in this country, but I for one take it as an affront to think that the bankers can be consulted on something and I as a Legislative Member, representing my country can not be trusted enough to be told the same thing.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: (CONT'D): And, Mr. President, I further enlarge on it by going to this paper. About three different sections of this paper quotes the things that took place in this House yesterday afternoon in regards to the Financial Speech. It would have been impossible, Mr. President, to have printed that between 3.30 and 4.30 yesterday evening when it got on the street. Someone had to have prior notice and had to have seen the Financial Speech that was delivered to us yesterday evening. And, Mr. President, that means that you have had the press boys, the people setting the type (all due respect to them, Sir), and everyone probably associated with the Caymanian Compass know in advance what was coming before this House and we the elected representatives that speak for our people and were put here by the common vote cannot be trusted to know what is going on. Mr. President, if there ever was a slap in the face to Parliamentarians this is it. And I am hoping, Sir, that with your guidance and with you at the helm of State that you will try in the future to rectify this. Because we can only get dissent in this Parliament; we can only continue to be a divided House when these things continue.

Members on the other side of this House seem to think that we must take anything that is put forward. And, Mr. President, that is the reason I said awhile ago in building up my case that some of those Members should remember we would've still been here voting if we had not had to vote four complete votes. That is the reason, Mr. President. And I apologise if I went astray in your estimation in building my case.

Another thing, Mr. President, I'd like to comment on is that in the submission of this an attempt was made to play on sympathy by more or less telling us that if this did not pass then the Civil Servants could point their fingers at us and say you did not get your raise because the opposition stood against the Bill.

Now, Mr. President, I cannot accept that;we have progressed from a country in the early 1900's and I can show you copies of these, show this House if they'd like to see them, of Budgets that were presented in just a couple of hundred figures. And in fifty or sixty years we have progressed to where we are here debating a Budget of nearly fourteen million. Indeed we are a very successful country and we are a country that everyone of us should be proud to be citizens of. But, Mr. President, there is a lot of other things that could be cut in the Budget that has been presented to us, which I will deal with when the time comes, that would more than offset the salary increases that the Civil Service should get.

And I would like to further point out that if it probably had not been for my worthy colleague and myself the Civil Servants would've still been drifting along with the little salaries they were getting before. So I do not like the injection of something like that, because frankly I am standing in this House to oppose this for many reasons that I will try to point out as I proceed.

If the Civil Servants cannot get a raise any other place because the money isn't there, Mr. President, then I say cut the tourism budget. We have someone heading that, Mr. President, which seems like he thinks he can perform miracles like God did with the fishes, so if it has to come to that then it must come to that; but do not inject into this Assembly such things as telling us that the Civil Servants will not get a raise if this Bill is not passed.

Regards to the banking community, they have played a great part in this country. I am not up here to tell you that everything they do I agree with and I think the House knew that yesterday morning. But I believe in giving unto Caesar what is due to Caesar. And I will tell this House without any fear that if it had not been for the banks coupled with our political stability, coupled with us being a Crown Colony we would never have advanced to the point we are today. But in advancing that way we must also not forget the people, because the people who set the foundation of this country 200 years ago andhave ''ved through

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: (CONT'D): it from them until now are really the people that we should honour for where we're at today. But, Mr. President, when we put an additional tax on the banks it is just like when we increase Customs Duty. Sure we have found the solution, we plugged the hole that was in the budget; but remember that that ultimately goes down to the man on the streets. The banks are paying it as one, yes, but he is collecting it from ten thousand. My fear of this, I voiced in the House on many occasions particularly when we had the increase last year.

With the amount of financial institutions that we have in this country, with the amount of resources that are available to us I cannot understand why more foresight cannot be shown to utilise this money in to plans similar to what has been presented to this House before where you could ultimately see some good from it. But when you drag along and you drag along and you find a hole here and you find a hole there and you figure out something to plug it with ultimately you're going to have nothing left to plug it with.

We talk about our political stability but that is coupled with the Tax Haven and with the Tourism , they are both very fragile things we could lose them overnight. And if I have to quote as some of the worthy colleagues in this House do from some of our neighbours to the North and the East and the South and the West - in many of those that we know they had a banking business that was larger than what we have today and what has happened to it. And if you will read further you will find now that the newspapers are saying that there is a resurgence back to those countries from Cayman. And let me tell you this you only have to get one derogatory editorial in Time magazine and you can write off Cayman as a Tax Haven or anything else. One newspaper, one newspaper man ruined the Bahamas. It only takes one to ruin Cayman. And, Mr. President, when we start creeping taxation as we are doing here; last year we increased the banks from one thousand to five thousand dollars. In the debate then (and I think the Hansard will bear it out), I said that in five years time it would be to fifty thousand dollars. And this is what is happening.

I know we have inflation, but this case, Sir, we had a five hundred per cent increase in one year and now we're going back and we're having another 100% increase. I'm very much in favour of seeing some controls put on the banks, I'm very much in favour of seeing the banks play a more active part in our country, but if we continually tax them into this type of thing then they're going to say to us why should I pay any more attention to your country you're taxing me to death already.

I believe very much that if we got the bankers together without any form of legislation and good round table conference and explained to them where we think we're going and try to find out where they think they're going, and the two of us combined together we could find that this territory could benefit alot more from it, than for us to come in here and say we're raising your fee to $10,000

Mr. President, it seems like it falls on us on this side to always have to pull these people's feet out of the fire. I don't know whether they're not thinking enough about it or what. I know we're criticised, for one I am willing to take any criticisms in this world that can be hurled at me. I've lived with it forty-four years and if I live another hundred I'm still willing to live with it, but, Mr. President, I will remind this House once more that as long as I occupy the most expensive seat in this House, bear in mind what I've told you, the most expensive seat regardless of who put it here, never, never, will the Government bench be able to set a precedent and push someting down my throat that I know is un-parliamentary and unjust. Thank you, Mr. President.

MR. JOHN JEFFERSON: Mr. President, Honourable Members, I rise in support of this Bill. I do not tell you how much value I place on my seat but I place enough value that I believe I'll be here again when the election is all over next time, if I am alive and decide that I want to run.

I do not believe that we are in any way taxing the banking industry too much. I believe that the banking industry has contributed towards our well being and we in turn have contributed towards theirs. In other words they have benefitted by the stability of these peaceful Islands.

When you look at the budget, when you think that the bankers too create services that must be needed in these Islands there is no reason why they shouldn't be asked to pay a fair share. If we are going to progress in a community as we have, developing as we are I believe we need to share our expense. I believe no really just banker would feel any less.

I think that when we speak of banks or financial institutions that have left other shores I see no reason today why they would leave our shores. I am aware of the fact that this is something that happens and can happen very easily, but on the other hand we too feel we're at the stage where if we and we are called upon to provide more and better services it means we must find more revenue in which to augument this, and I can't think of any better way at this stage or one of the better ways being able to increase the revenue on registration fees.

We have been told previously that the bankers felt that the fees that were asked were very nominal fees. And even though percentage wise it looks like they have gone up a tremendous amount, and it has if you deal from statistic level, but when you think of what banking industry are paying in other places and have paid in other places without registering any protest I think that they are still being well treated. And I believe that they are still being respected, and I believe that they too in turn respect our way of life in the respect that we have shown to that institution.

So I rise in support, Mr. President. The only thing that I will say is that we objected yesterday because of the presentation. I know that there are things just like this that if sufficient notice is given we could pass the law after the money has already gone through. In other words there could be an influx of people coming in to register and by the time that we have dealt with it would have been too late. But on the other hand we felt too that we also must be given a little bit of time to be able to even adjust things like this.

And the Member did cite one thing that I want to leave in your minds and that is the very similar something when we decided to switch from the Cayman currency being tied to sterling to the US dollar. The people in this country knew that we were doing this, but I don't think any Legislator in this House knew that it was being done. And if we are being elected we are due some confidence, we are responsible people; we too are not irresponsible. And I leave that fresh in your mind. I thank you very much, Mr. President.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: Mr. President, Members of this House, while I suppose I shall consider to support this Bill I must agree that I do not feel that we are infants here, that anything can be rammed down our throats at a moment's notice because we are termed irresponsible. It can only amount to that.

I personally had a slight insight of this thing that was going to happen, but I don't feel that the other Legislators on this Honourable side were treated right. And I must say that in future if such things continue that we might have more demonstrations. I feel that we have been put here by the people to represent the people and we should be treated with every consideration which we deserve. If we were numb-heads we would not have been here.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: (CONT'D): I would not say that I hold the most expensive seat in this House but I would say I hold the most popular seat in this House. And I was put here and went into this election under my own steam although I am a woman.

Now dealing with this banking law, this increase, I feel, Sir, that we owe the banks something. If those who are old enough to recall in former days you couldn't borrow a sixpence to save your soul, but the advent of the banks here have been a tremendous boom to us. While personally I feel that the one secure bank is the Government Savings Bank because I must say that some of these banks have proven to me that they are not as responsible as I thought they were. In the Grand Court on the 6th day of November there were cases listed, prominent up-to-date banks who had indiscriminately loaned out other people's money to the tune of $12,000 and odd, $15,000, $75,000 and in one case there appeared a man in the court who said I agree that I owe the bank this money but I haven't got a penny to pay back. If and when I make it I'll pay it back. So much so that last week I collected several hundred dollars and I have deposited that in my own cash box, afraid to put it into the banks.

Now, Mr. President, not all those banks are that irresponsible but I can assure you there are some. I've seem it in the paper only yesterday that two banks have been closed. We have had a very unfortunate situation a few months ago, and there are hundreds of people (might even amount to thousands) who have been bereft I would say of their hard earned money. And while I agree that these banks (some of them are mighty irresponsible take it from me) - that we should not pressure them. We need money sure enough, but I am an economist. I have been taught you cannot spend money which you do not have. And I feel that this budget is very extravagant and when it comes to dealing with the budget I shall make recommendations for certain expenditure to be curtailed. While I say we need money we must cut our garments according to our cloth. And every time that we increase our budget, not knowing exactly where the money is coming from, eventually there must be taxation of some kind. And I am going to warn this House that if we as Legislators put in to our budget money which we don't have and we have to go to the public to raise these funds that we'll never, never come back here as Legislators. Because we promised the people, at least the George Town delegates did, that we would do everything to see that the people were not pressurised, but I am afraid that is what's going to happen if we continue to spend money and run up our budget to these fabulous figures when we cannot afford it. There are things that should be left undone until we have the money.

When it was talked about several times, maybe two years ago, we wanted a wharf, we wanted an Administrative Building, we wanted roads, we want airport facilities, I said let us take one thing at a time, finish that up and commence on another. But nowadays we blindly rush into six or seven very expensive projects at one time. And any Island that is in debt, any territory that is in debt is not a free country. I heard one former Legislator said you are not recognised unless you are in debt. But I feel the other way around, to hold your head up you must be debt free. That's my opinion of living.

And, Mr. President, I say I do not agree how this Bill was rushed down our throats. We are responsible people. And I feel that when such things are coming up, especially taxation, we should be well aware of what is going on.

I am looking next session that taxation will beraised and we'll be called here to sit in front of this desk and be told that they're going to increase taxation and we won't be able to do anything about it. I feel, Sir, that the time has come when we as Legislators must be respected, but we're not catering and begging for it, we are demanding it. And I feel, Sir, that we have been insulted. I would not say that I am holding it against it but I feel that in all due and fairness we cannot be treated as we have been treated in the past.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: (CONT'D): And under your noble guidance, Sir, I am expecting that we shall have the respect which we deserve.

I say I shall have, I suppose, to agree to this increase, but I would rather see that our Budget is cut down so that these banks which are a good in our midst, they have brought us out of the mud, I would say, of poverty - we were sinking in the mire of poverty and the banks have come here and rescued us. And I don't think that we should squeeze them. There are other places where they might want to go. We should cater to them up to a point, but let them understand that in the Government they have certain duties to perform and duties to do but I don't think we should squeeze them to the point where we want to waste money that we should call on banks to pay it.

Thank you.

MR. CLAUDE M. HILL: Mr. President, and Honourabel Members, I rise in support of this bill, although yesterday at the introduction, I opposed the introduction in the manner in which it had been introduced. It was not the matter of time to study the bill, it was the matter of principle on which the bill had been introduced.

Now today we are here debating this bill, and in the Memorandum of Objects and Reasons, the desire to increase the license fees payable by Banks and Trust Companies is something of great importance, in many respects. As far as taxation or the collection of money to cover Government Expenditure is concern, we the people here representing different constituencies in the Islands must be careful in so doing. We should not try to kill the goose that laid the golden egg.

I note here on this bill where they will be imposing sanctions for late payment, this also has to be handled very carefully. A lot has been said by previous speakers of seats in this House and the cost, what it has cost them, and I think that the greatest cost will be, or greater/will occur if we here as representatives don't do something in regards to the man on the street, or those who vote for us and put us in this Assembly. According to the First Elected Member from Bodden Town in his remarks as to a publication, I voice the sentiment said by him and I would say furthermore, there must be a leak in the dyke for the paper to publish the financial secretary's Budget Address different sections published actually a few minutes after to be on the streets, at the time that it was on the street, there must a leak in the dyke.

Speaking on the representation here, one thing bothers me and that is, we on this side of the house are looked on with impunity, it appears to me, and Mr. President with your guidance I beg that something be done about this Sir.

Thank you.

MR. PRESIDENT: Are there any other speakers? No further speakers .....

CAPT. A.A. REID: Mr. President I support this bill, I could do otherwise. First of all I see nothing wrong with it, and secondly I am on the fiscal Committee, and I will say this that the Financial Secretary did not act arrogantly or in any/contrary way to his power, because we were there and we gave our consent and I know the last time I was in Nassau, the banks were paying twenty-five thousand dollars a year, for their license and I understand since then it has gone to thirty thousand.

I am not advocating increasing it every two, three years, but I do feel that the banks were getting by with it very cheaply, and everyone knows that we have to have money to run this country and there's no reason why the banks should pay something towards their fair share.

I am afraid that with the inflation as it is,

CAPT. A.A. REID: (CONT'D): that we may have to increase taxation, if we are going to get the many things we want. Every body was screaming, sometime ago about bad roads, but you don't get roads built for nothing I can assure you that. I am building two now myself, and if you want good roads for people to make ninety miles an hour on, well it will cost money and we may have to increase taxation for that.

To agree with the members who spoke against information going to the press, I don't have too much sympathy for that press, I don't see the paper having anybody here who can take short hand to get the information they need, and I don't think we should encourage them into that sort of reporting, if they want information , let them come hereand take it, but through a short hand stenographer, let them employ one they can afford that. And I say they should not have excess to the Financial Secretary's reportthis Budget Speach.

And I think that the members of the house should have that much respect shown them, that those laws should come to us with ample time as prescribed by law, and we should be sworn to secrecy on it. We should know, and we should have the honour to respect the law and make sure that none of this information when taxation is being increased, gets out on the street before it is read out here by the Financial Secretary. I agree with that,but I am not worried about the banks and I don't think the banks are going to be worried about it either, because they know that this is the cheapest franchise they have in any part of the world. And all those banks are operating in other places they know only too well that they are paying alot more in the West Indies..

Trinidad and Jamaica for instant which are not tax havens, they pay alot more there than they're paying here. And as I've said before now they are paying thirty thousand in the Bahamas, so I don't think they're going to get too upset over it. I thank you Sir.

HON. A.B. BUSH: Mr. President, and members, I don't want to prolong the debate on this sir, but I think there are a few points which probably need clarification.

I can understand the feeling of members, especially the new members in not receiving these particular bills, seven clear days as is set down in the standing orders. I don't see the point of the members who have been here for many years and have gone over the very same procedure which we were trying to follow yesterday. In these particular bills, because they are in a sense revenue bills, although not to the extant of some of the revenue bills which we keep in great secrecy until the day when they are to be implemented. And I don't think that any precedent has been set in introducing these bills, because it has been the common pratice here in this Legislature to have done the same very things which we tried to do yesterday, and which we are doing this morning .

I am glad to see that members have finally realizedtheir error, and have given in to waiving the seven days as required in the standing orders. And probably in the new standing orders we will have to make some special provisions for bills such as this.

Now there is opposition of the fees about to be charged or proposed to be charged to the banking community. But as has been said by one of the members I believe that even though they maybe considerably higher than what they have been before, that they are far below those in other countries. And I think that the banks here are getting a better deal here than they could get anywhere else in the world today. What better institutions could you try to get something from for the needs of this Island than institutions such as this. I don't know of it.

And referring to the remarks made of taxation , I am sure that if the Government listened to what is considered the opposition, with the requirement which some of them had put forward that we would certainly be into taxation, in order to meet these.

HON. A.B. BUSH: (CONT'D): The new services that I have heard, being asked for since I been here, or since this house been instituted - this new Assembly, I am sure that if Government had taken full notice of all this, that we would really be into taxation today in order to meet it.

A member made mention of - I don't know whether he meant me, or he meant another member who spoke on this yesterday, referring to it as an inconsequential bill. I did not yesterday, or at any time make any reference to the bill as inconsequential. I said it was a simple bill, very important bill, and thatswhy I spoke on it yesterday and pressed that it be introduced in the house, because it was a very important bill to Government, but nothing of the sort that it was inconsequential.

And as I said, Mr. President, I don't think we set any precedent on these, might be for the new members who don't know what went on in the house before, and what has been the custom of the house, but certainly it was not the precedent set, in these particular bills.

I realise that they probably feel somewhat left out in information that has been passed out. I knew nothing about it, how it got to the press, I knew nothing about it. I only knew what was put before me and I knew it stayed there, I passed it on to no one. And it must be remembered that we live in a very small community and when one sneezes the other one hears it, and these things I suppose happen. But does it really do any harm? Think whether it does harm or not. And I am glad sir, although they opposed and I suppose for oppositions sake, they finally said in summing up that they agreed with the bill, and congratulation for doing so.

Thank you.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: Mr. President, and Honourable members, gathering from the debate after I came in this morning, (I apoligize for being a little bit late,) but what seems to be the sort of sore spot about this bill, was its introduction or the way it was introduced.

The first elected member of executive council just said, he made remarks yesterday as being a simple bill. No bill is simple when it takes in taxation. A small amendment might be necessary, but shouldn't take so much time as we would say, but it still does not mean that it is simple. Because when taxation was imposed it stays put. Very few people, however out-live a country to see taxation removed or reduced, and while we will have to accept taxation in its different forms, from time to time.

Taxation is something that no one wants to hear about, whether he is poor or wealthy. Not because the banks are the wealthiest people or the wealthiest organization in our country, that they are happy to hear about imposing of further taxes. I have been asked numerous time on the street by the people, what is happening about so and so? I say, I don't know anything about it. You in the house and don't know anything about it. How I know about it, on the outside.

For some reason or the other, information gets out to some sectors of the public, gets around long before it reaches the Legislators. When it comes to posing taxation, it ought to be one of the most secretly kept attempts in Government Service. Because nobody wants to hear about taxes, but while we say we must except the fact that there must be taxation at some stage, at some time. But it ought to end up into this house, the first place, and not on the outside.

I remember once, not so long ago, speaking to the Financial Secretary about some small amount of money to do something, we don't have it. I say how we can find X thousand to do so, big money is no problem to find. Then I don't think it should be so much problem to find four hundred thousand dollars, if it was the intention to give the civil service a little boost on the first of the year, rather than pin-pointing, and I don't think that thatwas fair to the banks what was read into this budget speach yesterday, that we can do this if we impose this on the banks. I don't feel that that is fair to the banks, that they are being pin-pointed for this reason. If we need a taxation to get four hundred thousand dollars, bring the proposed tax bill to what you want impose tax on.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: (CONT'D): Whether it be the bank, whether it be custom, whether it be the airport, whether it be any place. Lets deal with it in here, in what ought to be, in a privicy dealing and not the publicly state that we want this from the banks for a specific reason. It's no way beating around it, we have been ignored many a cases, many a time, many a things. We just seem to be here just for the one reason, whatever passes through Executive Council and reaches the Clerk to come on to us, just accept it with yes and go on. We don't have any other business here than that to say to whatever comes here.

If by any reason then, we should bring in something to the house, by way of a question or a motion, the questions will be beat, batted to the floor, nine times out of ten, we get a thousand and one evasive answers to question. So then let me ask myself again the question. What are we here for? Just to say yes. We have exempted numerous daily commodities from import duties for the public we say, but until today the public hasn't got any benefit from it, and I don't think Government has made much effort to see that the public got some benefit out of it. Then it was, as far as I'm concern, it is better to put back those import duties on those commodities, and everybody share and share alike, because the prices still be much higher. If we go any higher now it will be a flag pole, and we would soon have to topple them.

While I feel that our growth in work, among the Civil Servants might be more longer hours, they may need a boost, what we do have, is a lot of Civil Servants that I think needs some brushing up to do more than they being doing too. While I may agree, we find ways and means of providing a small increase for them, I am not going to agree that we should tax banks just for that purpose, because they will inturn have to pay for it too. We are paying more now, those that are dealing with the banks or in the banks than we should be paying. If you go to a Trust Company and want a few thousand dollars, more or less you got to take it in US dollars because they don't have the CI dollars to loan you. When you got to pay, for argument sake, and if you want a twenty thousand CI$ you got to get twenty-five thousand US$, you pay then an intrest on twenty-five thousand US$, you got to pay for the conversion, you got to pay for the exchange, you got to pay for this, all this then the fellow in the street are paying for.

This is getting time for Government to get into some of these things and make it easer for the borrower, not just to have interest to pay and keep the banks operating. While I agree that the banks probably are paying the least, or one of the least fees in any country as what they're paying in these Islands. While I could agree to an increase, I couldn't agree for it to be pin pointed that we're going to use that for the benefit of an increase in Civil Servants salaries.

Thank you Mr. President.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Mr. President, and members, yesterday in closing my remarks on the presentation of the Mace, I jokingly remarked that Government would probably show their appreciation for the banks by increasing their fees. I did have some prior knowledge which came from a prominent business man in George Town. He askeed me what I thought about the increase in the banks license fees, naturally I had to say I don't know what you are talking about. And he said to me, well what kind of legislator are you? Do you read your papers? I said yes, I read whatever I receive.

I'm starting like this, because when a member is left out, as the Exco. member just said, I don't feel slighted but I feel that my constituency has been slighted. When we do not receive these bills, I feel that it is an insult to the very intelligent people in the Bodden Town area especially.

The first member from Bodden Town and me had a meeting on Tuesday night, and we told our constituency, well in this session that starts tomorrow we will be dealing with certain things. I wonder what they're feeling today, when we did not tell them about the most important things in this session. And the reason why we were unable to tell them about the increase in the banks license is, that we simply did not know.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: (CONT'D): The member from Exco. by his own admission said that, it was the custom to hold back these bills until the last minute. I am wondering if he's saying that they had a total disregard for the standing orders, they were just going by custom. That might have been true in the past, but it is no longer good enough for 1974. Because 1974 is the latest year on the calendar, and wherever that says you must do so and so we should follow that we have a standing order to the letter. If there is no standing order, then prehaps we can rely on the directions of the speaker, or whims and fancies of the Bodden Town members, or the idiosyncrasies of other people. But if we have a standing order, we should follow it.

I am not being irrelevant, I m trying to say that I am unable to intelligently debate the bill which is before the house, because I did not have sufficient time to study it. By studying it, I do not mean that I could not read the one page bill that is before me, but I mean that I could not look up in the minutes last year to find out what was said when the license fees were increased five hundred per cent last year. I could not consult with my constituency, I could not consult with business people in the Island and ask their opinion, I could not consult with people in the legal field to get a fair understanding of the legal terminology contained in this bill. Maybe Executive Council Members have had sufficient time to do all this, and they are blessed in one respect that they have the Attorney-General. But as an individual member, these things are not available to me. So Mr. President, I still uphold the opposition that was put to this bill yesterday. This bill is no small bill, this bill together with its sister bill increasing registration fees for companies will add by the estimate of the Financial Secretary, eight hundred thousand dollars to the revenue this year. And his figures, I supposeare based on the fees that will be collected in 1975 from the registered companies. But if there is a growth in registration, certainly the amount collected by the end of 1975 will not be eight hundred thousand dollars, it should exceed one million dollars. And any bill,which by the stroke of a pen, can add one million dollars to the revenue of a country whose inhabitants number under thirteen thousand people, is a bill of mammoth proportions , and it should be treated as such, it should not be treated lightly.

I am in opposition to this increase, last year I fought the five hundred per cent increase, and today I am prepared to fight the one hundred per cent increase on this bill. I am sorry of one thing, and that is that I did not have seven days to prepare my oppositions. Had I had sufficient time, I suppose we would not get into the budget debate until the first of December. It is my opinion that among the many reasons for not presenting this bill, you will find one reason that stands out, and that reason is to prevent the proper opposition to the bill.

I do not like the system of going to the bank and saying, will you pay some more money if we tax you, that is not proper procedure. If I were an establish bank, I would say, yes I will pay the higher fee. Why? because I am protecting my business,the higher the fee, the harder it will be for more new banks to come in.. So an established/bank who has written off all the cost of forming a company here, setting up an office, they are now prepared to pay ten thousand dollars a year and perhaps if it were worth fifty thousand dollars, they could pay it. But what about the bank that is to come, can he also absorb this heavy initial expenditure. And while we maybe/receiving some revenue from the established bank, maybe not be hurting the very system which we are trying to encourage.

I heard some member talking about companies running to be registered, if this was known before it went into effect they would take advantage. To my mind, such a statement carries but little weight. In the first place no bank can pay next years registration fee today, Would Government accept the fees if a bank says, well I want to be registered in 1975, I hear you're putting up the rate, could you take my fee today before it goes up, certainly Government would not do that.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: (CONT'D): And would any bank run to pay just 1974's fee, and get registered because the price was going up. Would the company run to be registered because the price was going up, would anybody buy or get himself involved in a continuing process of paying because he know the price would be put up, is that an incentive to buy. But the bad part about this is, that no bank is going to absorb the five thousand dollars increase. That five thousand dollars' increase will be passed on to the consumer, you and me and the person on the street will pay and pay, but we will not pay five thousand dollars, we will pay five thousand dollars plus the cost of collecting that five thousand dollars.

A bank is a business, it operates as a business, it must earn money. Any banker who forgets that is just like any other business man who forgets it and is soon in bankruptcy. So when we ask the banks to pay ten thousand dollars, we are asking the little man on the street to pay a higher cost for his chequing account, for his ledger fees, for his interest rates for all the many things that the bank will charge you for. It is true that five thousand dollars is a small sum in the operation of a multi-million dollar bank, it is true it is an infinitesimal amount. But if all their assets were put out in five thousand dollar lots, and you took them away one by one the day would surely come when there would be nothing left at all. What is the answer to increasing the banks license? an answer is right in this paper here, I would say leave out the Hotel Aids (amendment) Law, let us not renew it this year, let it fall by the way and that would be some revenue. Now I am not telling you how much revenue would come, and its your fault why I am not able to tell you because you did not give me the time to do the research. It is your fault why my debate is so short and not full of all the statistics it should have, and when my debate becomes so insubstantial it goes all over the world in the minutes of your meeting, and it is a reflection not on me alone, but a reflection on this house.

The dignity and the quality of which it should be the duty of every member to try to preserve and upgrade, there are other answers to not increasing the banks fees. I won't go into them, I'll just mention that there is a private member's motion which we expect to establish could add easily several million dollars to the revenue, if proper registration of ships could be set up. This is not money that would come from the banks that would collect it from the consumer, this is money real money that would come from outside. And I do not agree with the person who introduced this bill, when he said that he needed money and he was going to increase the banks fees because that was perhaps the least inflationary area. I think he made remarks in similar words, this is the most inflationary area you could find because you're putting it on an institution that has the ability to make it inflationary. They had the ability to pass it on to the consumer, and the consumer must pay the cost of that inflation.

Listening to that budget speech yesterday evening, I heard about the banking business that it continues to grow. Are we here today trying to stifle that growth I say we are, and do you know that the banking business here, according to the speech yesterday is in its embryonic stage. According to the statistic from that speech, banks are being registered here at the rate of one per week. Fifty banks registered in the last year, and the other companies are being registered at the rate of one every eleven hours that the clock turns around, eight hundred and thirty-three companies registered over the last year. This is a business that is just beginning, should we at this time try to stifle a business that we have been working for years to get off the ground, all we have to do is not to stifle it, and the flow of the new companies and the new registrations will take care of the increased revenue. But if we stifle this growth we will have to increase the fees.

The day will come, perhaps in my life time and it is quite conceivable at the percentage increases that the fees could be one hundred thousand dollars. Because we would only need two other of five hundred percent increases, one in 1975 and one in 1976, and the fees would be one hundred thousand dollars.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: (CONT'D): Once a tax was put on it goes up and up and up, no tax has ever been known to take a downward trend. What is the answer? Well find other means of raising revenue. I mentioned two, two that would not put any hardships on the local people, but I know that some members here are students of the old testament and they believe in the philosophies of the tax gatherers there, and they say, like the old king of old, "My father chastisedyou with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions." We'll lash you and lash you and lash you, we'll put up the tax and put up the tax.

The most perturbing part of this whole exercise is the way the civil service has been treated. There is an indication on the front page of the news paper, and perhaps in the budget speech, that four hundred and fifty thousand dollars was needed to provide salaries, and that that four hundred and fifty thousand dollars is an over-draft, on the budget, plus another four hundred and fifty-eight thousand and that the short fall to the civil service and this will be met out of this eight hundred thousand dollars. Can any one tell me by what yard-stick they came up with the idea that the poor old civil service money should come out of an over-draft. I think it is a slap to the civil service, it is an insult to those noble people who have laboured so hard. In the good old days the civil service was paid first, and if any money was left they did some nonsense with it. That pattern has changed, and the civil service is the last person to be considered.

But in opposing this increase I want to make it clear, that I am not opposing an increase for the civil service. I am opposing taxation - increased taxation on the banks, and I am saying that these other things in the budget should be cut, and let the civil service be paid because without the civil service we would not have the other things, we would not need them. Without a happy and efficiemt civil service this government would collapse. There would be no government, and the civil service should be given priority, and their little increase should not be put down in the budget to come out of an increase which this house may not approve in license fees. It should come out of the first money available.

Mr. President, if you care to take the coffee break, I am not dictating, but I'll be pretty long. If you care to take the coffee break, the members are looking tired, I wouldn't mind interrupting my speach.

MR. PRESIDENT: Would members like to take the break now, or continue to the end of this speach. I think members are quite prepared to hear you to the end of your speach.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: (CONT'D): Yes Mr. President, I am glad they are enjoying it for once.

The banks should pay, sure they should pay, but they could pay in different ways, they could pay so as to show growth not in this manner of being taxed out of existence. These banks, the big commercial banks are all giant institutions, but even giant institutions will not continue to pay and pay. We have had many examples in the caribbean, a few years ago the Sunlife Insurance Company, the largest Canadian Life Insurance Company with assets far exceeding . Any bank, closed its operation in the entire Caribbean because they felt that they were asked to pay too much. They were probably paying more in the United States and Canada, but they were grossing more. And these Caribbean Islands have their limitations to feed a bank or a company, and we must take that in to consideration. I can also cite the Standard Life of England, one of Great Britain's foremost insurance companies, with assets I believe that exceed Barcalys Bank. Sunlife closed its entire operation, on the day that it left Trinidad it had completed one hundred years of business in that Island, and they said we can pay no more, Trinidad said go. What is the result, the people suffer, they suffer because they are served by inferior institutions.

And these companies were chased out because of taxation, asking to pay and pay and pay beyond their gross income. So do not believe that a bank, because i has millions in assets will just pay and pay and pay.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: (CONT'D): When I listened to the budget speech yesterday, I said fifteen minutes will be sufficient for the debate on that speech. But since I've been showered with all these laws that I've not had time to prepare, I will have to stretch the standing order to cover some of these things in the budget debate. And like my friend, the member from West Bay who is not enjoying my speech, I can promise to continue for a long time.

Mr. President, I feel that we should not at this time increase these bank fees, and from now on I will be voting against it.

MR. PRESIDENT: Do you wish to reply or do you -- I think perhaps I'll suspend the proceedings for fifteen minutes at this stage, and the Financial Secretary can reply when we return.

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: Yes, Sir.

HON. B.O. EBANKS There might be some others who would like to speak, Sir.

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: Mr. President and Members, I would like to add a few comments to the debate on the bill before us, which bill seeks to make an amendment of the fees payable by banks in these islands. A lot of comment has been made over the percentage of increase and all this, and naturally it concerns one, when any increase has to be instituted, and I am sure that the Financial Secretary was also concerned when he attempted to bring this bill to this Legislature.

Nevertheless, Mr. President and members, we must bear in mind that as some other member had said, that money has to be found to carry on the services in these Islands. If I may be permitted to stray -- In previous times Legislative measures which sought to inflict direct taxes were introduced in this house, and they were thrown out. I think the consensus of opinion was and is, that thereshould be as little direct taxation as possible, and more indirect taxation. This to me, in one of the instances in the A class license bank here it is a direct form of taxation because these banks are operating in the Cayman Islands. But one must also bear in mind, that when we talk of a hundred and fifty banks in these Islands, approximately two thirds of these are not operating in the Cayman Islands. And I think this is one of the guarantees that they have to give to Government, that they will not solicit business in the Islands.

These banks are using us as a means of avoiding having to pay large sums of money, and I don't think any of them will oppose paying reasonable sum, as a license fee for this privilege. Similarly the banks that are operating and doing business actively under the class A license in this Island, it is true that a license fee to them is a direct form of taxation, but I would like to say this, much has been stated about high taxes and high taxation of other countries particularly in the Caribbean. When we come to think of it, when we sit down and review the forms of taxation in these other places where those banks have income tax, capital gain tax, corporation tax plus license fee, you can see why some of those banks and some of those corporations tend to leave territories.

Now here in Cayman we have these banks here, and the only direct form of taxation which this country requires them to pay is a license fee, and I cannot see any reasonable honest organisation that is established in this Island against playing to the services or the creation of services, which they contribute. Because surely the Government has to provide the measures of infrastructure that causes their business to tick, and it is going to cause Government monies to provide these services, naturally I feel the banks should participate.

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: (CONT'D): I feel Mr. President and members, that this matter has been gone into very thoroughly by the Honourable Financial Secretary, and I don't think his decision was lightly reached. Because to my knowledge, certain members of the Legislative Assembly in this very house are members of the Fiscal Committee, who he leans on heavily for advice in these matters. I am sure that in this particular case, he has had the benefit of their advice. And I feel like we are honest about it, we are telling the banks this is the fee. We are not going in any round table conference on an individual basis, and getting people to agree. This is not the idea here. The idea here, is a law being passed in this legislature stating out the annual fees of banks.

I cannot see where that this is going to cause any inflation, and there is no doubt about it, it cannot be argued successfully, that in any form of taxation that goes on in this Island, but what the consumer pays it. On the other hand, the same members that argued that, if you were to ask them to contribute in a direct form where those people who are better able to pay, you would hear a different argument.

Mr. President, much has been said about companies and banks leaving other territories in the Caribbean, I don't think it is the cost of license fees that has run a lot of these. I don't think that has been the reason of the scare. To my knowledge, a lot of the scare, a lot of the trouble, a lot why people banks are pulled out is because of the attitude of people in these territories. And a lot of these attitudes can be traced to Legislators and Parliamentarians, and surely this is the angle I think we have to be very careful with, that our attitude here in this house does not create the scare which drove so many people from other territories. Not the fee, but it is the attitude in the philosophies of members of parliaments, of areas in our neighbourhood. Let us look after this very carefully, let us not fall in the same track.

I think that I should mention Mr. President, briefly the comment made on the reason given for this increase. I believe that the Honourable Financial Secretary has been misconstrued, I don't think he said that this was primarily for the increase which was envisaged to go to civil servants. I think he said that, if the civil servants got an increase it would leave a deficit, and surely in my opinion the fiscal committee and the Financial Secretary were correct in looking after areas where they would do the least harm.

In introducing a financial bill, I am sure Mr. President that we are very unique in this manner. In most other legislatures in the world, Government measures are introduced with out an application for the introduction. And secondly, it is true that our standing order says, that no bill maybe introduced without seven days to the members. On the other hand, the same standing order under section 74 makes provision for any standing order, any of these standing orders may be suspended at any time for a specific purpose by the consent of the majourity of the house.

If the Honourable Financial Secretary yesterday, had moved for the suspension of the standing order, under this special occasion I don't think that he would have been wrong, and I don't think he is wrong this morning. Because we feel like, as a financial bill that is increasing revenues, there should be a special way of handling it. May be in our new standing orders, these provisions canbe looked after and adjusted accordingly.

Mr. President and members, I don't think we are going to upset the banks and trust companies in any way. I believe today that the banks and trust companies that are operating here under class A licenses have the confidence in us, and the matter of five thousand dollars, or ten thousand dollars or twenty thousand dollars is not going to run them away. I feel that they will be glad to participate in the development of this territory. Afterall they are making here, and there should be no reason for them contributing in a fair way. I support this bill.

HON. BENSON O. EBANKS: Mr. President, I don't intend to be very long on this bill. I agree with those who have said, that it is a simple amendment, and I also agree with the member who said, that it is a master piece to think that the Financial Secretary by the stroke of a pen, could add a million dollars to the budget of the Cayman Islands. But what I would like to put straight is, the thought that has been expressed by some members of the inflationary effect of this propose increase license fee , and the fact that this is going to effect the little man in the street.

Now Mr. President, surely the members who were flogging that dead horse, knows that the number of banks in the Cayman Islands are not here doing business with the twelve thousand people who live here. If the amount of banking services required by the twelve thousand people who live in these Islands, could be handled by any one branch of either of the banks that are operating here. he fee is not in my opinion, going to effect the average caymanian.

We operaters of tax haven, and people get from the outside benifit from this operation, and I believe that they regard it in their own inlighten/ed self interest. To make a contribution to the economy of this territory, they realize that the government cannot be operated with out money. That people are becoming more demanding, and society more sophisticated and that with the rising cost, their cost of doing business in the island will increase. But this is not going to run the business away, we are still infact much more competitive price wise, than our other competitors in the area. What is begining to worry me is, whether some politicians are trying to out do politicians in neighbouring Islands, who have suceeded in rocking the economy in those Islands.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: On a point of order Mr. President, I think that is a direct insult and is covered under our standing order Sir.

MR. PRESIDENT: I think this is an inference, that need not be drawn.

HON. BENSON O. EBANKS: Mr. President, I bow to your ruling, but I have not made an inference on any individual member, and I think I am intitle to my opinion. I express an opinion, but I bow to your rulling Sir. But I say its worrying me.

Alot of capital Mr. President, was also made of the way in which the business of the house is conducted. Now I have no grief for this, I am not responsible for the way in which the matters are handled. But if my memory serves me correctly, it was either the last or the meeting before the last, there was down on the order of business a motion, standing in the name of those people who are complaining most vociferously about the way Executive Council or Government handle its business. Seeking to establish a committee with members of the public on it, that would have determined priorities in government policy. And to me, I fail to see how this could have been even constitutional, muchless showing the respect that is due to members of the Assembly. What would have happen to the other elected members? But I support this amendment Mr. President, and I have no fair whatever that this is going to drive business from our shores.

And as for the effect to the average individual, I would not like to have the job of having to calculate how to pass this increase on to the many customers of each individual Bank.

I thank you.

MR. PRESIDENT: No other speakers, I'll call on the Honourable Financial Secretary to wind up.

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: Mr. President, Honourable members, there was quite a debate on this bill. I want to say from the very outset, that I am not treating this or the other bill which will come forward shortly, in anyway likely. There are simple amendments to the parent laws, but these amendments seeks to provide government with a fairly substantial sum of money.

Another thing, which I would like to remind this honourable house of, is that in constructing my budget address, I tried to be consistent in presenting the financial position of this government year by year , 1974 and 1975, and in the case of the 1975 budget, I set out the position as it appeared after proposals were put forward by the various departments. And I further showed that the budget carried a deficit.

I went on to state, that it was the intention of the Government to award the salaries increase to civil servants, provided that the additional funds could be found. This Mr. President, was optional with the government and to this Legislative Assembly. Its not mandatory, that we provide the civil service with an increase in salaries, year by year. It is expedient, and in the best interest of the service that we examine the rise and cost of living, and the other conditions of service, and if funds are available, we recommend a salary increase, and this is what government set out to do. In order to do this additional revenue had to be recommended. And at no area in the budget address did I connect the increase of the wage of civil servants, with the increase and fees of the banks and trust companies. Two separate things altogether. I would like members to bear that in mind.

lot has been said about the increase and the banks license fee. Well, I am sure that the bill is before members, and its simple arithmetic to calculate the increase. In the case the class A license is a hundred percent increase, but in the case of the class B licenses, its only forty percent increase. I also like to say to members, that there are only thirty, approximately thirty class A licenses issued by this government, the rest are class B licenses. I would also like to remind members, that a hundred and eighty-eight banks and trust companies are not licensedin the Cayman Islands to serve thirteen/thousand people. They are here to enjoy the tax free facilities which this country offers, and to conduct international business. We need only, at the most, two banks to serve thirteen thousand people. And I am sure, that if it was a matter of serving thirteenthousand people, that you would not have had more than two banks here today.

Therefore the tax that is imposed, and banks and trust companies here will not necessarily be harmful to the residents of these Islands. And this is the reason why I stated that it was not inflationary, and I hope that it will be seen to be exactly so. Prehaps there will be slight charges by the banks for conducting current accounts, and the rest of it. But these charges will increase in any case, whether there is an increase in license fees or not. What about the increase in wages to the staff of the bank, increase in cost of overhead operation, operational cost of the bank. The cost of license fee is one small item of course as far as these banks are concerned.

So, what I am trying to say Mr. President, and honourable members, is that the increase and the cost of license fee is not all that great to get people concerned about,trying to discourage banks from operating in the Cayman Islands. And, another thing I am going to say, is that, let us not worry about one or two news papers running people away from here. What run people away from a country,is other determ factors, political and economic instability, wrong approch, and wrong attitude, but we don't want to get ourself involved in that.

All institutions operating in this country today, are quite satisfies with the behaviour and conduct here, and that is why they're here. And I hope we will continue with that behaviour and conduct.

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: (CONT'D): Mr. President, this is a very progressive society we are living in. We have one press here, news paper.

There are two important sessions of the Legislative Assembly each year, the budget session and the opening of Parliament, when the throne speech is delivered. It is most natural Mr. President, that the press would be eager to carry the news of the day. In all countries of the world, this happens. The press is at the door, asking for information because at the first release after the opening of Parliament, they want to carry the news. The next issue is a week hense. The public wants to know what has happened in the Legislative Assembly. People like to read the budget address, they like to see the state, hear something about the states of the countries economy. I don't think there is any thing so wrong, if the press got hold to any information contained in the budget address. In fact the budget address was to be delivered yesterday morning, and fortunately it was not delivered until yesterday afternoon. But I don't think we should really harp on this too much, not when we look at the society and to see how progressive it is, and all the rest of it. I think the press was doing a very good job, the compass- the news paper.

I must say this, that I know that members are a bit annoyed, when these things reach the public before it get to their ears. And I can see the reason for this. Its just one of those things. Its difficult to know how to get about it, its difficult to know how to keep things under cover, and in secret. It is a small society, a lot of ears around, things get out, sometimes its difficult to know how.

Mr. President, I beg to move now sir, that the House resolve itself into a committee of the whole House.

SECONDED BY HON. D.V. WATLER

QUESTION PUT: AGREED, BILL READ A SECOND TIME

COMMITTEE THEREON

MOVED BY HON. V.G. JOHNSON
SECONDED BY HON. D.V. WATLER

QUESTION PUT:

HOUSE IN COMMITTEE

CLERK: CLAUSE I SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT.
QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE I PASSED

CLERK: CLAUSE 2 INTERPRETATION
QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 2 PASSED

CLERK: CLAUSE 3 SECTION 4 AMENDED
QUESTION PUT:

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman there is an amendment to section 3 - in the first line the word 'two' should be replacedby 'a' and subsections should be subsection in the singular form.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Just one thing Mr. Chairman should we leave the 's' off the subsections.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That has been moved.

The amendment before the house, is as follows; That clause 3 be amended by replacing the word'two' by the word 'a' in line one, and deleting the 'S' at the end of subsections, at the end of the first line.

If there is no further debate on this clause, I'll put the question, that the words of the question stand as in the original motion. I'll remind the house that, if the amendment is to be carried, then they must vote against this question.

QUESTION PUT: AYES AND NOES. NOES HAVE IT.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 3 PASSED WITH AMENDMENT

CLERK: A LAW TO AMEND THE BANKS AND TRUST COMPANIES REGULATION LAW, 1966.
QUESTION PUT: AGREED. TITLE PASSED

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, there was a slight amendment. It was in the memorandum of objects and reasons, but never mind.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, this needs no correction, th_n committee.
That concludes proceedings in committee, on this bill, The house will now resume.

HOUSE RESUMED

REPORT THEREON

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: Mr. President, I have to report sir, that a bill entitle 'The banks and trust companies regulation (amendment) law, 1974, was considered clause by clause by a committee of the whole house, and passed with the following amendments.
In section 3, the word 'two' was replaced by 'A' and subsections was put in the singular form. Those were all the amendments.
Mr. President, I moved suspension of standing order ---

MR. PRESIDENT: The bill is accordingly set down for a third reading, and if there is no motion to suspend standing orders, this means that the third reading will be taken on subsequent day.

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: Mr. president, I'll take the third reading tomorrow morning sir.

MR. PRESIDENT: This would be a convenient time I think, to suspend proceedings until 2:30 p.m. this afternoon.

HOUSE SUSPENDED

HOUSE RESUMED

MR. PRESIDENT: Proceedings are resumed.
We continue with, item I on the agenda. 'The Companies amendment bill, 1974.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 21

MOVED BY HON. V.G. JOHNSON
SECONDED BY HON. D.V. WATLER

QUESTION PUT: PROPOSED

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, I rise in objection sir. I rise under standing order 52. I would have to reiterate some of the things that I said this morning, in the opposition to the previous bill.
In the introduction of bills for taxation, we certainly should have notice of them before hand, and we could not in any sense classify this as being a trivial bill. We are dealing with a bill, that actually inforces a higher tax on one of the very corner storms of the financial community, in this Island. And that is, dealing with the Companies Law.
I feel, like every member of this house should have had adequate time, to check on this bill, to be able to check with the company law, with the different sections of the bill that refers back to certain sections of the old law, and I don't think any of us has had that time, and I cannot understand again, why, when it is plainly stated in our standing orders, that a bill dealing with financial matters cannot be circulated in the regular manner in this house. There is no distinction in the standing orders between the two types of bills, and I consider it a bit out of line for us to set a precedent , and to allow a bill, whether dealing with financies or anything else, to come before this house without

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: CONT'D): the notice been given, unless it should happen to be a matter of great national importance. And I do not at this point believe, that this could be attributed to either one of these bills in question.

And, Mr. President, I hope that the members of this house will see this in a similar way, and will join with me in opposing the introduction of this bill, at this time, and that this will serve as a reminder in the future, that they are two side to this house and that the members who occupy the seats on this side of the house, should have notice of the bills just the same as the members on the other side. It is true that they help to formulate these things,but if they can be trusted with the formation of these bills,/and prior knowledge of them, then there is no reason why the eight elected members on this side, who were elected in the same manner as the four on the other side should not be also trusted. Although I understand, that some members on the other side will say, and has said that a few members on this side is the only thing that stands between the progress of this Island is my worthy colleague on my right and myself. I think to be a very untrue statement, and just because we try to stand up for what we think is right, it is in no sense means that we are standing in the way of any progress that would be to the benefit of this Island. And I think the statement of this nature, is really what can tend to be tracked from the overall activity of this house.

And Mr. President, I hope in winding up that the other members will see this in a similar vain, and that this will be objected to or either that the mover will agree to bring it before the house tomorrow, so that we will have a little bit more time to get the relevant law and work the two together to see really what this one means.

I, thank you sir.

MR. PRESIDENT: I should like to clarify the position under standing orders. The position under standing orders is, that under standing order 21, a bill should be given seven days notice. In otherwise it should be distributed to members, seven days before it is debated.

Standing order 74, however, gives the Assembly discretion to dispense or to wave the standing orders for any particular purpose. This discretion is not vested in the chair, it is vested in the Assembly on a vote taken by all Honourable members present. And this motion has been moved by the Honourable member, the Financial Secretary. Now under standing order 53, introduction and first reading of bills, once a member has opposed the waving of standing orders, it lies with the chair to permit a statement by the honourable member opposing the motion, which has been made. It also allows the honourable member who has moved the motion, the authority to make a statement. But discretion is left with the chair, if the President thinks fit. And it seems to me, that there is a matter of principal here on which I should allow debate before putting the question.

So I'll put the motion open to debate. The opposition having been made, and it lies with the honourable members to decide this question by vote.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: Mr. President, and members of this house, to me this is a more serious bill than the previous one about the banks. Companies are formed by local people, by people abroad, and we do have from these companies the formation of the fees which are paid a substantial income.

Now I do not believe in killing the goose that laid the golden egg. And, while we need money, I agree. You cannot run a country without money, but nevertheless I am not too happy with this

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: (CONT'D): one, the one about the banks, the banks may be rich institutions. These limited liability companies, they are formed, and two or three people get together and sign the memorandum and articles of association, and then they commence to do business. I've seen recently, companies and companies, going into liquidation, holding up so there is something that we have to take into account. Not all of these companies seems to be so flourishing, and I do not think at this stage, while I agree we need money, and perhaps this is the easiest way to get it. Because the poor people of the street, who have to eat everyday over their heads, they cannot afford to have anymore taxation to pay for food-stuff and the essentials of life. Could we? This is a way to get it. But I feel that, we as legislators should not be asked so suddenly, to impose taxation on one of the corner stones of our economy. Mind you, you know, principle is involved, and I am very sure that all these companies, they have not been approached to say 'Will you pay this taxation or not?' And its quite an increase.

The registered capital, with exempted companies, six hundred dollars and the maximum was a thousand. From six hundred to a thousand is quite a sum of money, and we have so many companies, that these exempted companies maybe, there are doing a business that they can afford these fees. I am not sure exactly, what are the functions of exempted companies. But I do know that these local companies, some of them have to squeeze I am sure to get the money. Then some of them are prepared by these, I will call them, lawyers who have no respect to overcharge. Their fees are out of this world in some instances, and they are making a lot of money, I agree. But we as government, we have to live by principal. And I feel that while we need money, and we need it urgently perhaps, we should really not put these fees this high. While I have previous, I would say, insight into this thing, and I will agree that perhaps I knew a little bit more than the average. When I say the average, I don't mean I am above average. I mean, the other I should have said, legislators. I feel that, they should have been intitle to know what is going on. I am very sure some of our members here, are involved in companies, and while, just because it is personal, they might not object. Still in the matter of principal, we should really look at what we are doing. I mean, not because a person is willing to pay some money, that they should be squeeze to pay that much more. We must go ahead, plan our economy on the basic of what we have. Now I am an ecomomist I must say, I was raised very poor, thank God I can take care of myself financially now.But I live in a house, I suppose the poorest respectable house in George Town, not that I could'nt get more stuff. But a day will come, then perhaps I might not be able to work, nobody is going to buy second hand furniture, but if I have some money I can get the daily needs. And I feel, this is the best way to go on, I can sleep every night.

We as the government, have involved ourselves in a programme which takes money. And we need money, but we should go about it, getting it, not by forcing one or two particular projects to pay, we must go about it otherwise. Now I have no company formed in my name, I'm not interested in the affairs of trying to get money, by squeezing and trying to beat government out of money collected, I am not in that category/ at all What I am saying is this, that we must be substantial and strong financially before we embarkon too many projects, and we must have ways and means secured, and secured in advance before we attempt to spend money. I am very much concern about this bill, and while I reiterate what I said this morning, that we are not infants. We are responsible people, and we should be told what is going on in some respect. I don't want to progue into the secrecy of the executive council, but I do feel we are intitle to know something of what's going on. And I would respectfully ask sir, that this matter of this companies law, be deferred till we can study it a little more.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: (CONT'D): I am sure it will pass, but are we doing the right thing. Are we not taking advantage, because these people are here, and I am very sure if we did'nt have this good stable government, they would have gone long ago. But to maintain our stability, we must be people of conscience, and do not expect to get something overnight just because we want to spend money which we have not got.

Thank you sir.

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: Mr. President, for a matter of clarification, I think what is before us debating now, is a motion for the suspension, not the bill.

MR. PRESIDENT: That is correct.

HON.W.W. CONOLLY: That is correct sir. Ok sir, thank you very much.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Mr. President, honourable members, I hope the member which last spoke has lost his chance to debate this motion. The motion before the house for the suspension to standing order, so that we may deal with a bill which was not circulated in the time prescribed by the standing order, is a motion that we should give grave consideration to. It is true that, the standing orders have made provision to allow certain standing orders to be waved. But we should not abuse that privilege. I feel that the standing orders should only be waved in unusual circumstances, in extreme cases of matters of urgent public importance. If this house allows its standing orders to be waved on every occassion, we'll soon destroy the powers of the standing orders. It is true that, with a very strong Executive branch of Government, commanding seven votes, it is a simple matter to have the standing orders waved. It is a simple matter to get the required majority vote to wave the standing orders. But at the same time, it would not be right to use power to abuse the standing orders. We have an example laid down in these very orders, where a member, if he thinks the debate has gone far enough may rise and ask that the question be now put. But the Speaker must exercise his discretion, to protect the rights of the minority. To see not only is justice done, but to guarantee that it appears to be done in the eyes of the public, and in the eyes of the minority groups.

We have heard in this chamber, in this sitting, that it is customary or has been customary for revenue bills to be dealt with, without the prescribe notice given. I don't seem to remember in my short two years here, when this was ever done, as far as I can recollect. And it is the fault of this house, if I am not able to check this out in the hansards. As far as I can recollect, when the estimates sent to us, and when revenue bills are sent, we get an accompaning letter asking us to keep the matter or to treat the matter as confidential. I am certain that other members can bear me out. I believe it was in 1974, that is, when we were dealing with the 1974 estimates, that we got a bill for the increase of the duties on liquor and cigarettes, certain amendments to the customs law, and I feel sure that we were asked to treat the matter as confidnetial. I think the members who received those bills did exactly that, and the bills, if they arrived a few days later than the required seven days, were excepted. They were no complaints, what difference does it make, if you received a bill with only six days notice and the standing order says seven? No member would quibble with something like that, but if a complicated bill is put in your hand, as these bills were put yesterday evening on the dot of the hour in which the meeting resumed its sittings. It is an impossible task, for any member to take bills received in that manner, and deal with them.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: (CONT'D): It is true that, the bill before us, was given to us yesterday evening at the time with the bill regarding the bank. I do not mind saying, that I was not aware I had received the bill, because in the heat of the debate yesterday evening, I did not have time to turn over the other pages. I assumed that they was minutes of the previous days meeting, as the clerk general gives us a summary of the minutes of the previous day. And it never dawn on me, that government would try to force not only one, but two, three and even more bills in such a fashion. All we are asking for, is just a little time so that we don't make complete asses of our-selves, when we get up to speak. We want a little time to read, and to make sure that we understand fully what we read. You know that the opening of the Assembly, is for the members a very busy time. The opening day is particularly busy. Yesterday, was perhaps the most historic day in the legislature of the Cayman Islands, and the evening was rounded out with a social function. Many members attended that function, and it was only right and fitting that they should be there, to pay the respects to His Excellency the Governor, and to the gentlem n in whose honour the party was given. What I am trying to say, is that members have other responsibilities besides just studying a bill. We can't ask a member to study a bill, and neglect the members other duties. But if you give any member in this house , two or three days, four days or six days time, he will read his papers. He will know what is contained thereinbut please do not ask us to do impossibilities.

Every man is blessed with one priceless possession, and that is twenty-four hours a day. Even the beloved members from Bodden Town, do not have more than twenty-four hours in their day. Yesterday we had a full day, running until five o'clock, it was impossible to study papers that were handed to you, during that sitting. In my case it was a physical impossibility, because I had to travel to my home fourteen miles away, and I had to be careful not to exceed the speed limits, and it was just physically impossible to study a bill. And had I looked at it when I returned home, I would probably be more confused than had I not looked at it. We're only asking for what is fair, and what is right. But this thing goes much further, than a member reading a bill or not reading a bill, because that member is reading this bill on the behalf of his constituency. He is reading this bill on the behalf of the inhabitance of these Islands, and in the case of the particular bill under consideration, he is reading that bill on the behalf of people in far off lands. The people who owns and who operates these companies, the people who benefit from these companies, and we have a great responsibility. As the lady member from George Town said, the bank bill was a much smaller bill, and if you look at this one you will see how correct she was. As she is always correct. Immediately, Five thousand nine hundred and four companies will be effected, by any change in this bill. So we can see,that if we deal with this bill in a hurr fashion, if we deal with it without the proper preparation, and if we make any mistake in this bill it will have far reaching reprecussions. Because those five thousand nine hundred and four companies, mention in yesterdays budget speech must effect the lives of millions. It must effect the pocket books of millions of people. It certainly will effect the economy of the Cayman Islands.

In asking for the suspension of the standing order, the member seeking to introduce this bill, has only exercise a right given to him by the standing orders. It is up to the members of this house to say whether he can exercise that right, and get the results he is seeking. Members of Executive Council, should remember that they could well, and if it were not for our votes they maybe sitting on this side of this house, if it were not for the grace of god, they maybe here seeking for time to study this bill. Just to show how much we need this time, one only has to read this bill. And I am well aware that I am dealing with the suspension of the standing order and not with the merits of the bill. But to show you that we need the time, one can take one look at the bill, and you will see that nobody can understand the amendments sought in this bill without comparing it with the original companies law.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: (CONT'D): I have a copy of the companies law, unfortunately it is at my home, fourteen miles away, and I am seeking for permissionto go home and read that bill,and compare it with the amendments sought here. When on looks at the bill, all you can read through it is, section so and so amended by deleting certain line. Not even a ghost writer could guess what is being deleted, from the original bill. This is a very serious matter, because we are here, and we are being asked to vote, and we don't know what we are voting for, at least I don't. I am asked to amend the original law, by deleting from section so and so, line so and so of the original law, and I have no idea at all what is contained in that original bill. And the reason why I don't have any idea, is because I have not had sufficient time to study the bill.

We are very close today in destroying our Parliament, we are very close to infringing on the rights of the minority. It is most unfair to the members, to ask them to vote upon this bill, because I am quite certained that if one were to question any of the seven members sitting here, no member could tell me what is contained in section 183, and what is sought to be deleted from section 183. No member on this side could stand up at this moment and answer me, or answer to anybody what is contained in section 38 of the companies law. Nobody on this side can tell me what is contained in section 25, which we are asked to amend by deleting subsection 4. And I could go on for ever and forever, naming the things that members could not answer, and it is no reflection on the members sitting here that they cannot answer. The reason why they cannot answer is, because they have not compared the original law, which is to be amended in this bill or by this bill, they do not know. And the reason why they do not know is, that time has not been given to them.

In the matter of the bill, which we dealt with this morning, the banks licensing bill. That amendment was quite easy. Every member knew what was meant, because we were asked to change a figure of five thousand to ten, and change another figure by putting it up one thousand dollars. But it is my contention,that no member can get up on this side and tell me right now what is contained in section 25 of this bill. So one only has to see, one only has to take a look to see how ludicrous, and how ridiculous the whole situation is. This bill, if amended in this fashion, will put according to the words of the Financial Secretary, about four hundred thousand dollars in to the revenue of the Cayman Islands. And any bill which can put in one sweep, nearly half a million dollars, is a bill of paramount importance. And if we are to deal with bills of paramount importance, we should treat those bills with the respect that those bills merit. And I would be failing in my duty, if I were to say yes to any amendment to the companies law, in the situtation in which I am now placed. Because this company law is a complicated law, it has to be, because the establishment of a company is a complicated thing. And we cannot deel, with the amendment to the companies law, without sufficient time to study the amendment. Because under the company law, we have the right to establish a separate entity, a legal person which never existed. And this is a mammoth job, this is no ordinary bill. Infact this bill, as one member said awhile ago, is a very corner stone, it is one of the foundation upon which our economy is built.

We have great regard for the draftsman who made this bill, we have great regard for the Attorney-General, our legal department, and I personally have the highest regard for the members of Executiv Council. But, I also have a regard and a responsibility to look at the interest of my constituence, and of the people that will be effected by this bill. And because it has become necessary to bring this bill before this assembly, I feel that this bill should only be brought in the manner that our fore-fathers sought to bring bills, before the assembly. I don't have any idea how old these standing orders are, but they have been in operation along time. And when they were made in those days, when legislators were not busy people, they required seven days to study a bill. Today when the legislators as well as other inhabitants of this Island, are living a life with an increased pace , we should be thinking about extending the time under which a bill could be brought to this Assembly. And if that time were seven times seven, it would'nt be too much for studying some of the complicated bills

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: (CONT'D): that come to this house. Yesterday, we embarked upon accepting the mace, which is the symbol of authority for parliament. We installed a full time Sergeant at Arms, and yesterday afternoon we started out to deal with a bill, a bill which was presented contrary to the standing orders. So that is, not only my feeling on the matter, but the whole structure of Parliamentary Procedure is at state. The whole institution of parliament is being challenge, and it might be proper for the member to ask for the suspension of this standing order, so that he can get this bill dealt with. He has every right to do so, but I feel that no member on this side has the right to agree, to deal with a bill that he does not understand, he does'nt know what it contains. How can he amend a bill? How can he delete sections? when he has no idea of what is contained in those sections. This is a very serious matter, it is my belief that the standing order which allows the suspension of other orders, was put there for a particular use, to be used on special and rare occassion when the situation demanded it. I cannot see any urgency in this matter, I cannot see why this bill cannot be left until the first of December. It will be in plenty time, for the first of January, I cannot see why we cannot have time to study this bill.

Mr. President, and members, all other parliamentarian in these Islands, have risen up when the occassion arose in the pass, when the little things which they had been use to were being destroyed, when inherit rights or vested rights of the people were being abused or challenge, the members of this house arose, them armed themselves like men, and they stood up and they fought for what they knew was right, and what they knew was fair. Today, the members in this chamber are challengedwith the same responsibility. Could any member sleep tonight if he voted on this bill, could any member face his constituence, if he voted on this bill blindfolded, with a heavy pair of dark glasses, not knowing what is in it. And I, maintained that the members sitting on this side of the house do not know the exact words that they are asked to delete from this bill. If they were some urgency about this matter, I would go along. I am a very reasonable person, and I would go along with suspending the Standing Order, so that the business of the house could be dealt with in an expeditious manner. But there is no urgency, because if they were any urgency, why were the bill held up so long? I can understand that, if you were putting up or seeking to put up in this bill, the tariff on your liquor or your cigarettes, you would'nt want it exposed. Because the people would run to the bonded warewhouse, and take out all their goods before they were caught with the increase tariff. But we have a situation here, where nobody between now and the first of January, 1975 can take advantage of the proposed increase in their companies law. Because government will not accept registration fees for a company to be formed in 1975, at 1974 rates. Also no person is going to run to form a company between now and the first of January, so they can pay the initial fee now and another fee on the first of January. So there is absolutely no urgency to have this bill dealt with today, there is no reason at all in the world, to have this bill passed into law during the hours of todays afternoon sitting of the house.

Mr. President, I will undoubtly be given a small opportunity to debate the merits of this bill later on, if the members agree to the suspension of the Standing Order. And I will be able to show the complicated materials, that is contained within this bill. And perhaps in committee, through you sir, I will be able to ask a member what is meant by certain sections. But this is a poor way, to go about a bill of this magnitude. A bill, as I have said already, that is going to effect not me, not you, but everybody in this Island, and people in far off lands. Nearly six thousand companies registered here, this assembly called upon to increase the fees to make certain other changes in the companies law without having sufficient time to study the bill. I am not making an unreasonable request, I am only asking that we be given sufficient time, and by sufficient time I will say, at least over the week end, to study all the ramifications of this bill.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: (CONT'D): And I hope that, if sufficient opposition is put up to the introduction of this bill, that the Financial Secretary, the third official member of government will see fit to ask for a withdrawl of his motion, to deal with this bill. He was very co-operated yesterday afternoon, and he rightly asked that the introduction, his motion to introduce the bill yesterday evening be withdrawn, and members felt a little better. But yesterday's bill, in length and in words, does'nt come anyway near to the bill that is before us today. One reading was sufficient for yesterday's bill to be understood, I doubt if a half a dozen readings will make the conversant with all the intricacies of that bill. So Mr. President, I ask that the members vote against the suspension of this standing order, so that we may have at least a few hours to study this bill. And so that next week we can come here, like the intelligent people we are, and deal with this bill in a learned and intelligent manner.

I, thank you sir.

HON. D.V. WATLER: Mr. President, and honourable members, I seconded the motion for the suspension of the standing order, standing order 21, which is allowed for, under standing order 74. These standing orders, at the end of them you will read, it was made by the Legislative Assembly of the Cayman Islands in exercise of the powers conferred by section 38 of the Cayman Islands Constitution Order in council, 1959 on the seventh day of November, 1959, and approved by the Governor on the eight day of January, 1960. For information of the house, that is when these standing orders came into effect. The standing order 74 is there, and it makes provision for us, to be able to suspend any standing order that we so desire, for any specific purpose. Yesterday, the third official member introduced a motion to present the banks and trust companies regulation (amendment) law, 1974, and asked for the suspension of the standing order 21 in order to do so, because this bill had not been circulated to the members, and they did not have sufficient time to be able to study it. On the opposition, when it was opposed, the third official member withdrew it, and it is now before us today. Yesterday, before the Financial Secretary or the third official member even delivered his address, I gave notice of bills that would be coming up at this sitting of the house. And these are the ones I gave notice of; The Banks and Trust Companies Regulation (amendment) Law, 1974, The Companies Amendment Law, 1974, which is the one that we are asking suspension for today, and The Custom Amendment Law, 1974, and then two others that copies were not circulated. Even yesterday, one has been today, the Oil Pollution, and then the Hotels Aid Law. It was explained yesterday, that one of the reasons for endeavouring to have these bill presented to the Legislature, is because the budget that has been presented and laid on the table, and this forms part of the appropriation bill, 1975, show a deficit. And in order that the members, could more intelligently study the budget and the estimates, they should give consideration to these bills which are making provision for additional revenue. This is / the specific reason why we would like for the house to give considerati n to these laws , before you go into your finance committee.

This particular bill, is stretching on the companies, which effected a number of companies, yes, off-shore and local. But taxation in any measure is not one of the subjects that is welcome by many people anyhow. Most people try to get away from taxation, and here in these Islands we are known as a tax haven, and a number of these companies that are registered here, are off-shore companies, for the sake of tax avoidance into their own country, and that is why they are here. And we keep them here, because we have a stable government and a happy and a social set up, we don't want to upset either one of those. What this measure was explained yesterday, and its going to be a tax measure, so you know the subject of the law, it is for it. It is unfortunate if any member inadvertently had not been able to turn their pages over to see this one, because their notice was given out yesterday, that this was going to be one of the laws.

HON. D.V. WATLER: (CONT'D): These amounts that the companies will be asked to pay, is going to be far short of when the amount that they would normally pay in their own home, because they are here for the tax avoidance, yes. And this is one way that the third official member sought it with his fiscal committee, to be able to get in some more funds to be able to balance your budget. A member made mention that, the budget can only -- you have to cut your garment according to your cloth, and that is correct. If you don't have it, you're going to have to cut your budget, and if you're going to cut your garment according to cloth, it reminds me that, the style use to be frequently, With all the mini skirts, you may have a mini budget before you finish. And I don't think that that is going to meet with the agreement of the house, or many of the people that live in these slands because we have allot of projects that we would like to get on with, and that the people are expecting us to do. You have your roads, you have your administrative building, you have your docking facilities, your broadcasting, just to mention some of these facilities. And its going to take money, to be able to do these things. The monies got to come from some place, as the member said yesterday, you can't just reach up into thin air and pull down the money, and carry out these facilities. And this Mr. President, and Honourable Members is the reason that we would like this house to go into this bill, and in the committee stage, no doubt, the third official member will be able to explain to any member, any of the ramifications that they are not sure of now, but they did have them yesterday. A notice was given, that they would be brought before this sitting.

I thank you.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: Mr. President, and Honourable Members, we got in this house the Standing Orders as a guide, as a rule laid down to do the business of this House under. In most any place or in any thing, there are certain provision made for emergency. Most, if not all, their planes that are flying today, that an automatic pilot. who comes in to guide them in landing emergency. We got the ships that some the high seas got certain emergency things to be used, if and when it is necessary.

the navigator got charts, his compass, his sextant and he navigates his ships according to these things. When, if we must take Parliamentary Procedures, you'll have a good Government, a good Assembly, good laws and a good country. We must stick to what is laid down as a rule, to be guided by. I agree we got the Standing Orders, and we use it, and that what its for to be use when it is necessary. But as far as I am concern, in this occasion or on this occasion, its no reason for me to except that the Standing Order should be used for the introduction of this bill, or for this bill to be introduced when the Standing Order said, you should have seven clear days. And I don't know what excuse the mover of this bill, will give me, why the elected members of this house could'nt have been in posession of this bill. Then if it could,nt be ready for this sitting of this house, have it ready for the next one. And I must, with what has been said, the second elected from Bodden Town, I felt like stopping him on a few occasion to leave something for me. But apparently he must have had an extra lunch somewhere. Nevertheless, I must support that the Standing Order should not be waved for the introduction of this bill, because we had time, or we should have had time to get this bill, And as the first official member said, he gave notice yesterday that these bills was coming up. That did'nt make it a bit closer, he did'nt say whether you were getting them today or he did'nt say you were getting them tomorrow, he said these bills would be coming up. And he first said, that we would start debating the financial reply to the bdget speech today. So apparently he would'nt expect we should go into these bills, then today. And whether they be short or whether they be long they are of great importance, and I am not prepared to support the waving of the Standing Orders for the

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: (CONT'D) introduction of these bills at this time, infact that would take in all of these, as far as I am concerned. If we got to depend on this balance of a budget, let us adjourned the house and study these bills, come back and let the budget, the Financial Secretary go over the budget and find out then if we got enough money, and we'll bring it back on Wednesday.

I thank you, Mr. President.

MR. JOHN D. JEFFERSON: Mr. President, I can promise you that I'll be very brief.

I will not oppose the introduction of this, our first reading of this bill. We rose yesterday afternoon when the bills were really slipped on us. And yet on the other hand there are two sides of the coin. We are dealing with better than five thousand companies, I am not sure if word have'nt been put out dealing with financies. The number of people are not going to try to capitalize and take advantage of this. This in not really going to destroy our Parliament, because provision is made in the standing orders for this kind of thing.

When you're dealing with finance, you have to be very careful. The second elected member from Bodden Town, apparently vote a strong case and at the end it seems like he conceited that there would be a defeat. Well, I am going to vote for the introduction or the suspension of standing order 21.

Thank you, very much.

HON. A.B. BUSH: Mr. President, and members, maybe I should have spoken alittle before on this. The first voice that was raised to oppose this, and said 'here we go again' because we went over it yesterday evening, we went over it this morning and we find ourselves right back this afternoon in the very same thing. I though that from yesterday really, the urgency of this was explained, and the need for it was that it was a revenue bill, it was reflected in the budget, in the estimates, we wanted to get into the estimates, It was also in the Financial Secretarys' massage, and surely you would'nt have wanted the bill published before the Financial Secretarys' address, so this again is one of the good reason why I'm sure the Financial Secretary did'nt see fit to have this done. And members really have a point, and I see they are hanging on to it. That of the Standing Orders which says, seven clear days notice must be given. But they have completely ignored all the other parts of the Standing Orders, which gives discretion to the house to except it or not. And this is the point, why can't we be reasonable and under the circumstances accept it. The reasons expressedto it because, they don't know what is in the bill, they don't know what they're going to agree to. Now I want to say this, Mr. President, this is just why its brought before this house, and this is a good place to find out what its all about and understand it. And we have not only the mover of the bill, but we have our legal department here who can really explain what the bill is all about to us. So by not having the original bill, law I would say, to find out what this one is all about, I am sure we have it right over here on this side of the house.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: A point of order Mr. President, that is a bit misleading, because repeatly the Attorney-General has told us in discussions of this nature, that he is not here to advise us and I would not like the house to be misled by the words of the first elected member.

MR. PRESIDENT: Would the Attorney-General ------

HON. G.E. WADDINGTON: Yes sir, on a point of correction Mr. President, I should think I ----

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: There is no point of correction, Mr. President.

HON. G.E. WADDINGTON: I think an incorrect statement has been made, by the first member for Bodden Town. My position in this house Mr. President is, that I do not advise individuals members who seek to bring amendments

HON. G.E. WADDINGTON: (CONT'D): before the House. They will have to get their amendments or their motions in order. But my duty here in committee, is to advise this House on any particular sections of any law being passed or amended. And I am here for that purpose and in the committee stage of this bill, my duty will be to advise and guide the house on any point that might arise out of these amendments.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, on a further point of correction Sir, The hansards will bear me out, that repeatedly we have been told by this Honourable Gentleman, that he is here to advise Government, and we are not a part of Government.

MR. PRESIDENT: I must clarify this, that the Attorney-General is the Governments Legal Adviser. While he is a member of this House, he is also at the disposal of the House while in this chamber to explain any points of law. And I concur with the Attorney-General statement on this, that as annunciated by the Honourable First Member of Executive Council. During committee stage, the Attorney-General has not only the right, but he has a duty to clarify points of laws that are raised in the Chamber.

HON. A.B. BUSH: Mr. President, thank you Sir for ruling on that particular issue. As has been said, the purpose of this was to get this all really cleared in the Assembly before we went into the estimates. And I am glad in a way that the First Official Member cleared this all up, he made some of the points that I intended to make, and its no good of me repeating them again. But I can't really see the point in members, whether surely having it seven clear days, I don't believe it is just all there is, I think it is something else. We don't expect them I suppose, to agree with the bill even if it passes this stage of its introduction to this house, I suppose there will be oppositions to it anyway. But I do think it is unreasonable to try to stop the introduction of it, on grounds which I've heard put forward here. Because as I've said, I think they've completely ignore the other sections of the Standing Orders which gives discretion, and certainly its up to this house to say whether it should be introduced or not. We've heard a debate on it, and probably the time is come when it should be put to the vote to find out just who is for its acceptance or not. And this is what I would suggest, Mr, President, that we have had enough on this and that we should put it to vote to see whether the house will accept this instruction or not.

CAPT. A.A. REID: Mr. President, and Honourable Members, I am going to suggest that since we have five private members motion, why not deal with them now and give these Honourable Gentlemen from Bodden Town a little time to study the bill. By Monday the six days will be up, perhaps it will go through with less argument.

MR. PRESIDENT: I am afraid that you must proceed with the order of the day, as on the order paper.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Mr. President, may I have a division on that.

DIVISION

AYES	NOES
Hon. D.V. Watler	Miss Annie H. Bodden
Hon. G.E. Waddington	Mr. Claude M. Hill
Hon. V.G. Johnson	Mr. James M. Bodden
Hon. A.B. Bush	Mr. G. Haig Bodden
Hon. T. Foster	
Hon. B.O. Ebanks	
Hon. W.W. Conolly	
Mr. J.D. Jefferson	
Capt. A.A. Reid	

MR. PRESIDENT: The result of the division: For nine voices, against four voices. The motion was accordingly carried.

Perhaps this would be a good time to suspend proceedings for fifteen minutes.

HOUSE SUSPENDED AT 4 P.M.
HOUSE RESUMED AT 4.15 P.M.

MR. PRESIDENT: Proceedings have resumed.

CLERK: THE COMPANIES AMENDMENT LAW, 1974. INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

MOVED BY HON. V.G. JOHNSON
SECONDED BY HON. D.V. WATLER

QUESTION PUT: AGREED.

CLERK: THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) LAW, 1974. SECOND READING

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: Mr. President, Honourable Members, it is desired to amend the Companies Law for the purpose of simplifying the appointment of Registrar of Companies, and of making variation in the annual fees chargeable, as well as fees for incorporation and registration of companies.

In the recent debate, Mr. President, on the suspension of Standing Order 21 in order to introduce this bill. I dare say that members took the opportunity to debate the merits of the bill in certain respect, which was required I imagine to lay the ground for the debate for or against the suspension of Standing Order 21. The law here, as stated in the memorandum of objects and reason is seeking to do two things, one is the appointment of a Registrar, and that is to say, regulating the appointment of a Registrar and secondly, to increase the fees of companies that is, annual fees and fees for incorporation. It has become necessary Mr. President, to simplify the appointment of a Registrar so that when the Registrar is away from office for short periods, that it would not become necessary for someone to be appointed by the Governor to act in his stead. And therefore the recommendation here is that they should also be a Deputy Registrar who would act in the absence of the Regisrtar for all purposes of the law. This means, that in the estimates of expenditure providing for this section of government, the establishments will have to provide for a Registrar and a Deputy Registrar. And if this bill is excepted by this Honourable House, that will be delt with when we go into Finance Committee to deal with the estimates of revenue and expenditure. The other aspect of the bill Mr. President, is the increasing of annual and corporation fees. And this was commented on in the budget address, and we heard many comments this afternoon in the other debate. I would say, that again the matter was examined very carefully before any recommendations were put forward. And I would like to say also, that the matter went first of all, before the Fiscal Committee and it was put before the committee for consideration, and the Fiscal Committee saw fit to recommand it to Executive Council and from Executive Council here to the Legislative Assembly. And therefore it went through quite a long procedure, before it reached the Legislative Assembly.

I would also like to say Mr. President, that if at any time I am aware that any measures of taxation will effect any areas of the economy, and especially in this case the financial industry of these Islands, I would not attemp to even introduce it to the Fiscal Committee, much less to take it beyond that stage. I was fairly satisfied in my own mind, that the measures recommended in this bill would have no adverse effect, and that the proposals would be accepted in good faith. It has been over three years since these fees has been varied, and I should say that prices and cost of living and inflation have risen considerably since three years ago.

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: (CONT'D): And I do not think that it is unreasonable to believe that the operators of these companies would oppose the payment of an increase fee, at this stage. It is a matter Mr. President, of deciding on what system of taxation this country must embark upon. I am sure that over the years, this Honourable House have gone along with government to make it quite clear to the public of these Islands, that there was no intention of introducing any form of direct taxation. Infact the absence of direct taxation is what has given the Island a financial industry today, and what has provided a big part of the economy which we enjoy today. Any of the operators of the financial industry would be happy at any time to pay the increase fees on companies or bank license or any such charges, rather than having to be told that the Government is considering other forms of direct taxation. If there is any fair at all among the operators, it is that fair. And I am sure that members today will again join with Government to give that assurance. If that assurance is going to be given, then there is no other alternative then to seek revenue under the present system.

With the progress and development of this country, the Government cannot expect to move ahead from year to year without finding new sources of income. Because be you sure they will be new services to provide for, they will be increase activities to provide for, and money must come from some source. I know that with the progress and development that is taken place, this in itselves is creating additional revenue from year to year as we can see from the budget. Estimated revenue are always revised upward, and revised revenue always ends in actual figures above that which is revised. But nevertheless, the Government cannot continue to depend soully on the existing measures, they must be additional sources from time to time, And I think what is more gratifying than anything else in the presentation of these two measures is, that Government has sought to find measures that are not really very inflationary. And in the case of the first measure which was taken this morning in the first and second reading, it was pointed out why that was not inflationary. In this measure there are quite a number of ordinary companies, which are local operators, and no doubt they will be effected somewhat by this measure. But the largest increase are against those companies operating outside of the Cayman Islands internationally. There are perhaps the big operators. There is no doubt in my mind Mr. President, that this measure to increase companies fee is reasonable, and that it will be acceptable in that spirit. I would ask members to support this second reading, and to allow the debate thereon. I will postpone the committee stage until another day when members would have time to go into the bill, and do the research which they have requested. The measures would come into operation on the 1st of January, so it is not really all that urgent that it be delt with at once today. But the thing is that we are dealing with tax measures, and the earlier they can be dispensed with, the better it will be for all concerned. The laws should be printed in time, the department responsible for the collection would be able to advise companies all over the world, of the new fees which would be in effect on the 1st of January, and so little time is really required to give notice of these new measures, and this is the reason why the Government would wish these bills to be delt with as early as possible. I thought yesterday afternoon, I had offered my apology for these bills not being circualted to members, and I thought it was agreed that if they went on agenda this morning, that they would be delt with today. However they was still a bit of misunderstanding, and so for that reason I would suggest that we postpone the committee stage and just take the debate on the bill, the merit and the merits this afternoon.

Thank you, Mr. President.

MR. PRESIDENT: A seconder, please.

SECONDED BY HON. D.V. WATLER

MR. PRESIDENT: The question is, that the companies(amendment) law, 1974 be now read the second time. The motion is now open for debate.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: Mr. President, and members of this house, there is only one comment that I have to make on this bill and it is this, that I am very proud and happy to see that there is a place for a Deputy Registrar. Because Sir, sometimes if the Registrar is off the Island, the registration of companies maybe held up for quite an indefinite period. He could be sick or some emergency take him off, and this is a very good stand. I shall not oppose that his salary be included in our estimate, and while this maybe off the point, I shall also have to press that other deputies be put in other departments that we can get good service.

Thank you sir.

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: Mr. President, and members, I too would like to say that the bill, so much has been said about these measures that it is very little for me say, but I join with the Honourable Member from George Town in saying, that the first amendment which is the amendment of the section 2 of the original bill providing for a Deputy Registrar of Companies. I think this is a very good step, and one that will be appreciated by all those concerned. As I see this particular tax measure, it deals with three forms of companies, local companies, exempt companies and foreign companies. And the increase in fees here seems to be very moderate, particularly on the local companies. We have an increase of eighty dollars to a hundred, which is a twenty dollar on a minimum, and on the annual fee is from forty dollars to fifty dollars, which is only a ten dollar as far a minimum. These to me are very moderate increases, and I should not present any stress on the now high cost of living. Companies should be able to bear these very small fees without passing them on to their consumers. On the other companies, the exempt companies, apparently the increase there is in the vicinity of fifty per cent, and I am sure that the matter of two hundred dollars on a minimum registration fee is very unlikely that any company would back off from the matter of two hundred dollars. Afterall that is a very small sum to compare to what the benefits that there're getting, as I've said having a company registered here and doing business through here saves them several, several thousands or probably millions of dollars. I take this that these are very reasonable increases and I feel that we are not doing anything that would scare away this form of business. In my opinion, it might tend to increase it, and at the same time provide some additional revenue. I think that the Honourable Financial Secretary, in presenting this and the other tax measures was very wise in presenting measures that would create and result in some substantial revenue. There is no sense of aggravating a person or a company, and in the whole exercise when one looks after, you get four or five thousand dollars. This exercise here which as I've said seems to be reasonable when you take the individual items, yet according to his statement will provide some way in the region of four or five hundred thousand dollars.

The idea in the pass, in this Island has been to increase the fees on liquor and cigarettes. This was the common thing to do. I think that we have now got to a point where that if it is very wise to look into the other measures, where we could get an appropriate fee and at the same time, at the end of the year achieve something worthwhile. Because if these tax measure, the bill before us, if it does produce what is anticipated between four or five hundred thousand dollars. One can reasonably say, that it must worth while doing this. And as I've said I don't see where the increases in these, they are not a hundred percent, they're not five hundred percent as was the case in the other sectors. This as far as I've figured it out, runs between twenty-five and fifty percent increase, which I think is a very resonable rate in this day and age. I support the bill.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Mr. President, and members, I find myself in the same position as obtained a short time ago. I still know no more about this amendment, then when I came in here. It is true that I've been supplied with a copy of the law, but I could'nt afford to read this when the Honourable Gentlemen or members on Executive Council was speaking because I was afraid I might lose something. But I am afraid I have not been inlightened very much, perhaps my darkness was so intense that the little light they're shade has not expelled any of the gloom. I hear that a fifty percent increase is very reasonable, I tend to disagree with that. I also hear that this law has not been interfered with, as far as the fees are concern, for the last three years. That too does'nt mean very much, because three years is a short time in the life of a law. Some laws remain on the books, perhaps for fifty or a hundred years, and I gather from the expressions that the companies law will now be the scapegoat, and will take the unique position that was held by the liquor by the custom law in respect to providing additional revenue. The better way to deal with this, would be to try to put some restraint on the expenditures rather than seeking means and ways to upgrade the revenue. I am not in a position to intelligently debate the merits of this bill, and the reason for it is, I've had no time to study it in detail. It seems to be a bad amendment, it is an amendment that is tampering to a certain extent with other financial economy or the financial aspects of our economy. We have gone to great length to put into effect this company law, under which companies could be created, we did the same thing with the banks and now once we have gotten them established we same to be milking them for all the trade can carry. I have to oppose these increases, I will perhaps support the parts of the bill that I've been told to deal with the registrar. But whatever little support I give to that will be only because of my good faith, in these honest gentlemen that are putting forward this bill. If I had to ask this amendment on the strength of my own knowledge, I could,nt do it because, I am not being repetitious but I have had no opportunity to study the bill.

The financial institutions or the financial arrangements which we have here, seems to be good. But let us not forget that the Bahamas and several other countries in the world had their good company laws, had their good tax havens but greed caused the goose that we heard about this morning to lay wooden eggs instead of the golden ones that were produced in the beginning. At this time I am against any increase that might frighten away, the would be formers of companies, I am against legislation, which will slow down our tax haven business, I am against legislation which will put the breaks on any of these companies. As I've said on, during the debate on the Banks and Trust Conpanies Law, I feel that the measures which we are putting on the companies law will cause a certain amount of inflation. Because they are many local companies here, some of them are very small, some of them have a difficult time in keeping themselves solvent. And here we are putting this increase on all of them, those that are well able to pay, those that are not able to pay, but because they go under the glorified name of a company or a limited liability company, we believe that they can pay and pay and pay, but it is'nt so. We have a law here under which companies can be created, entities that never existed, coming to be. Some of them it is true, come and obscure manner, some of them have very high standing names, but they are some of them that could not bear inspection. These things need to be taken in to consideration, when we set/to put what I am told is roughly a fifty percent increase on their annual fees, on their registration fees and whatever other fees that are covered by this bill. I will be saying this quite often, I will take whatever steps I can during the Finance Committee to reduce some of the astronomical figures that are in the budget. And it is possible that if that reduction comes, we will have a surplus from the revenue which will accrue from the increases to the Companies Law. I had intended

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: (CONT'D): to talk for a long time so as to keep this debate open, so that the member from North Side would have an opportunity tomorrow morning to register his vote. But I've had the assurance of the Third Official Member, that a part of this bill will be here tomorrow morning.

In closing Mr. President, I would like to register again my regrets at how I've been treated, of how I have been denied the usual time that has been afforded to me to study these bills. And I hope that we have not establish today a precedent that will haunt me for the rest of my political life. Thank you.

CAPT. A.A. REID: Mr. President, and Honourable Members of this house, I am supporting this bill but I have to touch on a little warning to this country. I don't think that we can be lulled asleep in false security too much longer. Now the rest of the world is going through a depression and I don't see how we can expect to go on prospering too much longer, not in this wise manner that we are told we have been going through or enjoying. And every year we've had to raise taxes since I've been in the house anyway, and the banks, this is the second time they've raise taxes in the banks. I am afraid the next time we'll have to raise taxes to get money increase salaries etc. etc., and to get the many things that everybody thinks we can get for nothing, like good roads to make ninety miles an hour on, and it will have to come nearer home, we may have to attack some of those same cars that are destroying our roads. I don't think it will be a good thing for the companies to realise that every year we tax them, and our people are enjoying the lowest form of taxation on motor car that there is in the Caribbean. When a big American automobile enjoys a tax of twenty-four dollars in this Island and pays eighty-four dollars in some of the others, but the Government like the bollweevil, he has to have a home, the government must get money. But it will have to be --We must not create a physicological feeling with the foreigner who is supporting us, and who has done so well for us, we must not let him feel that he has been being fleeced. So when the extra taxation comes home, comes a little nearer to us, lets hope that those people who are squaking about things, they want every thing, they want town houses all about, town halls all over the country and new schools, schools where they never had them before etc. They must expect to furnish the money to pay for them.

Now we know that England is going through very strenuous financial times. It is estimated that by nineteen eighty she'll be the poor man of Europe, and so even France that has had such a boom, had a great set back this year. America is feeling the pinch and so is Canada, and America is where allot of our prosperity has come from, and if they feel the pinch I am afraid we will get our share in due course. The second elected member from Bodden Town referred to the other tax haven losing their business, but I must say that he is wrong through over taxing the people through our taxation and greed, but that really was'nt the case, not greed from the angle he has portrayed. Ihappen to know because I was around these quarters, and sailing around them all the time. And I know that in the Bahamas the worse thing they ever did for themselves, was to dangle expertees on the end of our one year permit, and they would not renew those one year permits, When the permit was expired the man had to go home, and many many companies simply got disgusted and said, that is not what we are going to tolerate. If we've got to send men home every year and pay passages for them , we'll have to get out. They tried to force them to hire Bahamians, but Bahamians did'nt have the expertees and that is where their trouble started, and that's where it ended too. Now Jamaica and Trinidad almost did the same thing in another way, they did'nt have tax havens but they lost alot of good men. But then Jamaica had a greater proportion of elite and she had men who could take care of her banking situation,so did Trinidad they had the biggest share of the elite but the Bahamas, the one thing that hit them was that they

CAPT. A.A. REID: (CONT'D): did not have the elite, and were not in a much better position. There schools were very little better than ours, and that was where they failed.It was'nt because of greed of taxation taxing the companies, but it was bringing hardships on them where they just could'nt get help, they could'nt get the help they needed and they did'nt have the help in the Bahamas to give them. So again I must warn that the next time, next year when everybody wants an increase in salary and everybody is expecting more and better roads, and better airport buildings. The next thing we ought to have is a prison, we ought to have a good prison built, and I am afraid these things will cost us money, and as I've said I am afraid that the money for these amenities must come nearer home. The people will have to make up their minds to put up more money to get more things.

MR. JONN D. JEFFERSON: Mr. President, I rise in support of this amendment. I feel that the rates are all within reason, I was just in my mind a little while ago trying to remember or think of people or persons that made up the fiscal committee, which deals with things of this nature. But Mr. President, I don't believe that we in any way will frighten away anybody from our shores, I see no reason for that. I don't believe that a measure like this is any thing to worry about, I see very little increases, and I will also add, or join my last speaker in the fact that every year we come here in this Chamber we find there are more greater demands by the people of these Islands, for greater facilities, more facilities and therefore we have to be careful I agree.

The President of the United States have acknowledge the fact that there are in a recession in the United States. He said that yesterday I believe in Japan, but I would hope that the Islands being what they are, thirteen thousand people that its not going to effect us in any large scale. Nevertheless, the things that we have to keep in mind always, I am sure that the fiscal committee must think of this, is areas to which we can get revenue without over taxing anybody. Like the mover of this amendment to the companies law, said this is the first since three years ago. So I don't see anything unreasonable, the fees are within reason, but what we are going to hammer home in the Finance Committee, that is that we feel that certain things ought to be done. We find that we are budgeting for almost fourteen million dollars, and we find ourselves sometimes asked to have ten bodies where five able bodies could do the job. I believe that we're got to the stage where we're got to make people realise, that if we want more and more and, more services and various other things. Government have to find areas to which revenue must come. We are not able to wave any magic wand God has been good to us, and certainly we have been a very prosperous people, but I think we should'nt be complacent and take too much for granted either. So Mr. President I certainly give this bill my blessing or the amendment to this bill my blessing, and feel that it is nothing at all unreasonable. If we conduct ourselves the way e have been conducting ourselves, and if we continue to have the kind of Government that we've had, we have nothing to fair.

Thank you very much.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, I cannot stand here and tell you that I disagree with everything that is in this amendment, because that would not be true. But I am against this amendment in this extent, that I feel we would be much better off if we had tried to leave out some of the other items in this budget, rather than trying to increase taxes on certain things to take care of it. We find one department where we have four hundred and thirty-nine thousand two hundred and ninety-one dollars, and then another two hundred and twenty-three thousand dollars in another area, and another thirty thousand six hundred and forty-four in another area which is a bit camouflage for the same department. We find ourselves in another area, spending one hundred and sixty thousand dollars in a certain department that we were assured we would have to spend nothing for.

Another department we have a similar thing, with roughly eighty

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: (CONT'D): thousand dollars being spent, and these are things sir that we were told would be of such great benefit to us, and things we could not live without, and things that were beneficently being given to us. That is the main objection I have in regards to this amendment. But there is something Mr. President, that does concern me because we have all been told that this is an increase, and that is why my colleague and myself has stressed the importance of reading these bills before they come before the house and, comparing them with the other legislation that we have on the book already, and unless a typographical error has been made Mr. President, I see a couple of sections in this law where the proposed fee is decreased by about one third. So if we are going to put this through as a motion, that we are going to increase the fees then I cannot understand why we are dropping them in places that should really mean something in regards to obtaining more revenue, this I cannot quite understand unless it was a typographical error. Annother suggestion I would make, would be that I am sure each and every member of this house is quite concern with the future of this Island, or we would not waste our time in being here. And being concerned, I think that we could work together as a group and give our ideas from time to time in the different avenues that could be explored to bring revenue to this island, rather than having something push into our face overnight, and ask us to ok it.

I am hopeful sir, that the opposition that we have been able to raise in the last couple of days in regards to the rights which we feel has been infringed upon, that it has duly taken notice of and that it will not happen in the future. It is necessary in all cases I think for us to study what is going on, I for one Mr. President, would not want to be like some of the former people who occupy the seats from my district. When they were asked, what have you done in the house? and they said, 'Oh well, don't know, we did'nt have time to read it.' I can assure you Mr. President, that will not happen to me. And I do object on this point, object very strenuously. Another point before I sit down that I would like to make is, that some of our very worthy colleagues in the last election raised the issue that my colleague and myself were only coming into the legislature to increase taxes. That was one of the main campaign weapon used against us, and I can thank God, that the people at this point should know better. So Mr. President, I thank you.

MR. PRESIDENT: If there are no other speakers, I'll ask the Honourable mover to reply.

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: Mr. President, I thank the last speaker for mentioning the typographical errors. I had infact forgotten in the debate on the bill, to mention that the bill now before the house did contain typographical errors and figures, and that these would be amended in the committee stages. I will deal with them when we come to the committee.

Mr. President, and honourable members, the short debate on the bill is quite interesting and I thank members for their views, and I hope that in the final stages that the bill will be given support and a free passage. I know that it is not a good policy of government to be amending these laws year by year, and certainly this is the reason why the companies law has not been amended in three years. I hope that we will not have to think about amendment for sometime after this amendment, but I would like to remind members that the population of this country a few years ago before the commencement of the tax haven operation or the financial industry was in the vicinity of eight to nine thousand. I know that the country eagerly sought an economy to replace that which we had, and that is sea men seeking a livelihood in other countries. But today we find that theservices of this government have been created because there is a need to strengthen government in order to properly control and administer the operation which the country now has, that is the financial

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: (CONT'D): industry. There are one hundred and ninety banks here, and there are many areas in government which must be strengthened in order to administer these number of banks here. There are nearly six thousand companies and the services of government must be strengthen to administer these companies, and these bring a great deal of pressure on government in the country to provide services necessary to administer. And I think we should give some thought to this that when taxes are being levied in these areas, bank licenses, companies, that there is grounds for such taxation because afterall they should pay for the service which must be provided for their proper administration, otherwise where do we go or where do we find the money to provide these services?.

Mr. President, I don't think there is anything else I will say, and I will leave the debate in committee until tomorrow morning sir.

MR. PRESIDENT: The question is that the companies amendment bill, 1974 be now read the second time.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED.

HON. D.V. WATLER: Mr. President and honourable members, the time is getting on and I would now move the adjournment of the house until 10:00 A.M. tomorrow morning or 9:30 AM, 10:00 A.M. tomorrow morning.

SECONDED BY HON. G.E. WADDINGTON

MR, PRESIDENT: The question has been put, that this house stand adjourn until 10:00 A.M. tomorrow morning. If there is no debate I'll put the question.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED

MR. PRESIDENT: Before adjourning I would remind members that, if we get through the remaining business on the outstanding two bills the completing procedure on the companies amendment bill, 1974 and the custom amendment bill, 1974 we then move into the debate on the second reading of the Appropriation Bill, so that honourable members may wish to take note that it is likely that we'll start debate on the budget tomorrow.

HOUSE ADJOURNED AT 5.20 P.M. UNTIL 10 A.M. FRIDAY THE 22ND NOVEMBER, 1974.



C A Y M A N I S L A N D S

L E G I S L A T I V E A S S E M B L Y

M I N U T E S

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OFFICIAL REPORT

B U D G E T A N D F O U R T H M E E T I N G

O F T H E

1974 S E S S I O N O F T H E

L E G I S L A T I V E A S S E M B L Y

FRIDAY, 22nd NOVEMBER, 1974

PART III

FRIDAY, 22nd NOVEMBER, 1974

PRESENT WERE:-

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR MR. THOMAS RUSSELL - PRESIDENT

GOVERNMENT AND OFFICIAL MEMBERS

Hon. D.V.Watler, OBE.,JP	First Official Member
Hon. G.E.Waddington, C.B.E., Q.C.	Second Official Member
HON. V.G. Johnson, OBE.,JP	Third Official Member
HON.A.B.BUSH, JP	Second Electoral District, George Town (Member for Works, Communications and Public Transport).
Hon. Trevor Foster	Third Electoral District, Lesser Islands. (Member for Inter-Island Communcations and Information)
Hon. B.O.Ebanks	First Electoral District, West Bay (Member for Social Services, Education, Health and Labour).
Hon. W.W.Conolly, OBE.,JP	Sixth Electoral District, East End (Member for Tourism, Lands, Natural Resources, MRCU and Surveys).

ELECTED MEMBERS

Mr. John D.Jefferson	First Electoral District, West Bay
Miss Annie H.Bodden	Second Electoral District, George Town
Mr.Claude M. Hill	Second Electoral District, George Town
Mr.James M. Bodden	Fourth Electoral District, Bodden Town
Mr. G.Haig Bodden	Fourth Electoral District, Bodden Town
Mr.Craddock Ebanks	Fifth Electoral District, North Side
Capt. A.A.Reid	Third Electoral District, Lesser Islands.

ORDER OF THE DAY

FRIDAY, 22nd NOVEMBER, 1974

1. GOVERNMENT BUSINESS:-

(a) The Companies (Amendment) Law, 1974
COMMITTEE THEREON
THIRD READING

(b) The Customs (Amendment) Law, 1974
Ist and 2nd READINGS

2. DEBATE ON FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

FRIDAY, 22nd NOVEMBER, 1974

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FRIDAY, 22nd November, 1974

10 a.m.

THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) LAW, 1974

Mr.President; We proceed with Item 1 on the Order of the Day, Government Business - the Companies (Amendment) Law, 1974.

COMMITTEE THEREON

Moved by Hon. V.G.Johnson, seconded by Hon. D.V.Watler

Question put: AGREED: HOUSE IN COMMITTEE

CLERK: CLAUSE 1 SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT.

QUESTION PROPOSED

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: CLAUSE 1 PASSED

CLERK: CLAUSE 2 INTERPRETATION

QUESTION PROPOSED

QUESTION PUT:AGREED: CLAUSE 2 PASSED

CLERK: CLAUSE 3 CAP.22 AMENDED

QUESTION PROPOSED

MR. G.HAIGH-DDEN: I would like to announce, Mr.Chairman,, that I will be in direct opposition to all the monetary increases in clause 3, however, the first section of clause 3, that dealing with the Registrar seems to be very necessary but apparently I would have to vote against the entire clause.

HON.V.G.JOHNSON: Mr.Chairman, there are two amendments, typographical amendments that I would like to move, one is in sub-section (e) the last line the maximum figure which is now reading $1000 should be $1600, that is the figure now in the law. I should say that the amendment of the fees under this law deals only with the minimum fees and not the maximum. This is (e), the bottom of (e)

The next amendment is in sub-paragraph (f)on page 3 in the figure $500 in the fifth line should be $1000. That is also the figure presently in the law. These are perhaps typographical errors, Mr. Chairman and I would move those two amendments.

MR.CHAIRMAN: The amendments proposed are to clause 3 (e) of the bill, substituting the figures $1600 for the figures $1000 in the last line of page 2 of the bill and secondly, on page 3 of the bill under clause 3 (f) in the eighth line of sub-section (f), substituting the figures $1000 for the figures of $500.

HON.V.G.JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, the second Official Member, the Attorney-General just drew my attention to a slight amendment under (b) on the first page of section 3, in the fifth line which should read " a Registrar and a Deputy Registrar" and in the next line "for the purposes".

MR. JOHN D. JEFFERSON: S onto purposes.

HON.V.G.JOHNSON: and in the following line "for the purposes".

MR.G.HAIG BODDEN: Mr.Chairman, just before you put the question on clause 3, I would just like to remark that these corrections which are being made to clause 3 (e) and clause 3 (f) clearly point out the need for adequate study of the bill, this was brought out yesterday evening. The reason why I mention it is because I intend to use this later on in the day when seeking to block the introduction of another bill which is coming without sufficient notice. But I will go along with putting back the figure that was in the original bill, however, I have to vote against the increased fees.

MR.JOHN JEFFERSON: Mr.Chairman, If I read the Financial Secretary carefully (which the member just a moment ago admitted) that the figures $1600 is in the original, well, its common, isn't it to go through committee and discover typographical errors, there's nothing extra about that.

HON.V.G.JOHNSON: Yes, Mr.Chairman, in fact I knew about these typographical errors - I didn't mention them yesterday but I had notes from members of the Government Bench reminding me of it and I forgot to mention it when I was dealing with the Memorandum of Objects and Reasons but I intended when I got into Committee to bring it to the attention of this House. Anyway, I was thankful to the members on the other side who brought it to the notice of the House.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Mr.Chairman, that is all quite correct - the only thing I am trying to say is that suppose we had a situation where the Second Member from West Bay had to be absent this morning, he would have, yesterday, given his blessing to a clause which had it passed in the form it was actually in the amendment would have been contrary to his wishes, which means that we should not make an amendment without comparing it with the original law and that requires little time. That's all I am trying to say.

MR.JOHN D. JEFFERSON: I wouldn't bow to that, Mr.Chairman, because any bill that's brought to this House is taken through the Committee stage, where we go through section by section and any sensible man would have caught that error.

MR.G.HAIG BODDEN: One good point about the attempt to block the introduction was that Members were circulated with a copy of the bill which they did not have at the time and possibly would not have asked for unless there had been an attempt to block the introduction. And the more we go into it the more it is pointed out clearly that nobody in his right mind should go and amend a law when he doesn't know what he 's deleting from the original law and he doesn't know whether his substitution is more or less than the figure in the original law. There can be no argument against the need for study of these complicated bills.

MR.JOHN D.JEFFERSON: So what I would suggest then, Mr.Chairman even though we are not discussing that here now, it has been brought in, the Customs Law (Amendment) Law, wait until we come back from Finance instead of having a whole day wasted on reading a dozen lines.

HON.V.G.JOHNSON: Quite true.

MR.CRADDOCK EBANKS: Mr.Chairman, I hate to hear any member in this House use the words "wasting time"....

MR.JOHN JEFFERSON: I apologise, Mr.Chairman.

MR.CRADDOCK EBANKS: because if I have got to come in here to waste other members' time or waste my time I would stay outside and quit the thing. Thank you, Mr.Chairman.

MR.CHAIRMAN: I shall repapitulate the three amendments an then I shall put the question that the words of the question stand as in the original motion and then MEMBERS if they wish to accept the amendments will vote against that first question. The three amendments proposed to clause 3 are that clause 3(b) be amended so as to read as follows "The Governor shall by instrument under the Public Seal appoint a Registrar and a Deputy Registrar of Companies for the purposes of this law"and so on. The second amendment is to clause 3 (e) substituting the figures $1600 for the figures $1000 where they appear in the last line of the second page. The third amendment is to claue 3 (f) substituting the figures $1000 for the figures $500 where they appear in the eighth line of clause 3 (f) of the bill. So I shall put the first question that the words of the question stand as in the original motion.

MEMBERS: NOES. THE NOES HAVE IT.

MR.CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the question that clause 3 as amended stand part of the bill.

MEMBERS: AYES AND NOES. THE AYES HAVE IT.

MR.G.HAIG BODDEN: Mr.Chairman, could I have a division on that?

MR.CHAIRMAN: No,I think that Standing Orders allow me discretion where it is thought that a division is going to enterfere with the timing of the House to refuse the division if it is quite clear that there is a majority of voices which I am satisfied in this particular case.

MR.G.HAIG BODDEN: Mr.Chairman, if I can't have a division could it be recorded in the minutes that I voted against this amendment?

MR.CHAIRMAN: I have no objection.

CLERK: A LAW TO AMEND THE COMPANIES LAW CHAPTER 22.

QUESTION PROPOSED

QUESTION PUT: AYES. AGREED: TITLE PASSED.

MR.CHAIRMAN: That concludes proceedings in Committee on a Law to amend the Companies Law, 1974.

HOUSE RESUMED

REPORT THERE-ON

BY HON. V.G.JOHNSON

THIRD READING

CLERK: THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) LAW, 1974 THIRD READING.

MOVED BY HON. V. G. JOHNSON, SECONDED BY HON.D.V.WATLER

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: BILL GIVEN A THIRD READING AND PASSED.

THE CUSTOMS(AMENDMENT) LAW, 1974

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 21

Moved by Hon. V.G.Johnson, seconded by Hon. D.V.Watler

HON.V.G.JOHNSON: Mr. President,and Honourable Members,following the pattern of the first two bills introduced in this House during this session, I wish to move Suspension of Standing Order 21 in order to deal with the Customs (Amendent) Law, 1974.

QUESTION PROPOSED:

MR.G.HAIG BODDEN: Mr.President, I must oppose, on principle, any procedure that would allow the introduction and First reading of this bill. The principle behind it is the same principle that forced me to oppose the other two bills which have been dealt with in this sitting. The bills have changed but the principle has not.Although I am not dealing with the merits of the bill before us, I will undoubtedly support the bill, if it comes before the House. But recent events have shown that it is unwise for our parliament to consider a bill which has not been studied in detail, no matter how trivial that bill may seem.

As far as the members on this side of the House are concerned had the amendment to the companies law gone through as put before us those amendments would have had a contrary effect to what was sought for by the mover of the bill. It is true that when this error was discovered the mover of that bill yesterday admitted that he had found out the error but had forgotten to point it out and I believe him, because I can truthfully say that I have found the third official member to be a man of truth in this Assembly. (MEMBERS - LAUGHTER - ONE MEMBER: HEAR! HEAR!) And it is possible that one member of Executive Council could overlook and forget in pointing out this error in the amendments, because he was certainly under fire yesterday. Its a big job to pilot a bill through this house with the kind of opposition or to use the words of the Honourable Donald M.Fleming "the ferocity"with which his bill was met yesterday, but there are other members in Executive Council who I feel must support the member piloting the bill and it would have been a very simple matter for one of these learned gentlemen, these honourable members, to rise and say "You know there i s something good in what these members are asking for because we too have found out that there is an error in this billand we have to correct it, which shows the need for study and shows that the members opposing the bill are right in asking for sufficient time to study the complexities of the bill".

The bill which we are now dealing with is a very short bill and undoubtedly even a person like me could deal with it without too much study unlike the other two bills there is no validity for asking that this bill be introduced without a sufficient time having been given. In the case of the two bills which we examined recently there was one valid reason why we should deal with those bills as expeditiously as possible because those two bills greatly interferred with the revenue of the Islands, interferred favourably with the revenue and will boost the revenue to the tune of nearly one million dollars in the coming year. But the bill which we now have under consideration can have no significant affect upon the revenue of these Islands - that bill is only seeking to give some duty-free concessions to certain organisations in order to cover importation of uniforms and the revenue which this Government will loose by making those items duty free must be very small indeed. So that although our Customs Bills are really revenue bills to some extent there are some clauses in the Customs bill which really have no significance at all when it

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONTINUING) comes to revenue. The point I am trying to make is that the other two bills were introduced and were dealt with although sufficient time had not been given, the House dealt with those bills on the grounds that those bills would have mammoth effect on the revenue, in fact if those bills had not been passed we would have a deficit in our budget of about $900,000. So that was a valid reason for dealing with those bills but the bill that is before us cannot effect the revenue very much, so the member cannot claim that we must examine this bill today because it will have far-reaching effects upon the revenue of the Cayman Islands.

If we allow this bill, which has no right at all to be dealt with in a hurried manner, it can have no claim to urgency at all, if we allow this bill to be dealt with today we would be setting a bad precedent. The way would be open for future bills to come before this house, somebody standing at the door to hand out the bills as the members walk pass and this is not a good thing. I understand that in some parliaments certain bills are dealt with on short notice, but we have a peculiar situation where we have a Standing Order, Standing Order 21 which makes it mandatory for Government to circulate all bills with, at least, seven days before the first reading and this House should not go contrary to its Standing Orders. A better thing would be to amend the Standing Order so that some bills could be dealt with without the required notice, I am aware of the Standing Order which allows for the suspension of other Standing Orders so that a bill can be dealt with without notice, but at the same time, we have a rule, we should not lightly regard that rule we should not go beyond that rule, we should try to abide by that rule.

So, to sum up the reasons why we should not deal with this bill today is because the bill itself has no claim to urgency,n o reason at all in the world why this bill cannot be dealt with in January next year or in June next year or even after we have come back from the Finance Committee next week, although the bill in itself is, I believe, just one paragraph, the main item in it is just one paragraph, remember we are tampering with the Customs Law and the Customs Law, as far as I know, is one of the most volumunious laws on our books, it is one of the most amended laws and we cannot just make another amendment without seeing how this fits into the whole picture of the Customs Law, because it is a common thing in laws that one clause will have mitigating effect upon another clause so although this seems like a simple thing, just a matter of deleting one clause, replacing the other, we should have time to consider the Customs Law in its entirety and to satisfy ourselves that this amendment is in order.

Now one cannot say that this amendment is in order be-cause we were told that yesterday. The Companies Law (Amendment) was introduced and we heard of no defects in it yet it was clearly pointed out after a very minute comparison with the original law, that the amendment was defective, and defective to such an extent that it would have had a contrary effect to what the member wanted done, we had an amendment which in its tabled form would have reduced the very fees which the member sought to increase and we have the situation where not only did the member fail to point out the defects but the other six supporting members in Executive Council, also failed to point out the defects. I am not aware whether the other members knew of this defect but it was a defect that I certainly would have found out by a small comparison with the original law and the amendment. It was a defect which the First Member from Bodden Town found out by taking one look at the original law. In fact he found it out in such a rapid manner that he surprised even me, who has become u sed to his manner of operation. All of these words amount to the thing, they amount to this, that no well-thinking person

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONTINUING) should come here and endeavour to amend a bill which that person has not studied carefully. We do not know what monetary effect this amendment will have, I believe it will have but very little effect, I've said that much before, but the only way I can be certain is to find it out for myself. It was clearly shown yesterday that we cannot depend, and I want to emphasise this, we cannot depend on Executive Council for all the guidance we need. We cannot depend on them to give us all the advice we need. I felt that way when I tried to block the introduction of the amendment to the Banks and Trust Companies Law, but it was only a feeling. With the events of the second law, the Companies, I am absolutely sure that in future I cannot depend on Executive Council to give me all the guidance I might need. The only thing in the future that will satisfy me is for me to read and study each amendment or each bill clause by clause and if I am not completely satisfied that I understand what is set down in the amendment to seek help elsewhere.

On this side of the House with perhaps one exception, none of us are familiar with legal terminiology. The lady member from George Town has had considerable experience but I happen to live about 14 miles away from the lady member and although she gladly gives me advice whenever I seek it, it is not possible for me to consult her on very short notice. She is a busy woman and there is no other member on this side that has suffi-cient legal knowledge to advise me. So whenever a bill comes and I do not understand it I have to go beyond this chamber to get the advice which I need. But this very fact strengthens my case and the only case I am try-ing to put up is that the members on this side of the House need sufficient time to examine clause by clause and line by line and paragraph by paragraph any amendment which is put before the House.

I may seem to be spending a lot of time on this but the reason why I am spending so much time is because two past attempts in this sitting to block the introduction of a bill have failed and I believe that I am not making myself clear to the Members on the other side. Because despite the fact which came out so clearly yesterday, a member has just tried to intro-duce a bill which has not been properly studied by the members on this side. If I were a member who had said I would support an amendment without study and then later found out that that amendment was defective I would be greatly embarrassed. I am asking the Members on this side of the House to go along with me in asking this House to postpone the introduction of this bill so that we may have sufficient time to deal with it. Now what is sufficient time for a bill so short is not of any consequence, it is the principle behind the thing, because later on in this same session I will also be opposing the introduction of another bill of yet another bill which is very long and complicated. We do not want now to set a precedent of dealing with a bill for which there is no urgency and for which sufficient time has not been given, we do not want to set a precedent in dealing with that because once you have done that it will be quite easy in the future to say, "Well, it is the custom of this House".

Now I have been told in this very sitting that it has been the sustom of this House to deal with certain bills without notice, but that has not been my experience, may be it has been the custom of this House prior to 1972 but as far as I can remember, every bill, every revenue bill that has been dealt with has come to me some time prior to my coming in this Chamber, and accompanying those bills and the draft estimates would always be a letter asking the member to treat the matter as confidential. Sometime it might only be a mark on the envelope, just the one word "confidential" in red, but that was all that was necessary

MR.G.HAIG BODDEN (CONTINUING) the members knew what was meant and the members showed their respect for the Clerk and for the House as a whole by keeping in confidence the matters which were circulated to them prior to the dealing with the matters.

Mr.President, I could go on for a long time on this matter . Yesterday I spent about an hour on it, the day before about a half hour, but this is going to be a very lengthy session and if members are not convinced at this time that they need time to study the bill nothing could convince them. If it were possible to open up their brains, you still could not change and convince them, because it is not my words that should bear weight, it is the fact that a bill was present which was defective - members agreed to support that bill, blind-folded as it were, and later discovered that the bill would reduce the fees which they sought to increase. Finally, I would ask all Members to remember that we are not just dealing with whether a bill should be introduced or not we are dealing here with the rules that govern our procedure, are we going to make a mockery of our Standing Orders, are we going to make a mockery of our parliamentary procedure, and are we going to depart from the established ways and deal with a bill in any manner we feel like- deal with it regardless of whether it has been studied or not, are we doing right? Are we being fair to the people who elected us? They have put us here, as it were, to be their watch-dog- they have put us here to formulate good laws, they have put us here to amend any defective laws - can we say we are doing a good job for them when we come into this chamber and we say "yes, yes, yes" without even taking a cursory glance at the bill before us.....

MR.JOHN D.JEFFERSON: Mr.President, I object to that statement... I think it is an infringement on the rights of members in this chamber to be able to cast any such aspersions in this chamber.

MR.G.HAIG BODDEN: Mr.President, I don't understand what the member said, but I am glad to see that he is awake today.. (MEMBERS - LAUGHTER).....because he was certainly fast asleep when I was dealing with the same matter yesterday.

Mr.President, I feel and I would like to repeat this, that it is not right for a member to deal with an amendment until after the Member has made a proper study of the amendment. Personally, I will not do it, I will vote against any amendment that I have not studied and I think that is right and I think it is what our people expect. , If we are going to deal with these things without study, why do we come here? Why not sit at home and let Executive Council send us a letter saying "we are going to amend the Customs Law, we are going to amend the Banks and Trust Companies Law, we are going to amend the Companies Law, please sign X at the bottom and return". That is all that would be sufficient. But that is not good enough. This might have been enough in the days of yore but I am a young man and for this year 1974 there are too many things happening to deal lightly with matters of great importance. Many a time we have seen here that even after lengthy study and after lengthy debate we didn't know everything about a bill, we didn't know everything about the working of a bill .....

MR.PRESIDENT: With respect, I think the Honourable Member is tending to repeat his original argument.

MR.G.HAIG BODDEN: Mr.President, I thank you. My final statement will be to ask all members to vote against the introduction of this bill on the ground that the bill has no urgency in it at all and also that the Members have not studied the bill. Thank you.

MR. CLAUDE HILL: Mr.President, HonourableMembers, I rise to support this bill.....

MR.PRESIDENT: Honourable Member , we have already had a long debate on this principle yesterday and I think that I should turn to Standing Order 52 (2) where motion for leave to introduce this bill has been opposed. I think having allowed one statement from this side I will allow one statement from the Honourable Financial Secretary and then put the matter to the vote.

MR.CLAUDE HILL: Thank you, Sir.

HON. V.G.JOHNSON: Mr.President, Honourable Members, it is a good thing to have good orators because it is a great admiration to the institutions to which they belong. Sometime it is a good thing, but sometime because they are eloquent and fluent speakers they tend to drag business along. There was a famous case once, a criminal case which was being tried by a jury and at the end of the examination of witnesses the advocate for the defence addressed the jury. He addressed the jury for 2 days and then it was the turn for the lawyer for the prosecution to address the jury. He stood up and said "Ladies and Gentlemen, my learned friend has been addressing you for two days. I am satisfied that I can rest my case". (MEMBERS -LAUGHTER).

Mr.President, Honourable Members, we have gone through the same debate yesterday for leave to introduce a bill. I stayed at home last night, I wasn't invited to a party. The bill is a short one and I am sure that it didn't require very much research, it is just something that the Government is recommending for charitable organisations. We thought that since it was included among other financial bills that it would be taken at this time. There is certainly no hurry for it as far as I am concerned, and to be quite honest, I can't see the strong objection that has been taken for its introduction. I could see rather than staying here for half a day and debating whether it should be introduced or not that we go on with the other business of the House. But I am satisfied, Mr.President, that the Members of this Honourabl House will agree for the Suspension of Standing Order 21 so that we can deal with this matter and take the First and Second reading. Thank you, Sir.

CAPT.A.A.REID: Mr.President, I am going to support this and Honourable Members I am going to support this bill in spite of the fact that, or all of the bills, in spite of the fact that they have come to us without the mandatory 7 days' notice. I thought yesterday that.....

MR.PRESIDENT: Sorry, Capt.Reid, I thought you were rising on a point of order, but I have allowed one speech from this side and one speech of this side under Standing Order 52 (2) and I would now like to put the question.

CAPT.A.A.REID: Oh, thanks.

MR.PRESIDENT: I will now put the question that Standing order 21 be suspended for the purpose of proceeding with the First and Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Customs Law. Will those in favour please say Aye?

MEMBERS: AYE.

MR.PRESIDENT: Those against No?

MEMBERS: NO.

MR.PRESIDENT: I think the ayes have it.

HON.A.B.BUSH: I suppose they will want a division on that.

MR.CRADDOCK EBANKS: Mr.President, to be sure of this could we not get a show of hands, then, at least.

MR.PRESIDENT: Certainly, we can have a division on this if Honourable Members wish.

DIVISION

AYES	NOES
Hon.D.V.Watler	Miss Annie H.Bodden
Hon.G.E.Waddington	Mr.James M.bodden
Hon.V.G.Johnson	Mr.G .Haig Bodden
Hon. A.B.Bush	MrCraddock Ebanks
Hon.T.Foster	
Hon.B.O.Ebanks	
Hon.W.W.Conolly	(MR.CLAUDE HILL WAS ABSENT DURING DIVISION)
Mr.John Jefferson	
Capt.A.A.Reid	
9	4

THE MOTION FOR SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 21 WAS PASSED

CLERK: THE CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) LAW, 1974 INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

MOVED BY HON.V.G.JOHNSON, SECONDED BY HON. D.V.WATLER.

QUESTION PUT: AYES AND NOES: THE AYES HAVE IT.

THE BILL WAS INTRODUCED AND GIVEN A FIRST READING.

CLERK: The CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) LAW,1974 SECOND READING

MOVED BY HON.V.G.JOHNSON: Mr.President, I beg to move, Sir, the Second Reading of a bill entitled the Customs (Amendment) Law, 1974. The Memorandum of Objects and Rasons: Mr.President, this bill seeks to amend item 23 on the Second Schedule of the Customs Law by giving authority to the Governor in Council to extend its operations to such charitable and social societies formed from time to time as may be deemed to merit this concession. There are at present concessions under the law granted to certain charitable institutions and applications have been made for the addition of other names to the schedule and to this particular item. And therefore the recommendation here is for permission of the Governor in Council to add to these names from time to time.

It is a simple amendment, Mr.President, and I would request that members give favourable consideration to the request being made here. These are charitable organisations which do a lot of charitable work for the country and for the various societies and institutions within the country and the request which is being made by them is justifiable and I therefore recommend the bill.

SECONDED BY HON. D. V. WATLER.

QUESTION PROPOSED

MR. JAMES M.BODDEN: Mr.President,Honourable Members , the amendment before us does have a lot of merit to the amendment, as an amendment. I think what we have to look at goes much further than that and that is the manner in which these bills have been introduced.

What has happened here in the past few days in the introduction of these various bills reminds me of a quotation from a book I read sometime ago and it said that were it not for

MR. JAMES M.BODDEN (CONTINUING) imagination a man could be as happy in the arms of a chamber-maid as of a duchess and in looking at these three laws I keep wondering whether its the duchess or the chamber-maid.

Mr.President, I believe very much in the support by the community of the charitable organisation that exist and I also feel that Government should lend every assistance that they can to promote them but, Mr.President, if I am able to reflect on the past a bit, it is a wonder to me that so few charitable organizations in this country have ever gotten a nod of approval from Government. I can st-and here in this chamber and quote to this Honorable House many occasions in the past and very worth-while organisation, strong organisations have offered to do things for the people of these Islands and for this Go vernment and have been rebuffed. I am sure that this comes as no surprise to some of the sleeperson the other side, because they know of it. I am sure it shocked the house when I had to speak against the Bank of Nova Scotia the other morning on a similar vein because, Mr.President, I feel that we should not cut sides in anything, we should do for one what we do for the other and in reading this, Sir, I have to plead ignorance. I do not know what the St. John's Ambulance Association is, and I am sorry if I am touching on anyone's toes because I am not familiar with it. I wonder further on, may be, when we go into Committee stage, whether this could be explained to the House. May be there are other members of the House who have an idea, but not being a person with a soft-heart I do not know much about these charity moves, Sir.

I would like to say, Mr.President that in the last session we had an Electriall bill come before this House and I am sure that if we had appointed the man to head that organisation he would be able to prove to this Honourable House tha t an extension cord does not carry as much energy through it as the original line from the generating plant. I think that that is an established fact and that is why on this side of the House you have gotten some opposition to the introduction of these bills. We want to know that when we speak we speak with the energy that is supposed to come from the generating plant and not as an extension cord from an outlet. That is why, Mr.President, we have opposed all three of these bills because if it had been allowed to continue in the future we would have come here as complete igneramouses and would not have known what we were talking about.

My colleague and I, whether people believe it or not take this job very seriously - we spend a lot of time on it. We have sworn to our people to come here to protect and to do what we consider right on their behalf and we cannot do what is rightand we cannot protect their rights if we come here and are willing to just rubber-stamp anything that is thrown at us.

Now, Mr.President, I must admit that sometimes I feel like my colleague and I could be compared to Moses in the wilderness, or John the Baptist in the wilderness and Moses wandering through the Promised Land, because as much as you may hark against something, you can never expect to get anything done because we have 7 votes before we even start that are going to be voting one way. I know that is no fault of yours - it is no fault of this House - it is the fault of the Constitution under which we operate and I know that there is a move afoot to change the Standing orders of this House, which will try to limit debate and other things and I am trustful that that will not be done as long as we are under the type of system that we are now because everything would be in as just one person put it and in that it would be changed to where we would get the notice five minutes before you walk through the door on everything, including the Budget, and that is why, Mr.President, I am hoping that you will use your good graces to see that these Standing Orders will not be changed as long as we have a system where we have so many votes already against it, or if it is changed

MR. JAMES M.BODDEN (CONTINUING) while you are here that it will be done only by the elected members, because we cannot be expected to come in here and debate something like this, as much as it is in that, if we were to only get 12 hours notice of it, and dont tell me that that is a figment of the imagination that it cannot happen, because I am convinced within my mind that anything is permissible and will happen as long as we continue the way we have been going for the last two years.

I would like to point out at this time, Mr.President that probably in the bill which is before us this morning that it might be worth-while to consider an amendment. It reads "On production of a certificate by the person having execuive control of such charity, society or association". Mr.President, somehow or the other that misses me, somehow or the other it seems too broad. Somehow or the other I am thinking that that couldbe like other cases that have come before the Customs before and have come before some of our Boards that deal with the Customs law and, Mr.President, I would humbly submit that we put something else into that such as a resolution passed by the directorate and under seal of such organisation. I will be pleased to table that in a few minutes. May be the Honourable Second Official Member, who we have been told is here to guide us, would be willing to pass an idea later on on that, as to whether that would cnflict, or whether it would be worse or whether it would be better than what we have.

But, Mr.President, I would not like to see us blindly stagger along any worse or any longer the way we are apparently going and I am hopeful that with the arguments that have ensued in this house for the past three days that due notice has been taken of it and that never again , never again, will we receive bills to be studied and to be acted upon when we sti at this table - no prior knowledge, don't even know they are coming before us but just stuck in front of us as we walk into this House. I think, Mr. President, if there ever has been an insult levelled at this side of the House, that has been one. These people have the opportunity, Mr.President, for years in advance, to know whats going to be projected a year from now, yet we have no knowledge, we cannot even see the reports that are done by experts by this country at the expense ofthis Government which we vote for and yet we are asked to come in here on five minutes' notice and debate something that we know nothing of. When these fellows have had all the time in their lives to live with that and to know every word that is in it by heart. I am hoping that never again,I reiterate, Mr.President, will this be allowed to happen, and I trust that our members on the other side are not thinking that the Standing Orders are going to be changed, as has been intimated several times I think in this discussion. That you could do it under different Standing Orders and so forth and so on, I know the Standing Orders as good as anybody else in the House I guess, and I know you can waive them, but this is not a time to waive them, Mr.President and I hope that in the future they will not be changed in the manner in which I am thinking they are going to be changed. Thank you, Sir.

MISS ANNIE H.BODDEN: Mr.President, Members of this House, while I support this bill up to a point, because I agree charitable institutions should be supported by Government, but I must say that I am absolutely shocked to think that every bill that we have had for this session was just pushed on the desk and we expected to vote on it there and then and approve of it. Now this side, as we are termed, is a part and parcel of this Assembly and we have every right to know what is coming before the House at the proper time. We are not babies, we are not to be held in the arms and cuddled

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN(CONTINUING) to sleep, we are grown men and women, and I am saying, I have been in this House from 1962 and long before that I was well acquainted with the goings-on in our Vestry, and I have never yet, in fact if we had the type men and women that we had in the past we wouldn't allow this at all. But we are growing weaker, and it is time that we usurp our authority and let the world know we either represent ther Cayman Islands or we do not, one of two things. I have nothing against the secrecy or the manner in which the Executive Council do their job but I feel that as the First Elected Member of George Town I am ignored, and in the 1976 Campaign I am making it here and now very clear, that Annie Huldah Bodden will go in under her own steam or stay out one or the other.

I feel, Sir, that while we agree with this particular bill, I do, I cannot agree with the system of it being put to us twenty-four hours before we have to deal with it. Now in future I shall not have one word to say on any bill that is not properly presented to us in the seven days days except on very rare occasions when the bill might be of such importance and such urgency that Your Excellency will have to so order us to deal with it.

Now there is another bill coming up, I think the Pollution bill or some such thing, which is a very intricate bill, and I am not going to deal with it at all in this particular session. Now, as has been stated, Sir, we since this new Constitution has come into effect, we are termed "outsidders", "oursidders", we know nothing hardly of what is going on in the past. I trust, Sir, under your able guidance and as you have previously intimated, you feel that we, as responsible people, responsible to our different constituents, should know something of the facts of what is going on and I repeat, Sir, I will, in future oppose most strenuously this type of action and I feel, Sir, that we have your assurance that you know we should be dealt better with than we have been in the past. Now I am not blaming you, Sir, I am blaming myself had I been aware that this Constitution gave a collective vote, that men on the other side, if they have consciences, cannot vote in accordance with their consciences , I would have kept what we had before. While I agree that under this present constitution, we have gone forward rapidly, but I still feel that Legislators are not treated with the courtesy and respect which they deserve. Thank you, Sir.

MR.CRADDOCK EBANKS: Mr.President, and Honourable Members, it is somewhat disturbing to me that reaching this third bill and the same procedure used to introduce the third bill, after hearing the debate against the principle of introducing these bills at this time, I must honestly say I felt that the Third Official Member would have withdrawn these other two bills without being determined to push the introduction of these bills against what we feel is not good parliamentary procedure, against the principle or in the manner in which they were brought .

Most, or all of us have said that we wonder why our young people are going to destruction, its simply because the orders that were once laid down in the homes, in the churches, in the schools, in public places, they have been broken, they have been gone against, those principles don't exist as they did once. And when we lay down orders and go against them, except in the very rare cases. Then we are laying down principles to destroy what we once tried to build on. And I thought, as I said, that enough had been said about this for the past two days that we wouldn't have reached this again this morning and I am hoping, I am hoping that this will be the last attempt of this, but it does stand for reason that when we attempt to do something and get away with it, we'll attempt

MR.CRADDOCK EBANKS (CONTINUING) it again, but I hope not, because if we are going to start tearing down standards of what is laid down in the Standing Orders, in the constitution, then let's go all the way with it and start all over again. While I have every good feeling that this amendment is for a good reason I would have expected that we would have had further amendments to the Customs law before us. When on two occasions this year there were controversial feelings from the public with Government in connection with the importation that came under the Customs Law and nothing has been done about it. I hope I would live long enough to see another importation under the same Customs Law without an amendment. We don't really have to barracade these windows.

Mr.President, while I say I have a good feeling for the reasons for the amendment to this Customs Law, and not knowing who some of these organisations might be, and under the determined pressure from the Third Official Member that this should go through, in the same manner as the other two, I am not going to support this amendment, at this stage either, and I hope, beford this debate is finished that he would feel like withdrawing this, rather than continuing with it. Thank you, Mr.President.

MR.CLAUDE M.HILL: Mr.President, Honourable Members, I rise in support of this bill to a certain extent. A lot has been said by previous speakers on the manner of the introduction and I would say the matter is not only the matter of time, but the principle in which the previous bills have been introduced into the House.

Mr.President, it is a matter, I would say, a very serious matter when members which is commonly termed "on the other side of the House" have the privilege of examining those bills, of going through those bills, a matter of time, much ahead of us, and then on our arrival in this chamber we are presented with bills and we have to deal with them on the merits of just what we read here without even having a copy, without we ask the Honourable Clerk with her kindness to loan us a copy from her files.

I must say that the Clerk in this Chamber has been very faithful to us, I have in my possession my copy of the Companies Law which was loaned to me yesterday with permission even to take it home and read it last night.

The matter is, in my small way of thinking, that members feel that we have no right of knowing the know-how to present ourselves in the Chamber. It is preferable to them that we do not present themselves in a manner where we could make our point clear and clarify ourselves. This bill before us, as I say, I am much in favour of this bill as seeing what this bill seeks. This bill seeks for the importation of uniforms for the use of the Cayman Islands Boy Scouts Association, Girls Brigade, and the St.John's Ambulance Association, the Red Cross Society. We are now on the verge of a national Council of Social Services and this could well mean, in my small way of thinking, that goods could be imported, free of customs duties, that could help in this social work. I would say that social work is of paramount importance, seeing how many juveniles are on the streets today and the juvenile delinquency is on an upward trend, I feel that anything that we here sitting in this Chamber can do,to assist any association, any society who wishes to assist us, on a voluntary basis should be permitted to import certain articles under this law which is not embodied in the law but with the discretion of the Governor in Council,I see where with the production of a certificate, I think permission will be granted, and this is why I am much in favour of the bill and the only thing to do is to vote in favour of the bill with the hopes that this precedent that is being set by the introduction will not continue.

We stand here as a divided HOuse, it appears to me, the division drawn means only one thing the disaster for the Cayman Islands. Mr.President, Honourable Members, a divided House, united we stand, divided we fall, a divided house cannot stand and this will be the ruination of the Cayman Islands if something is not done about it. Thank you, Sir.

MR. JOHN JEFFERSON: Mr.President and Honourable Members, I rise in support of a Law to Amend the Customs Law, 1974. There has been another repetitious day as to what was said yesterday in regards to the methods in which the bills were brought. I thoroughly support the idea that whenever a law is brought before this Legislature that incurs certain expenditure plus those that deal with the Cayman Islands Budget, I can quite agree that things of this nature cannot be published and be on the street before we have time to deal with them in this House.

On the other hand, the point that members have been stressing is the fact that here is the bill, or an amendment to the bill, and I should say a very short amendment, that what they are saying is not that it is short and simple but they saying that there is nothing secret about this, and therefore it should come the way of all other bills which says that it must be read or mailed to members seven days. I can see the point there, that they have a right when there is something that does not incur any expenditure but on the other hand, since it is very short and straightforward and simple, and since it does do seomthing for a very worthy organisation, such as the Cayman Islands Boy Scouts Association the Girls Brigade, and the St. John's Ambulance Association and Red Cross, all it does it to help them to be able to import their uniforms free of duty. But the point that members were making, and I must say this that I have faith in the human race, I agree with members that they have a right to have these bills brought before them, that does not deal with expenditure or something of urgency, but on the other hand, and I say because it is simple and straightforward I supported the introduction.

Now, Mr.President I trust that again there will not be another repetition of the same later on. I would hope really that it would have been brought back later on after the finance committee had met, but nevertheless, rather than see it get lost, I support this little amendment and I trust that in the future that Government will use its offices to make sure that Members will not be able to stand up here and shout that something is being rammed down their throats. Thank you very much.

HOUSE SUSPENDED AT 11.45 A.M.
HOUSE RESUMED AT 12 NOON.

MR.PRESIDENT: Proceedings are resumed. Debate continues on the Customs (Amendment) Law, 1974 - Second Reading.

CAPT. A.A.REID: Mr.President and Honourable Members, I am going to support this bill. I can assure you I shall not be long. I know, Mr.President, that you have heard enough rhetoric over this bill, some of it was, I think, well deserved and I am hoping that enough has been said that will warn the members on the other side not to produce any bills again without the mandatory seven days' notice, because they may find that all of us on this side will go against it. There may even be eight on this side to do so.

The Member from Bodden Town, the Second Elected Member, took objection to some of us dozing and in defence to myself I am going to say that I am an old sailor and I am accustomed to the roar of the seas (MEMBERS - LAUGHTER) and it puts me to sleep. (MEMBERS - LAUGHTER). I am also accustomed to the roar of the wind whistling through the sails and the rigging and that also puts me to sleep. Any unbroken noise (MEMBERS - LAUGHTER), has the same effect. (You made me laugh at myself). He did have the effect of putting me to sleep, though.

Now I do feel, I don't feel slighted, nothing insults me, my shoulders are broad and it is pretty hard to insult me, I can always come back you see, but I do feel that this

CAPT. A.A REID: side needs a little more respect shown them, a little more trust put in us, because we are certainly capable, I know I am, and I have had two secrets told to me by the members on the other side and I swear to God I've kept them, and I am capable of keeping any secrets that are trusted to me, so I feel that we should get the seven days' notice, gentlemen, Honourable Members, so don't forget and don't let us have to be lulled to sleep again by the member for Bodden Town on this subject. I thank you, Sir.

HONOURABLE W.W.CONOLLY: Mr.President and Members, I will be like the bill, very short. Much has been said on the introduction of this bill today and no doubt I myself could see very well the point of introducing such a bill. On the other hand would members kindly place themselves in the position of the Honourable Member who introduced these bills as a package. Now, I am sure there would be nobody else in this chamber more reluctant to introduce any bill, given any time, when it comes on the reduction of revenue than the Financial Secretary, but surely this was a package, two bills for increasing revenue and, as I see it, it was well in line for him to say "we introduce one at the same time to reduce a little". He was putting in with one hand and now he is relieving on the other hand.

The bill, in substance, I think is copied from the law and as a member said that this law, this Customs Law, there are so many amendments and this and that to it, but it is a fairly new law, it is a law of 1971 and this is a very short amendment and there is no doubt in my mind that the spirit behind this is something that all members can ascribe to rather than naming one or two charitable organisations that would receive benefits as the old law did. This particular section has just carried on and extension to include any orgsnisation that is for charitable reasons. I think the amendment here is a quite a very simple one and the time we have spent debating on whether this law or bill has been introduced properly on improperly I would think that we could go into Committee,at that particular stage no doubt, members are aware that the Standing Orders do make provisions for this exercise. It is envisaged that no bill would be faultless, under section of the Standing Order, the bill comes under scrutiny of the whole House where any member can have the privilege of asking questions or offering amendments, putting in any amendment that, or offering any amendment that he or she may wish. These amendments not all the time are carried but the privilege of members offering these amendments is well within the limits of our Standing Orders. I see here that the bill is not one of urgency and ,as I said before, I am sure that if it hadn't been such a very simple amendment the Honourable Mover of this Bill might have thought best to leave it till after all of the other business and it mightnt have come up at all. But nevertheless, when the Budget is before us, which, as you know we are in the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, I would think myself that any measure of legislation that will affect the Budget should be taken. Now, this particular bill affects the budget in the reverse: the other two bills before us were bringing in monies, this bill tend to give away something. And naturally, in proper sequence, I would feel like the Honourable of the Bill was not altogether out of order to ask for the Suspendion of Standing Order to introduce this bill, because he has to be very certain when this appropriation bill is presented that these three particulars items, which these three bills affect, are taken into consideration. I am sure, we, ourselves, would like to know that what the production of revenue from measures would be and we would also like to know what the reduction on revenue before we can finalise the Appropriation Bill. And as such, I thinmk that even though it can be argued that this particular bill could have waited, I see that there is great reason for the mover of this bill to bring it in simultaneously with the other two bills before.

I would support this amendment and I am sure all members of this House will support it.

HON.A.B.BUSH: Mr.President and Members, it is a pity that this bill has been debated so very much on its introduction and then on the second reading itself and I didn't intend to say anything on it, really, I thought the last member would hve made mention of some of the aspersions, especially, that have been cast on the Government side of this House and for this reason I thought I would take the opportunity to try to reply to some of this criticism.

Now, I must repeat, Mr.President and Members, what I said yesterday that the Members have a point and they are really sticking to it. I know they have a point, but why they are sticking to it I really don't know, because the bill is very simple and I'll say that again, that its very simple, int its meaning and shouldn't really be debated so very much, because the whole purpose of it is that instead of having in the Customs Law a long list of organizations which can be exempted from paying any customs duties on any material that they might bring in, it was thought best to give this authority to the Governor in Council to list these as they came up so that they would not need to be an amendment every time that any organisation that was not on the list applied for any exemption from duty. And this is the reason why it was worded so. Surely it is not hard to understand, it doesn't take seven days really reading it to understand, but as I said, they have a point. It is regrettable to know is that they have ignored every privilege in the Standing Orders which permits this House to do otherwise.

Now, mention was made of the sleepy members of Executive Council. I really, you know, Sir, felt like rising to my feet at that very moment, but then again I thought, well, best I suppose not to throw more fuel on already heated fire, and so I waited until now to say that this is really not the case, and I am going to show the members over on the other side that they were sleeping instead of the Members here of Executive Council, because references were made to the amendments which were made in the bill today and which although they had the law in front of them, they didn't recognise it. It wasn't that the Government didn;t know of this, and I think the Financial Secretaryexplained that it was typographical errors and he would deal with it when he got into committee. So he, himself, was aware of all of this, but were any of you over there, with the law in front of it, aware of it? No. So, who was sleeping, who was inefficient - is it Executive Council or you? So this is just the point I wanted to make - although you had the law in front of you, reading it, you didn't even know, and we could have put it over you. (MEMBERS - LAUGHTER). So that's one time you must withdraw your statement of the inefficiency of Executive Council.

Let me tell you, even though I have to say so, you have a good one and it will take care of you and the Government, (ONE MEMBER - HEAR! HEAR!) and the Islands. Thank you, Mr.President.

MR.G.HAIG BODDEN: Mr.President, the debate seems to be on the fine matter of sleeping, rather than the merits of the bill, in fact I almost thought the last speaker was going to say that he would have risen to his feet had he not been asleep. I can see why he has not gotten our point and I am reminded of the member of Parliament, I think it was a member of the House of Lords, who dreamt that he was in Parliament, and that he was asleep and he awoke, and found that it was true.

I could begin my debate by saing as the Second Honourable Member from George Town in Executive Council said yesterday "Here we go again!", but that won't be quite true, because I will not be long this time.

But a man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still and I have been forced to debate the merits ofthis bill today against my better judgement. So I still have the same feeling towards the introduction as I had in the beginning. But I want to show the members that I have no mean streak in me, and I am giving

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONTINUING) wholehearted support to this amendment. I have no difficulty at all in understanding what this amendment is about, I think I made that quite clear. None of the other members her have any difficulty in understanding what this amendment is asking for The amendment simply asks to waive the duties on certain items for charitable organisations - we are quite clear as to what the amendment about - the difficulty I had was in trying to find ut why this bill should be brought.

The merits, in examining the merits of this bill, I am more than ever convinced, that I should have had sufficient time to study it. I come from a district which has given to this island its fair share of social workers. I was just counting up here that five out of the nine presidents of the Rotary Club have come from Bodden Town, ghe First Member, from Bodden Town and I are past Presidents of the Rotary Club of Grand Cayman. Mention here is made of the Boys Scouts Association, and I can proudly say that for many years I was a Scout Master in this Island and led a delegation that attended the first Caribbean Jamboree. The girls Brigade has had a very strong movement in Bodden Town, but because I have been denied the right to study this bill, I could not go to any of these social workers in Bodden Town and discuss this bill and I think it is unfortunate that such a situation should arise. Had sufficient time been given I could have gone to social workers in Bodden Town and discussed this amendment and I might have had some worth-while contribution to make today. But that right has been denied me and it has also been denied to the people who have made sacrifices to carry out social services in this Island, long before the establishment of a Council for Social Services.

I do not know anything at all about the St. John's Ambulance Association. The First Member for Bodden Town does not know anything about it and the Member from North Side just told me that he does not know anything about it, how can we endorse this? Perhaps there are other associations that are contributing far more and whose names should be prominently displayed in this bill. Of course, I have nothing against any organisation that is providing a worth-while service but I am trying to show that a lack of time to examine this amendment makes me unable to deal intelligently with the merits of the amendment. At a glance I can see that this amendment will be a good thing, provision is made for a certificate to be provided so that the people for whom this is intended will get the benefit of the reduction in duties . But I have the same problem with understanding the merit of this bill as I had with yesterday's because I read in this amendment that something has been deleted from the Customs law and I hope it isn't the part that dealt with the admittance, duty free, of materials for building churches. I don 't know what has been deleted because I have not studied this amendment and I have not studied the amendment because I didnot have sufficient time.

It is true that the debate on this third part of the package follows along the same pattern as the debate on the amendment to the other bills - why? Because it merits the same debate - it is the same evil that was perpetrated yesterday and this morning in the two bills. I have just found out by listening to the Member for Executive Council from East End that we could very well have dealt with this in the Committee stage , and there was no need to use up all that time in the introduction, but I can't agree with that reasoning because if this had just gone straight through, there shouldn't be an opportunity in committee to oppose the introduction. I was hoping that the minister or the Member (I like to think of him as a Minister) for Social Services would have been on his feet very early in this debate and gave us a broad picture of the work being done in these Islands by the charitable organisations and if sleepiness is not prevailing I am hoping that I will be able to stay awake and listen to him before this debate is over, because for us to truly deal with this amendment we ought to know why these organisations

HOUSE RESUME AT 3 P.M.

DEBATE ON FINANCIAL STATEMENT

MR.PRESIDENT: Proceedings are resumed.

MR.CLAUDE HILL: Mr.President, Honourable Members, I guess I'll start the ball off by my debate on the budget Speech, Budget Address.

I'd like, first of all, to compliment the Financial Secretary on so ably a deliverance of the Budget. It is quite true that the economic situation has framed this Budget - as he rightly said. It is also mentioned in his speech that we here in the Cayman Islands enjoy the highest standard of living in the Caribbean. That is another statement that is quite true and I hope that with the help of Members here we can continue to let this standard of living be carried on.

The Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1975 has been quite plainly outlined. We here as legislators should encourage the relationship between Government and the private sector so as to have a continued stable Government. I will deal first first with Agriculture.

We here in this Chamber are aware of the fact that Agriculture is very backward in these Islands. It is also a known fact that any country that does not produce something from the soil the cost of living is very high and with something done in agriculture I am quite sure that we may overcome some of the high prices that we are confronted with.

I am very pleased to learn from the Financial Secretary that other sectors of the economy that have increased are agriculture and livestock, small-scale industries. The fact remains that food grown locally is being sold at a price much higher than the imported food. For instance, the price of imported meat has risen in past months and it is very surprising to see that the local meats slaughtered here are bringing the same price as those that are imported. The ways and means to control prices is something very difficult when one stops to think of it. The things that are essential in one's every-day life, I would say, could be looked into but on the other hand we here in this chamber have waived the duty on certain commodities with the exception that these commodities' prices being to the good of the consumer, but the consumer has not got the benefit of what Government has done.

I hail with delight the Department of Agriculture seeing that this has been appointed as a new Department with a Director, an experimental farm which will be capable of using some of the latest methods and forms of production of food, but one thing bothers me, I would like to see brought to this Honourable House a motion where equipment for the Department of Agriculture would be permitted to come in, to a certain extent, duty free. It sounds very drastic for a member to be saying such when we have a lot of other expenses which needs, but agriculture is something that we can't do without, we must have something to eat and he is the man that puts us on the move by supplying us with foods.

Speaking on small-scale industries as the Financial Secretary stated, to encourage small-scale industries it would be very good and I think that one that was much talked about was an oil-storage and with an oil-storage in one of these Islands of the three I think we could achieve a lot of benefit from such.

Dealing on inflation = inflation is a world-wide problem. We here in the Cayman Islands find ourselves in a position where it is amust that we have to buy certain commodities for every-day life and by Government looking into, as I've said a few minutes ago, the surroundings of commodities which are essential, Government could and should do something in regards to the cost that the consumer is confronted with.

The economy of this Island is such that we have to be very careful how we go into any make-shift remedies for inflation that should be borne in mind at all times.

MR.CLAUDE HILL (CONTINUING) It is a fact that the cost of living is going up daily, how do we know what is being spent by the man who we are buying from the importer? How do we know that he is not profiteering which some move by Government is not made. It doesn't have to be a war to make a control board, it does not need to be confronted with a war to get into these questions. The importer has his invoice come down - they forward them to him days ahead before the goods arrive and I am sure with a controller on price such as commodities which are essential to the every-day life, seeing that no advantage is taken, I think something could be done in that light.

Dealing now on Tourism. I am sorry the Member who is responsible for tourism is not here. We again should be very careful on this subject and not to place all our eggs in one basket. For for instance, we have neighbouring countries who have so much to offer for so little a price that could topple the flow of tourists here. It is quite true and in the past few years we have had an increase of arrivals, but that does not speak strong enough when we out-price other islands in the Caribbean with our accommodation rates.

I see here by the Financial Secretary's statement that the Department has reason to believe that the traffic in certain sections of the industry will be curtailed. Quite a bit of competition exists and I am quite sure that the Department has become very much concerned owing to the situation with Cuba right in our back-door and also other countries in the front-door.

If tourism flops or makes a failure for the year 1975 it is then that we will have something worse than inflation I am very much in favour of tourism but as I said let us not put all our eggs in one basket.

The Financial Secretary, dealing on Currency, that the currency adjustment had an upright and immediate effect on inflation - I am glad to hear that and I feel that when it was reviewed in July this year by the Government's economic adviser that was his findings and I feel that with further investigation much more could be achieved from so doing.

One statement made in his address I could not agree with and I feel that other members may not when stopping to think of it. I could not agree that the business community playing an important part in applying the brakes on the growth of inflation. As I've said we will not too well know exactly what an importer is making, what profit he is making unless we have a controller who sees his bills or his invoices on arrival here and actually knows what he is making. This is where I do not agree with them assisting in putting the brakes on the growth of inflation. I am only hoping that when we here waiver the duties on certain commodities the consumer gets the benefit.

I again must compliment the Third Official Member - he said that the year ending 1974 will end in fairly healthy state financially. I am sure he has put a lot of time on his address and I am sure that he is doing his utmost to keep things in their respective places.

Now, dealing on the Hospital. The renovation of the Hospital is a good idea but I see where the availability of funds will be what will complete the programme that is going on. We learn that the staff in the Grand Cayman Health Service, with new bodies recommended for 1975 is quite a large force numbering 145. I do hope that with such a staff in quantity we will have some in quality.

I would like to see a doctor, not for my own self but made to be available at all times, rather than a nurse on duty, making her decisions whether a patient is serious enough to see a doctor. I've had an incident recently where a father took his 18-year old son to the hospital between the hours of 11 and 12 at night to see a doctor. The boy has had a nervous break-down and he was on the verge of another break-down. The nurse on duty contacted

MR.CLAUDE M.HILL (CONTINUING) a doctor by phone. The doctor recommended some tablets, sent the boy back home. The boy became worse and was taken back to the hospital, the doctor was called again by the nurse on duty, was told to give the boy an injection and send him back home and bring him back in the morning. This is already morning. The nurse administered the injection, the boy returned home and got worse. They took him back again and that was when the father made the decision to see a private doctor, at six o'clock in the morning he went to a private doctor, between six and 9 anyhow. The boy was treated by the private doctor and thank God he is doing fairly well. These kind of things, Mr.President, and Honourable Members, are the things that confront a man who says he is representing his people in different areas of this Island. This is something quite touching - there were records in that hospital of this by. He was sent to Jamaica and was treated there, he even visited the SS HOPE and had treatment and they recommended what to assist that boy with in any future event. A doctor wasn't seen.

Dealing on Education. I am very pleased to learn that education ranks as the biggest spender of public funds. I am very pleased to learn that. We here must educate our children to a standard where they can better themselves and better the country. I see where the British Government in 1974 provided four hundred and twenty-eight thousand one hundred and sixteen dollars for further expansion at the Cayman High School, and Cayman Brac was included by an addition of two new classrooms. I am also pleased to see here that handicapped children will be looked after. We have a lady who now is qualified for that purpose and I feel that with her help they will be able to learn something to be of use in their own way at home, for instance.

There is no other subject that needs more intensive care than education. Our future depends on how we prepare our boys and girls for a tomorrow world. I happen, Mr.President to visit the Primary School in the district of George Town with two other honourable members in this chamber and I am quite sure you saw the prevailing conditions that existed in that school. I feel that something must be done because the school is much over-crowded by the transferring of pupils from a private school into that school recently. I think that sudden surge that took place has placed an over-crowding in the school and I feel that something can be done, and I hope that when we get to the Estimates that I'll hear from the member who is responsible for Education say something, that he is going to do something in regards to the primary school in George Town.

Dealing on radio broadcasting station. I don't know if we need a broadcasting station. It is quite true that with a broadcasting station we will have more publicity and may be one day television which will be more publicity. I learn here that the British Government has made a grant of $210,000 towards the capital cost and that the training of local staff will be necessary before the station is opened - the training of local staff. I hope that this will be operated by local people. In one respect it could become very effective - I am not in fear of the next election, because I mightn't even be here, so it might be-cpme an instrument against Government - although Government operates it. Bear that in mind.

The Administrative Building, I see where the Financial Secretary states that he is hoping that thesetwo places could be opened simultaneously in 1975, that is quite a good guesture and I feel that we will have something to look at with pride when that building is completed, seeing what it cost us at present for our Government to be in a private-owned building.

Now dealing on the Planning Authority. The future of these Islands depends on what plans are accepted and what is good for the future development of these Islands. A temporary

MR. CLAUDE HILL (CONTINUING) appointment was made but with the greatest of respect to the holder of the post I don't think that anything temporary is good enough. This post has been vacant since May of 1974 and I would say, while the grass is growing the horse is starving. I've heard quite a bit in regards to planning and I am sure I have no plans for building but members here are very much concerned in building and I leave that for them to speak on I would leave this in the minds, Mr.President and Honourable Members, that our future development depends on what is done today to make something possible tomorrow.

On Social Services. The need for such a service is bad - we need it badly. It seems as if no one hastime out to care that is why the juvenile delinquency has increased in and around the Island. We are confronted with that problem and I think if the Probation Officer was given a little more power I think more could be achieved. A National Council of Social Services - I see where it has been examined by British Technical Assistance and I feel that a lot could be done by voluntary work.

Going on to the Boys' Home. The operation of a Boys' Home is something that is also badly needed as so many boys are on the street without care, which could be the making of massive crimes in the future of these Islands. Boys who should be in school. If there was some recreation centre where they could go and have games I think we could take them out of a lot of trouble.

Dealing on the Airlines. I would say that the airlines offer us a service which I would say is very reliable. They have never abused the position or being a solo - they have been much talked about and criticised but let us stop for a minute and think. We now have Caymanians at the control and for this, I would say, has been a great achievement, regardless of how and what we say. Let us help to keep them flying.

In regards to the new airline, I note here with interest that the British Government has not yet approved of the application made. In the Financial Secretary's address he stated that the approval of the application by the British Government has not been received at yet. We are talking about inaugural flight Monday and the British Government has not approved it yet.

Dealing on Roads - roads project. We learn from the statement here by the Financial Secretary that it is difficult to give dates of the completion of the roads project and that the equipment ordered a year ago only parts of the order are arriving now.

The Port Project. I see where the contract should be awarded by the end of this year and that work should begin early in the new year. Let us hope that these two projects will be going forward in 1975, because I've heard it said by the Honourable Member that we will be driving on our new roads by Christmas, but it will be next year Christmas, I think.

Dealing on the Airport. I learn from the address that the first phase, which is a Freight Shed and a water tank is nearing completion and the next phase is to provide the Terminal Building and parking facilities and the study for this is being conducted. Mr.President and Honourable Members, this budget is estimated at $13,946.578. for the year 1975. As I said in the beginning the Financial Secretary gave us all in the clear for this amount of money. I am hoping that we don't have to get a supplementary two months in the year after we start.

I note here - dealing on Salaries - that there will be an increase which will become effective the 1st of January with an attempt to close the wide gap . I would say that the Civil Service should be taken into consideration as they are the people who help shape the destiny of this country and I think that an increase of 10% on their salaries I hope that they will accept

MR. CLAUDE HILL (CONTINUING) the work that goes along with the raise.

Dealing on Banks. We have just had an increase in fees for banks, which I hope will put some money in our Treasury. I see where Medical Fees will be raised. As I said, I hope that the health services, hospital, will be improved, but one thing bothers me here is Education again. I see where the Transportation. In his statement, should not be borne by Government. I would say I agree with him in his statement when he said that Cayman Government is one of the few countries that grants free education, but transportation should not be borne completely by Government. It bothers me a bit but looking at it he is perfectly right. We have today a mixture of students who just don't care, who will retard the other scholar who cares. In each district I would suggest that they must qualify to enter into the comprehensive school. This leaving it to the teacher to suggest who is fitted, I don't think that that is appropriate There are likes and dislikes, regardless of what way we look at it. I have seen incidence where a student was told "you're not worthy of taking certain subjects- it is left to you to take this sbject, I would suggest you take this subject" and lo and behold the student took GCE on his own and he passed three O levels and he was told "wasting time in school, son - stay home", that's one incident.

I see where Insurance Companies will have a suggestion made, pay license fees. I think that that is another good move. Most of these insurance companies the money leaves our shores and I hope when this is implemented, if the money is being banked here, some consideration is made.

I see again the Registration of Ships. I would say that we should first make a Port Ordinance Law before implementing any increase on registration. This should be done in the light of our new Port - a Port Ordinance Law.

The Financial Secretary also stated that Government has no objection to improving services where it is necessary. I am very glad to hear that and I believe that the Government that we have such actions will always be taken. We here enjoy a lot of benefits from the Government - Government has not turned down any service that is of benefit to the Island.

I would say under new recommendations at the Finance Committee and under Capital Expenditure I would say the most needed will have priority.

Dealing on Mosquito Research and Control. It is very distressing to learn that the mosquitoes have built up a resistance to what is being used and owing to the oil crisis which has brought on a bit of concern as to eradication of mosquitoes. The Unit, I would say, has done a wonderful job and may the good work continue.

Dealing on our Sister Islands - Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. I hope the Members here don't think that I am trying to dabble into their constituencies, but I feel as a Member here, I have the right to say anything that is good for the Cayman Islands. I see here where they are trying to get some activity to boost their economy and I also see here where the British Government, the good old British Government is examining some proposals. I am very pleased to see that.

I note with interest that under Health Services, Cayman Brac was not mentioned and I am wondering if out of the 145 employed on the staff including porters and everybody I am sure that includes the 145 consideration is being made for some contribution to Cayman Brac.

MR.CLAUDE HILL (CONTINUING) Mr.President and Honourable Members, you can depend on my support for anything that is for the interest of the Cayman Islands and its people and I pray Gods guidance in our deliberations. Thank you, Sir.

MR. JOHN D. JEFFERSON:Mr.President, I am put at a great disadvantage starting after 4 o'clock in the afternoon. I nevertheless must say that I have no intentions if it means that I will run into next week of sitting downuntil I have done what I hope is justice to the debate upon our capable and able Financial Secretary's address.

Mr.President, Honourable Members of this Legislature, I am indeed humbly proud of being an elected representative of the district of West Bay in the Cayman Islands, today taking part in my seventh Budget Session. I count it an honour and a privilege accorded me by my own constituency and I feel as I stand here today, having been duly elected on two terms that I am in a position to speak for the people of the Cayman Islands as a whole.

Certainly, Mr.President, in this year there have been shocks and jolts registered in this colony since our last Budget Session, things that we no doubt never anticipated throughout this year. But be that as it may, we too have no certainty that if we are spared to meet here next year that the position will be any better, it might be that we can say that we had a rougher year than the previous but I believe that under God's guidance, that we can look forward, as an Island, as a Government, with confidence towards the new year.

I believe that I must in the beginning of this debate first point out what I believe is a real monster that has made himself known not only in the Cayman Islands, but only here probably in a greater way, that a monster that is being worked at throughout every nation of the world today, and that monster is called inflation.

It is indeed very heartening, having listgened and read the Financial Secretary's address to see that there has been some subdaing of this monster. From earlier thirty-three per cent, now twenty per cent, that means that our dollar is only worth eighty cents as we use to buy.

Mr.President, I am not a prophet of doom - I am not pessimist - I try to be optimistic, I try to look at the brighter side of things, but on the other hand we have certain responsibilities to which we too must subscribe, and I say with our inflation dollar it means that in 1975 we have to take a fresh look at our financial position.

Mr.President, I want to commend the Financial Secretary again for another masterpiece. I think he must be complimented, a man of the soil, a man that has given this country a great amount of leadership, a man that we owe, I think, a lot of respect too. A man that I have learned to appreciate and say a man that has done a lot - made a great contribution to these Islands.

The Financial Secretary expressed that the Cayman Islands have become increasingly prosperous in these recent years and that we, no doubt, enjoy the highest standard of living of any country in the Caribbean. I am not a great traveller, but I have never gone to any part of the Caribbean and seen anybody or any people enjoy a higher standard than the people of the Cayman Islands.

I will read from the Financial Secretary's address - "This territory like small regional countries of tax status the Cayman Islands have established over the past few years a viable business in areas of tourism and financial operation which has created a fairly stable and satisfactory economic growth and there is no indication, as yet, that the present trend of growth in these areas will be of short-time nature". Mr.President, we must be able to

MR. JOHN D. JEFFERSON(CONTINUING) strengthen our position.

We dealt here yesterday with an increase in fees to the financial institutions here and I heard all kinds of arguments for and against, but let me say this in Islands like these where people are able to conduct their business in confidence Islands where the world has been able to take note of the stability in these Islands, I believe with good common sense and God's help that we will be able to encourage and help to establish in these institutions even greater confidence than in the past.

I realise that there are various countries throughout our neighbouring Caribbean, having made great mistakes that are indeed doing their endeavour to correct them and get back on their feet, but I believe the continuity that has taken place in these Islands speaks for itself and I believe that we can rest assured that we will honour every commitment and that we are people that can be trusted.

We find, Mr.President, that the recent collapse of a financial institution here in this territory has brought out areas to which we had better take stronger measures to safeguard that nothing of this nature can happen in these Islands again. I believe that Government must do everything it can to maintain the secrecy of our laws, on the other hand I believe that Government must make sure that nothing is tolerated that could have the adverse effect that the failure of this institution has had upon these Islands.

I must not just stop there because I like to feel and think of myself as being responsible and that is that this has not been the only place that there have been failures in the financial institutions, this has happened in the United States. I believe the same day that this financial institution failed there were three in Germany, and to my knowledge there have been over six financial institutions that have closed their doors and gone into and had problems throughout the world. But we must attach more stringent measures - we must safeguard ourselves and the investors and make every provision to protect the depositors on every hand.

I think that while I am here on this I also want to sound another warning and that is that under this present position we must be aware of any turncoats or anybody that would dare to even lift the coat of secrecy dealing with our financial banking. It has been rumoured that various attempts have been made and I believe that we must make it unmistakably clear that we will not tolerate any such thing now nor in the future from anyone here nor from any other foreign country. I believe that we must do everything possible to attract the right type of people in these Islands.

The Financial Secretary, Mr.President, spoke of diversification of the economy. I believe this is a sound fact - I believe this is a sound thing for us to do for with the world's political position as it is today it means that we must not have all of our eggs in one basket but we must endeavour to see that we use every means available to us to be able to diversify the fact that if one fails there is something else.

Mr.President, I could quite agree that our goals now and forever, must be political stability and good relations between Government and private sector. This, in my opinion, is the best form of advertising there is.

I want to say that we have heard and we hear in this Chamber many times - I believe coined, nationalistic phrases but let me say this - as we look around the Caribbean and throughout the world today I believe that there are few countries in the world today that if they were to rightly speak their minds, if the facts were rightly told that there are a lot of people that have gone on their own and are worse off today than when they were depending upon somebody else to help give them leadership.

MR. JOHN D. JEFFERSON (CONTINUING) And I believe that we must realise as far as I am concerned that we are a people that have been blessed in the fact that we have the best of two worlds, if I would put it that way. The fact that we have been able to be able to run the inside of our house as far as I am concerned and we have someone that is capable of looking out for our foreign affairs, that we are not taxed or that we don't have to run around with a big army or support a navy - that we can rely on protection from somebody else. I think that the people of these Islands owe a great tribute to the British Government and I will say this, Mr.President, that the people of these Islands, and I believe there is no people any place in the world throughout the Commonwealth that are more loyal to Her Majesty than the people of the Cayman Islands.

Political stability must be the watch-word. Political stability we all stand to gain, any less than that we loose everything that we have.

Mr.President, I believe I will prove myself to be the first time that I ever had to adjourn three times before I finished my address. But it looks that way this afternoon to me, so at the proper time I will give the indication that we can adjourn until Monday morning.

I agree, Mr.President with the decision this Government took in switching from our dollar being backed by Sterling to the U.S.dollar.

I still feel that we have not, or I would say the consumer, has not got the benefit that I felt that this change or this switch would have given to them.

I am humbly proud to see that we are turning to other sectors of the economy that deserves attention. We find the Financial Secretary spoke of agriculture. We noticed that a new Director for the Department of Agriculture has recently been appointed and with his assistance the Department should be off to a good start in its advisory service.

I believe, Mr.President, that conditions in the world dictate today that we not only in the Cayman Islands, but even in the fast and greatly developed countries are going back to the soil like they never did before. There is no question in my mind that going back to the soil will benefit this country and there is noquestion in my mind as to whether or not it will be profitable, because I remember in the days when I can still remember when there was no money floating around but everybody grew the majority of the basic foods that he used. Speaking personally, I am striving now in West Bay to have a demonstration farm that next year Government is going to work hard to have a place that looks better. Not only do I want to do it for a show but because it serves a dual purpose, one, it provides food for my own table, and two, it helps in their own district to see that things can be grown, and I believe this is what we must do. With the high cost of living the only chance that I see today is for people to be able to grow more food for themselves.

Agriculture can work and it will work because we must make it work in these Islands. We must grow more food, we must protect what we have and I believe it is like everything else - it means that we must work and nobody gets anything for nothing - anything that's worthwhile will cost us something.

I believe that we must make some other concessions to the agricultural programmes in these Islands. I believe it will mean that Government will have, and I speak ignorantly, because the Minister under whose portfolio this comes can inform me, but I believe that we must make available in these Islands some equipment that can encourage people to go into agriculture without having to spend every cent they've got, to get something started . You say "Well, what are you going to be doing aiding individuals"? Well, in so doing we are going to be aiding our own country because the more food that is grown in this

MR. JOHN D. JEFFERSON (CONTINUING) country the better off we all are going to be.

And the Financial Secretary spoke about the position that might develop later on in exchange and so on and I believe that we need to work at this. We see agriculture - they have a fair or a show in these Islands in February of every year and its unfortunate that its that time of the year because that time of the year most of the things are already gone, but for one to see the things that are grown in these Islands and display to the public in February every year, it makes people wonder why it isn't done on a longer scale. The unfortunate thing that is taking place in these Islands in the last few years is that the best agriculture land in these Islands is being used for building houses.

I also, before moving on, want to offer a suggestion. When the development of these Islands first started we found people pushing down huge fruit-trees, like mangoes. I believe that we should state in our Regulations that nobody is able to do this without permission because I think that we must look out for things like this. Things that do not cost anybody anything. It takes years to grow large trees, especially fruit-trees and I have heard merchants in these Islands say myself that during particular the fruit-season that the sale in the stores have noticeably fallen off, and I believe it deserves taking the closest look at anything that will benefit this territory in the way of agriculture.

I believe the Financial Secretary in his address last year spoke of the possibility of having large industries or being open to applications for small industries in these islands, I believe the time is here - I believe the time is ripe - I believe we must make sure that we even give incentives to encourage people to do just that.

The Financial Secretary said the general outlook for the economy of these Islands is fair, however, in order to ensure its continued growth the rate of inflation should be brought under control. Again, that great monster creeps out - inflation. I could quite agree with the statement that the development of tourism and the financial industries must be carefully planned and guided. I believe that at this stage we must be careful along this line. He spoke of the possibility of the threat to the economy first, and the possibility of Cuba re-opening its doors to American tourists - that's an assumption that we can all take and I believe it will be a reality within two years. It means that we have time - not a lot of time, but some, to make adjustments and to take second look at things.

I dont believe, Mr.President that it places us in any position where we are forced or we are going to do things recklessly or carelessly, not in the least- we have developed to a stage where we want to see who comes on board this ship and we will control the growth in these Islands. I have always been for planned and controlled development and I have always said that any development in these Islands that the people of these Islands are not able to keep up with is development that we don't need, and we must be careful that this ship that has been slowed down these passed months is not speeded up again at a terrific pace, too fast, because we are concerned enough amongst ourselves that we might do things to accelerate the pace and again get things moving too fast. I believe we must be careful along this line.

We find there is a large vote by the Department of Tourism. Well, it is large. When it comes to Finance we will look at it not like we look at everything else, but we look at it close. But, Mr.President, a living example that I've seen in these Islands this very year is one of the largest hotels in these Islands, except for may be two months, and I was going back to September, except for about two months, that hotel was practically filled most of the time.

MR. JOHN D. JEFFERSON(CONTINUING) What it means it shows that it pays to advertise. Of course, don't misunderstand me, we can still squander a lot of money,even on this and we must decide how much money we can afford to spend but the tourist industry in these Islands has done and brought a lot of money into these Islands.

Also I must say this that tourism has brought a lot of money, and I believe that we should issue another warning - we should realise that also a lot of these things, while they might pour money into our financial tills, lets not let our finances outweigh our morals for the Good Book says "righteous exalteth a nation but sin is a reproach to any people".

I don't believe, and I must say this emphatically that as far as I am concerned, I believe that we have had the greatest heritage of any people of anywhere and I don't believe that we must take our morals, or our religious beliefs and scrap them because it might mean that if we do we will get more people. People are respected for what they are and I don;t believe that anybody comes to these Islands because they can have more immorality - no - you find that everywhere in the world. I believe that we must hold on to the morals that we have and we must make the world to know that we stand for something and I believe they will respect us for what we want.

We see that tourists for the period of January to September in 1973 were 34,521 and for the same period in 1974 they were 49,561 an increase of over7,000 arrivals. Arrivals for the year 1975 could very well reach over the 60,000 mark and it is good, Mr. President to see that for once the hotel occupancy for the last two years show an increase - the occupancy rate was 53.44% over the past two years.

Mr.President, I had said that I didn't want to see any more large hotels going down in these Islands for the next five years but Southern Airlines pose another question in front of us today. With the introduction of an American carrier in these Islands in additiona to CAL it means that we might have to take a second look if there is an opportunity of may be letting another large hotel, because of the dead occupancy, but still I think we must examine this carefully before we go too far into this, because I think that it only means that we will bring in no doubt another three or four hundred people, to be able to run and man these hotels, which creates more problems, produces greater stress on the needs of these Islands.

I believe, Mr.President that I can say that I am more versed in hotel than any member in this chamber and I believe in the field of my own endeavour I have made a contribution to the hotels but I am saying this that I believe it is time that the hotels in our islands get together and I think that Government, too, must look into this. With the number of people being brought into these Islands on work permits, with the amount of money being spent on passages and allowances, that I believe it is more beneficial to them and certainly to these Islands if they would look into a training programme to be able to help train some of our own people to fill the positions in some of these hotels and I think that Government's place is to say "Look, we are going to give you an opportunity to get something going on this line," because we find that people will use one excuse and then another - well, we must be able to give better service. Well, let me tell you this the people of these Islands are hard-working, the people of these Islands are industrious people, they are intelligent people, if they are given the opportunity and if they are given an opportunity for training they can come up to anybody that they'll bring into these Islands to do any of the work, I would say, a lot of the work that is being done in the hotels. These Islands have had a reputation of being sailors - that means that said sailors, a lot of cooks have also gone into the galleys on foreign ships. All it means, Mr.President, that these people will sort of be given a little refresher course, because the

MR. JOHN D. JEFFERSON (CONTINUING) the majority of cooks that are brought into these Islands in the hotels their experience isn't hardly any better than that of the boys who have gone on our own ships and it means that we must do something. We must say to them in the kind of way that we have been saying to any other organisation "We think it is to your advantage to look into this" and while may be one or two may not be able to do it, together they can do it in a very inexpensive way and certainly at a savings in comparing to bringing people in from the outside.

And what does it do? It makes for better relation - it means that when tourists come to these Islands, they don't come here particularly to mix with expatriates - they come here to find the feelings, the warmth, the hospitality of the people of these Islands. I am not being nationalistic - I am only speaking sensibly, I believe and being realistic. It means it safeguards our industry and enables it to be able to be more viable.

No doubt the Member under whose portfolio comes will come back at me with that, but I can stand up on my feet to anybody in regards to the hotel industry in these Islands, I believe. And I am saying that I have seen staff in our hotels that are as good as the staff you will find in any hotel anywhere, and I believe that our people only need the chance, the opportunity and I am say-ing that we are going to give them that chance.

I am glad in stressing, that I wasn't talking about technicians, I wasn't talking about fields that may be, or heights that we haven't reached, but I am talking about a height that can be available to us - all we have to do is to channel in that direction., and realise it.

Personal Health Services Department. This Member, even though my colleague and Mr.President, I must say this, that I don't believe that anybody that sits in this chamber if they weigh carefully the phrases and the statements that are made, ever covets or wants to be a member of Executive Council, because it becomes automatic, onc you become a member of Executive Council, you are looked at, scrutinized and because of, no doubt, the air of secrecy (and I don't think that all of the secrecy that they have should be secrecy - I think they can share more), but I am saying that this Member deserves a lot of credit. I am saying that any old man or any old dead fish can go down-stream, but it takes live fish to swim up-stream and I believe that this member has demonstrated, through his ability and hard work that a lot can be accomplished with co-operation. But yet I don't think any member in this chamber needs to be left out, because he would never have been able to do it without the co-operation of the members of this assembly realising this as a priority and backing him with our support in funds and what-have-you. But it would be foolish to say that the health services in the Cayman Islands have not made a great leap forward. And I believe it is time that we place responsibility, as members of this Chamber, in regards to the various things of this nature. We find all kinds of rumours on the street and I think as elected representatives of the people we have a job, not only to listen to what our people want, but we have a responsibility to lead and I think that even though there are things that need to be done and must be done, that the health services of these Islands have made a tremendous leap forward.

The receptionist told me about three weeks ago last Tuesday that they had 92 patients at the hospital. Well, it speaks for itself that people have confidence. I will not just pass this Department and go on about mybusiness but I believe that there are also some criticisms that I want to level constructively on this also. And that is that doctors will have to use discretion. We have a hospital, we have doctors. There were times in these Islands when

MR. JOHN D. JEFFERSON (CONTINUING) one doctor, although we didn't have the amount of people we have now, and although that doctor only saw people at the clinic and there was no hospital for a while and all the clinics and things that have been organised they weren't known of in that day, but there was a time when one medical officer served these Islands. And with the increase, even though I know there are people, and they are being worked, there is no question about that - I still say that discretion must be used and I will use another phrase, better discretion. Because there are times when people become suddenly ill and don't tell me that with the money we are prepared and we have said that we feel that the people of these Islands should have no less than the best medical service, and we feel with the money that is available for the people of these Islands that they are prepared to pay and certainly it doesn't mean that doctors are going to be running all the place, but I think doctors should use better discretion when there are calls made of instances where doctors should go to the scene to be of greater assistance. I will cite an instance a few weeks ago of a gentleman, one of the most proeperous Captains, sea-captains I guess in these Islands. He was on his bed dying and a number of us were keeping watch and a doctor called from the hospital to ask the nurse what was the position of the gentleman, how were things and he came down and just about 10 minutes and Mr.President, it wasn't that amount of work, but to know the effect that visit had on the people that were around there, to think that doctors are people that can show consideration, sometimes when I feel they should and don't.

I don't have any grippe personally. The medical staff have treated me with the greatest of respect. I have had my wife in the hospital for weeks - she has gotten the greatest of care. I've had people to say "well, aren't you going to send your wife someplace else?" - "No, I don't see any reason to send my wife overseas".

I think what we need to do is to stay here and fight to get what we've got and see that we're not going to let up until we get what we need.

I'm saying that for the expense for the expenditure of this Department I'm happy - I'm happy for what I see and I believe that our Health Services are greatly improved and I am looking forward to seeing far greater improvements. And before leaving that let me say this that for the money that people spend on private doctors, people what they spend when they hire nurses (and I know something about that), the rates - and I am not criticising the rates because people that are qualified they deserve to be paid and they demand their wages, but I remember earlier this year when we were paying over $30 a day to private nursing, not to mention drugs and stay in the hospital - I'm only saying all that to say this that we can't expect to get good service and not pay for it, and the ninety-five per cent of the people of these Islands can afford to pay for a good service. The only thing that we want to always uphold that the people that can't afford still get the service as good as those that can. That's the only thing that I want to make sure of.

The Financial Secretary said that in this Department was the largest number of bodies - 145 which shows a tremendous growth but also comes under this Public Health where the garbage men and others are also included, but the health of this country is the most important thing outside of God that we have to look after and education in these Islands.

I believe, Mr.President, our recurrent revenue estimate looks good. Let me cite - we find that in our revenue we are expecting in Import Duty, if I read my figures correctly, an increase of over $850,000 this year - that is a good increase. But it still means that with our budget of almost

MR. JOHN D. JEFFERSON (CONTINUING) $14 (million) and to think that from 1968, I believe, until now, if I am correct in 1968 our budget was slightly over $1 M and today we are budgeting for almost fourteen million - it means that we have to watch everything very carefully, because we are aware that direct taxation is the easiest way to clean this House out here. Any day we have to introduce direct taxation we will run away our financial institutions and we will loose every seat in this house, except those that are occupied by the Official Members.

Mr.President, I am assured that I won't get through with my budget - my address today and I am prepared to take an adjournment anytime.

We see that in the Estimates (I will just, may be, cite one more case) of revenue that we are expecting over $700,000 from stamps alone. Now I've heard and it is amazing, human nature is funny, that it is funny that people will criticize if one letter gets lost and may be a month after its mailed they get it -but they never cite the cases where a letter mailed in New York city and the third day its in their hands. This Department, the Postal Department, has made great strides - moved from a one-man or two-people area operation up to a very large staff and this Department is something that I feel very proud because it is run by our own people 100 per cent, I believe. It deserves credit and you know it is funny how people will criticise but I believe we shouldn't tear anything down until we have something better to offer and I think even when we criticise we should stop first and pay tribute if tribute can be paid .

But we think of the revenue, we think of the mail that's handled through this Department - we think of the work-load that is managed through this Department. We got to remember that we are not living in a day when the CIMBOCO comes in every three weeks and brings may be six or eight or may be a dozen bags of mail - we get more than a dozen bags of mail per day - it means that they don't get through with mails, today's mail today until its tomorrow and we have more mail and I think that we have to give credit where it belongs.

We see - we look at the recurrent expendd-tures, what we take in and what we spend and let me say there's a tremendous amount of money and what the people of our Islands have to realise that while they are saying we want better education, we want better medical services, we want better roads, we want better everything, we must realise that everything costs and it means that we have to - the Financial Secretary, I believe, has been using the shears quite good before this session, because I can see that there is a tremendous amount of need - there is a tremendous amount of ambitious feelings as to do this and do that in various Departments. But we have to realise that we can only do what we can afford.

Mr.President, I would be glad to take an adjournment at this time, since I see I won't be able to finish. Thank you.

HON.D.V.WATLER: Mr.President and Honourable Members, I would move that the House stand adjourned until 10 o'clock on Monday morning.

HON.G.E.WADDINGTON: I beg to second the motion.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: AT 5.11 P.M THE HOUSE ADJOURNED UNTIL MONDAY MORNING 25th November, 1974 at 10 a.m.



C A Y M A N I S L A N D S

L E G I S L A T I V E A S S E M B L Y

M I N U T E S

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OFFICIAL REPORT

B U D G E T A N D F O U R T H M E E T I N G

O F T H E

1974 S E S S I O N O F T H E

L E G I S L A T I V E A S S E M B L Y

MONDAY, 25th NOVEMBER, 1974

PART IV

MONDAY, 25th November, 1974

PRESENT WERE

His Excellency the Governor, Mr. Thomas Russell, CBE., PRESIDENT

GOVERNMENT BENCH

Hon. D.V.Watler, OBE.,JP	First Official Member
Hon. G.E.Waddington, QC.	Second Official Member
Hon. V.G.Johnson, OBE.	Third Official Member
Hon.A.B.Bush,JP	Second Electoral District George Town (Member for Works, Communications and Public Transport).
Hon. Trevor Foster	Third Electoral District Lesser Islands (Member for Inter-Island Co-ordination and Information)
Hon. B.O.Ebanks	First Electoral District West Bay (Member for Education, Medical Health, Social Services and Labour)
Hon. W.W.Conolly, OBE.,JP	Sixth Electoral District, East End (Member for Tourism, Lands, Natural Resources, MRCU, Agriculture and Surveys

ELECTED MEMBERS

Mr.T.W.Farrington CBE.JP	First Electoral District West Bay
Mr. John D.Jefferson	First Electoral District West Bay
Miss Annie H.Bodden	Second Electoral District George Town
Mr. Claude Hill	Second Electoral District George Town
Capt. A.A.Reid	Third Electoral District Lesser Islands
Mr.James M.Bodden	Fourth Electoral District Bodden Town
Mr. G.Haig Boddan	Fourth Electoral District, Bodden Town
Mr.Craddock Ebanks	Fifth Electoral District, North Side

ORDER OF THE DAY

MONDAY, 25th NOVEMBER, 1974

1. DEBATE ON FINANCIAL STATEMENT

2. GOVERNMENT BUSINESS:-

(a) The Banks and Trust Companies Regulation (Amendment) Law, 1974

THIRD READING

(b) The Customs (Amendment) Law, 1974

THIRD READING

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MONDAY, 25th NOVEMBER, 1974 10 a.m.

MR.PRESIDENT: Proceedings are resumed.

I am pleased to welcome back the Honourable First Member for West Bay and the Honourable Second Member for West Bay has the floor on continuation of the Debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, 1975.

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON SECOND READING OF THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1975

MR. JOHN D.JEFFERSON: Thank you, Mr.President.

I wish that I could say that my voice was as good as it was on Saturday, Friday but similar engagements have made it sort of tarnished, nevertheless I shall try my endeavour to continue.

Mr.President, and Honourable Members, I move on to the Legislative Department. I think that we have to take off our hats to this Department as one of the most efficient and one of the most well-manned Departments under Government. I believe the Clerk and her staff deserve a tremendous amount of commendations in relation to the way they have run their Department.

Moving on to our Judicial Branch - more must be done. Some of our pepple should be sent overseas to be able to enable them to get courses that would equip them to even do a far better job and certainly this Department is undermanned, and we ask that cognizance be taken of this to make sure that this Department is beefed up and be able to perform in a far better manner than has been. Needless to say I trust we will benefit by the mistakes that have been made and that we will do everything possible to see that the work-load in this Department is taken care of in a more efficient manner.

Finance and Development: an arm of Government again that deserves a tremendous amount of credit. This Department has moved, I believe, from a one man operation until it now is a Department well-manned, a Department I believe that has been over-worked, no doubt, still over-worked but it is indeed an honour to be able to know that our Financial Secretary, a man of these Islands, who has contributed so greatly to the success of this country.

Then our Legal Department: certainly this Department deserves a tremendous amount of credit. There are some criticisms, but those criticisms will be dealt with in our Finance Committee. I believe that the past performance in the last few months speaks and certainly there are somethings that needed to be taken note of and in my opinion our Legal Assistant is a very capable and able man and certainly brings honour and prestige to this Department.

Now, Mr.President, my message will not always be filled with honey because I don't want anybody to think in that respect but I feel that we should render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's.

We move on to the Mosquito Research. Certainly all that we have today hingest, I am speaking of the financial world, our financial success in tourism, it all hinges on the fact that the MRCU has been doing a tremendous job, a job that myself would have thought impossible many years ago. Yet in this budget there is a tremendous amount of money being asked and we have talked to the Head of this Department, and certainly I believe this, like all others, is going to be carefully scrutinised when we come

MR. JOHN D. JEFFERSON (CONTINUING) into Finance this coming week.

Now in relation to the Cadastal Survey results - I said there wouldnt always be honey and I am going to voice my opinion and certainly as a Member I think I have a right and certainly as an elected member of this Island, constituency of West Bay, I believe I have an obligation to this Government and to its people. The results of the Cadastral Survey, as far as I am concerned, have not been all that I would have hoped that they would have been. Now I am going to cite a case that I think needs to be looked into most carefully.

The Cadastal survey has done a tremendous job in the district to which I am from but in adjacent lands we find that it has been established throughout parts of this Island in regards to common land - common law government lands - we have found that there has been a custom, no doubt that in our dry-land we've got swamp in the centre and on the swamp being in the centre there is dry land, there is swamp and then there is dry-land on the other side. It means that people on both sides claim half of the swamp, that is understandable. But, Mr.President, when a man later on as we come on towards the marshes, a man with three or four acres of land can wind up with 50 and 60 acres that is not at all acceptable to the members, as far as I am concerned, of this Legislature. Because in my life-time, these lands were considered Crown Lands and these lands were lands that nobody asked permission to go on to, nobody, when they went to cut wood, nobody went to cut wood nor asked permission to cut wood, nobody asked permission to use the bark from the trees, nobody asked permission when they were cutting stakes for making crawls the fishermen used for their turtles, and I say that it is time that Government move into this area and take another look, because as I see it if big business can get in and develop this land that rightfully belongs to the people of these Islands, there is no reason why Government can't do the same thing and certainly the land belongs to the people of these Islands.

I am hoping that as I see various provisions made in the Estimates for Public Parks and Gardens - that is something that I look forward to. In my visit to the Bahamas in July it showed me a lot that can be done, a lot that private sectors can do and a lot together we all with Government can do to beautify our own Islands and make them a more presentable place.

Now, Mr.President, we come to the Salaries Review: I have a tremendous amount of credit that I want to pay to the Civil Service of the Cayman Islands. We find that we have a very able force that has been able to contribute much to these Islands - we have some very efficient people in our Civil Service, but on the other hand, Mr.President, there is also a warning and something I'd like to say in regards to the Civil Service. We have endeavoured through these past years to be able to up-grade the Civil Service and make people able to live like normal persons should, but on the other than I believe that Department Heads of Government must begin to carry their share of the load and I am sure today, Mr.President, that if Department Heads were to use and exercise responsibility in the way that they should that we would find that we wouldnt probably have so many people in some various Departments, because I am convinced that what we need is efficiency not a number of bodies.

We find my learned friend behind me the other day in his address speaking of taking credit for the salaries, said that if his colleague and himself were not here, no doubt the Civil Service would have never gotten a raise. Well I feel humbly proud to say that that was one of the first representations made by my colleague and I after being elected in 1968. I believe that the Civil Service has done a good job - there has been some loyalty displayed and certainly we have people of whom we can rightly be proud, But there

MR.JOHN D. JEFFERSON (CONTINUING) is an area that causes great concern to me, Mr.President and that is discipline within the Civil Service. I dont know what has happened to discipline and I am not painting everybody in the same category, thank God, but there are things in the Civil Service that I dont believe that any right-thinking man can oondone. There were times in the past when people if certain things were alleged or any bit of immorality, that they were dismissed and certainly I believe that we must go back to the stage where discipline must be administered in the Civil Service because certainly there is a lot that needs to be done.

I believe that people that are efficient and people that perform their tasks should be rightly rewarded, but on the other hand I don't believe inCivil Service guided missiles. You know that is a very famous slogan in the United States, one that wont work and cannot be fired. I believe that we are not making provisions in our Estimates to be able to tag along people who are incapable, incompetent and people that do not want to work and I believe that we must have an efficient Civil Service, people that are willing and people that we can get a dollar's worth from their labour.

We find when there is no discipline that the normal work that people could do it would take fifteen people to do because there is no discipline. I am not saying that I wouldn't want to see this go overboard, but on the other hand a lot must be done, because I am convinced that there must be some new approach and I want to see this, if you will permit me, since the Civil Service is under your arm, Mr.President, we find in our Civil Service today and throughout this land that there are things that are happening that wouldn't have happened yesterday and what I am saying is that we have had a moral standard in our Islands for years and as far as I am concerned, I am not prepare to give in to any of this. I believe it is essential for good government, I believe it is essential as a people to be able to live and have good morals.

We find there is something like over $200,000 being spent on Accommodation for Officers for the Civil Service. I trust and at last I see that Government has adopted a policy in regards to the Officers that are being brought to this territory. I think that there is one thing that needs to be done there is one point, one note that needs to be struck and that is that we must have help them to realise that while we need skills, (and certainly we do and we will for a long time yet, no doubt), but what we want people to realise that we must be respected for what we are and when they are brought in they are brought in as servants and not masters, and certainly Ithink this is something that we must help people to realise. What we want is an equal participation, where there is a warmness, where there is a feeling of equality and certainly we cannot condone any less than this.

The Department of Immigration: I see at last that we are separating the Immigration from the Police Department. This, Mr.President, is something that has been advocated by this House for a number of years and certainly it is something that is needed in this Island today. I certainly feel that the Immigration has done a tremendous job in the last couple of years; I certainly see that there is need to increase their staff; I certainly see that there is an opportunity to be able to see that our own people are sent off to be able to get better training to come back to be able to do a better job in this country in the way of taking care of Immigration. For the Immigration is a door to any country - we want to make sure who comes in and who does not.

We see in the New Services, Mr.President there are substantial increases in personnel and we find that there has been tremendous amount of money being placed this year in the

MR. JOHN D. JEFFERSON (CONTINUING) New Services. This is something we will take a very close look at when it comes to the Finance Committee and certainly we are going to, as others, scrutinise these things very carefully.

There is a tremendous amount of money being spent on the Police Department. This House, Mr.President has gone on record, as far as the world is concerned, that we have placed ourselves absolutely opposed to the drug movement in our Islands. We have increased our Police Force from a 12-man Police Force today which I believe topples the hundred mark. We have seen crime on a very small level, no doubt, in minor things increased and certainly there have been a number of things done to try to beef up our Police Department, but, Mr.President, nobody can rightfully say that they haven't been able to notice that there hasn't been something done towards the Police. There has been an increase in the service, there has been improvements made, but, Mr.President, there is still a lot that needs to be done in, as far as we are concerned, in the Police Department.

We are not just trying to get a number of bodies that have a drag on this Government's finances, but what we are doing is trying to build an efficient Department, a Department to which the public can respect and which can command respect from the public.

I still see a lot that needs to be done. The crime investigating Department, CID I think has done a tremendous job. I think it has been performing in a very extraordinary way, but there are a few things that I believe that we need to notice very carefully in the Police Department. We find, Mr.President, in a few instances recently cases cited since we have decided and been able to upgrade the salaries in the Civil Service so that the police are being paid, I would say, a decent salary and we find that a number of our own people have come into the service. I see in the Police Department, and if I am wrong I have observed wrong, but I don't think I am, I have seen that there seems to be in the idea of some people an effort being made to block the entrance a number of Caymanians into the Police Force and to this I am not satisfied and I am not citing one or two cases, I am citing some cases that are pretty glaring, as far as I am concerned.

I am indeed glad to see in the Estimates the amount of money being asked for for Education, which is, besides God, is the most important thing is to be able to educate our people that they will be able to take their rightful places in these Islands.

It is unfortunate that a lot of people see the faults and see the failures but never seem to see the good things about various Departments. I think the Education Department has made great strides and certainly like the Financial Secretary said last year when he addressed this assembly the conditions of the school were far different than they are today and yet I think that there is something that we, as a Government, must seek to do. We must seek to instill into our own people that we must have Caymanian teachers, more Caymanian teachers to be able to beef up our own resources in this respect.

Our Education programme is expanding and it deserves credit. I am glad to see the special unit equipped, manned by Caymanians, well qualified persons to be able to look after the handicapped people of this territory . It is very commendable and I certainly pay tribute to such worthy effort.

In the Education Department, I believe if I am correct they possess a staff of 173 personnel which includes 13 new members recommended for employment in 1975.

Outside of the Department of Finance, Education ranks the biggest spender of public funds in the coming year, something like 14% of the recurrent expenditure will be caused by the Education Department.

MR.JOHN D.JEFFERSON (CONTINUING) I believe, Mr.President, that here is a Department that needs encouragement, yet here is a Department that needs to be watched very closely because we cannot afford to let anything happen that would upset the school or would cause anything that would take away from the service that it must perform for the people of these Islands. I believe that we must use all restraints, but we must use responsibility also and we must make sure that nothing is covered up but that people are treated equally and that everything is done to make sure that it works and works like it should.

In the Education Department,a major Department like the Education there is the establishment of a Teacher Centre which also is manned by a Caymanian. Certainly we are happy to see at last that at last there is some progress being made and our people are taking advantage of some of the opportunities.

I am glad that there is provision placed in the Estimates for the West Bay Primary School - I trust, Mr.President, that this school, which houses the largest amount of children in the primary education in these Islands that this school, too, is upgraded in respect of furniture and what have you. Because I think that the principal and stafrf of this school in the past year has done a tremendous job to upgrade the standard in that school.

Now I see on page 19 on Public Transport ofour own children back and forth to school. I see the paper, in an editorial, made I thought quite a contribution. It said "The Financial Secretary said he hoped the Government will examine a proposal whereby parents will be asked to consider paying the transportation fees". Although this in a gentle way sounds unreasonable, I believe, Mr. President the time has come when if as we see it here, we are budgeting for just fractions less than $100,000 on transportation of our children to and from the Cayman High School. That, in my opinion, is an unacceptable figure. I don't believe that we can continue to pay out an exhorbitant sum of money like that towards transportation of our children. I think, Government must look at another area of at least parents can take, if not all, a part of this cost because it is good to give people things that are free but I don't believe that it is good to give everybody everything for nothing and I believe that when we can say that the figure is $100,000 that is completely out of proportion. We find that we are spending $44,000, 360 on scholarships for our children, our young people overseas. That means that the scholarship fund is not even half of the money that is being allocated to transporation of our children. This, Mr.President, is an unacceptable thing as far I am concerned, and I feel that we must do something about that and we must do something about it now.

Now I turn to big projects, Mr.President We find that the new Government Administrative Block is very nearly doing quite well and then there are provisions for new docking facilities. Then there is the new Road Programme - all of these that come up early in 1975 and then there is the extension at the Airport, the building of new Terminal and the provision to make our facilities at the airport far more improved than what they are today. I believe these are very necessary. The money that is being spent on the dock, I trust are funds that are going to reward us back later on in these Islands, because I believe that one of the things that brings about the cost of living in these islands if the fact that the freight rates are exhorbitant rates, because shipping spends from five to six days sometimes in this harbour waiting to be discharged and I think it is very essential to our own survival to be able to build good docking facilities.

The Road, unfortunately, we have more people killed on our roads - a little Island of twelve and thirteen thousand people than countries where, percentage wise, that have no doubt a million people. I trust that the new Roads Law will come into effect real soon and everything will be done to be able to curtail this waste of life, human life on our highways.

MR.JOHN D. JEFFERSON (CONTINUING) Mr.President, as welook on to the Radio Broadcasting station, this is something I have advocated for quite some time and other members of this chamber because we see the necessity for better communication between the people and the Government and throughout these Islands. And I would liketo say here today that wouldn't it be an ideal thing if it was possible for us to be able to push the radio station and be able to have, as the Financial Secretary noted in his speech hoped, that it could be possible that these two could be opened together, the Broadcasting Station and the Government Office Block. I would hope, Mr.President that no stone would be left unturned and no effort wasted to be able to see that an opportunity is extended, if not to Her Majesty to some member of the Royal Family for this occasion to mark this as a mile-stone in the history of the Cayman Islands.

We find in April of next year Her Majesty the Queen will attend the Island of Jamaica and certainly I would hope that everything would be done, if possible,to have Her Majesty visit these Islands . For certainly there are no islands in the Commonwealth where the people are more loyal to Her Majesty than the people of the Cayman Islands. I trust, Mr.President, that this idea thrown out will continue to be looked into and every effort and every aenue explored.

Now we turn to a very unpopular avenue and that is the Development Plan for 1975 I will say now, Mr.President, as Ive said earlier in this Chamber that when this Development Plan comes before this Assembly I am sure that big business will speak out when this is presented as it has in the past, but I believe that we must decide what is best for the mass of people. I believe we must decide that it is time that we take a close look at what is best for the people of this territory and not just for a few .

Unfortunately, as I said the other day, that some of our best agriculture lands are being used for housing and I think that when this Development Plan is brought before this House I would hope that every avenue would have been explored to get the feelings of people from big business and then people from the ordinary walk of life and together we will be able to draw, make our decisions what should be done in regards to this Development Plan. I know it will not be popular , I know it will be fought in this House like every other thing that is fought in this House, but I am saying that it is time that a Development Plan is brought before this country or else it won't be any good in a very short time.

Mr.President, as I come to the end of my address let me join the able Financial Secretary in wishing for you and your family a very pleasant stay in these Islands. And certainly I must say this that the attitude you have displayed in having entered this territory, are things to which the people of these Islands have taken great note. The people of these islands have appreciated the attitude that you have taken in going out and meeting them in their various districts and their various walks of life.

The debate in this House, some will be short, some will be long, some will be bitter, no doubt, some sweet, but I've found that the people of these Islands are capable of being the judge after all the facts are in and I thought I wanted to leave with to leave with the Members and with you, Mr.President, in closing in this chamber, the verse of a very beautiful gem and that is -

"Leave no tender words unsaid
Love while love shall last;
The mill can never, never grind the water
That has passed
Catch the sunbeam - don't be greedy -
O'er life's dark-some billows there
Though it falls so faint and feeble
On a heart in sorrow bow.
Catch it quickly! it is passing'
Passing rapidly away
It has only come to tell you
There is yet a brighter day".

I thank you, Mr.President.

MISS ANNIE H.BODDEN: Mr.President and Members of this Honourable House, first I should say that we all here in this Chamber should be thankful to Almighty God for having sustained during this critical year when other nations have suffered hardships, disaster and we here are living in a beautiful, happy Island, the only trouble is what we bring on ourselves. And I feel that each and every one of us should, instead of criticising be thankful for all the many mercies that we have enjoyed and are still enjoying.

Now, Mr.President, I would call this a sweeping budget. The first budget papers that I ever saw in my life, half a century ago, the minimum revenue then and for many years afterwards it was a maximum was £5,005, pounds, I would say ten thousand and ten dollars - that was the estimated revenue for that year and the expenditure was £5,000. But those Legislators of that day had enough foresight and sense to run the ship with what they had to spend, and I feel sure, Sir, that we should follow their policy.

When I hear people bragging and saying "We have built this Island" I wonder if they have stopped to think that the foundation was laid by people who saw that the future depended on the acts that they did.

Now, before I start too deep into the debate I would like to say these words. In 1788 Edward Gibbon completed his work "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" in which he listed five reasons for that fall. The rapid increase of divorce, the undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home which is the basis of human society, higher and higher taxes and the spending of public money for free bread and circuses for the populace. The mad craze for pleasure, sports becoming every year and year more exciting and more brutal, the building of gigantic armaments when the real enemy was within, the decadence of the people.

Well, Mr.President and Members of this Honourable House, I will not say that all these things apply to us but I know one thing applies and it is this, that we are drifting away, we are going, as the last speaker said, in our day, formerlly, we had a standard that we lived by and I am afraid that standard is being lowered today. I feel that we as legislators should endeavour in every way possible to see that a high moral standard is maintained in this island. I would say in these Islands, but I am sure that the Cayman Brac, the people from the Leseer Islands they are termed, very unfortunately, I feel that they have not drifted so much in this form of the degrading of morals as we have. Perhaps some of the better class would say the same as I do, while there are others who I am sure will condemn me for what I am saying.

Now to embark on this budget. I see here before me that we have public debts in the sum of $979,636 and on the other side our Reserve Fund amounts to $420,745. That is not bad but we are now embarking on a gigantic loan and I am wondering if we are really stopping to know that when we borrow money we must pay it back, and while I agree we need to borrow money, for certain facilities, I feel that we must now curtail expenditure so that we will not have so much of a deficit.

Now the first thing I shall deal with is the Governor's Department. We must have a Department properly staffed and we have to find money to pay for it, but in that account I see an amount which I think is very necessary, quite an amount it is $200,000 for Accommodation for Public Officers. Well, we need to make our officers happy as far as possible but I cannot agree that if we find housing, and their wives (women are peculiar creatures, some of them) and if they are living in a house they should be satisfied provided the essentials are there. We cannot afford every couple of weeks or months to change the colour of the furniture, etc. the curtains, and all that goes with women's fancies - we have to get houses which, while they have all the necessities, they cannot have luxurious

MISS ANNIE H.BODDEN (CONTINUING) curtains and refrigerators changed every week,etc. We have to be able to pay our rent and pay it to the most economical, I wouldn't say cheap houses to live in, but proper houses, but we cannot afford luxurious houses. We must go according to our means. While I say that to satisfy our Civil Servants and those whom we have to house we must have proper accommodation, but it takes a lot of money.

We are spendng a lot of money on the Judicial Department and I have here and now to make a lot of complaints against the Clerk of Courts' office in our new Court Building. Now I am now blaming the staff, I am saying it is under-staffed and there is work lagging behind that I am sure will take at least five years to bring up to date at the way things are going now.

We have in our Estimates provision for a Deputy Clerk of Courts and an Assistant Clerk of Courts, and these two posts, to my knowledge, have never been permanently filled. Sometime ago we had three young men there and the work was going pretty smoothly but now they have gone back to their particular colleges,etc. and it is now left to three or four young ladies who are doing their best, but my humble submission to you, Sir, is that we need a qualified Deputy Clerk of Courts. Now when I say qualified, I don't mean that he must have a college degree and be a Q.C.etc. but we need somebody who has some knowledge of law that he can put things straight in that office. Now I have there ten estates which I have filed applications for Letters of Administration and Probate of Will and some of them have been there from May and as of now I cannot get those papers put through, simply because they say there is not enough staff. On the other hand, papers are lost and you have to keep going and going and hunting for these papers because these people have not got the time and the proper filing facilities to do a proper job.

Sometime ago I went to the Courts' office and a Q.C., he was here from Jamaica, said "Miss Bodden, I should like you to look at the Attorneys-at-Law's room". I went there - what did I see? On the table a heap of old books there, instead of buying a filing cabinet or a book case and file these papers away, they were left there and when I enquired as to why they were put there "Well", they said "a certain personnel had come in and said they must go there". I said that that personnel, whoever she is, doesn't know her job. It is very easy to buy a filing cabinet and to have books and papers properly filed where we can have the facilities of finding the papers when we go there.

Now, Mr.President, I am respectfully asking that you use your best efforts to see that these two jobs are filled. I have spoken to the Establishment Officer on two or three occcasions and I asked him to see that something should be done. He tells me the money is not available - I said it is available because we have voted the money and it must be found. Because in my opinion the Judicial Department is a very important Department and we must have it corrected, Sir, so with your good offices I feel sure that you will.

Now the Agriculture Department - I agree that we should do something towards agriculture but I am very sure it will not lower prices because the locally grown stuff is equally as expensive as that which is imported. For instance there is fish - ordinary fish that in my young days was penny 'hapenny per pound - if you know what I mean, Sir, a cent and a half. Now it is a Dollar twenty for one pound. There is turtle which ordinarily used to be a sixpence per pound now that it is a dollar twenty-five. Locally grown vegetables except those grown on this new farm are just as expensive on which they have to pay twenty per cent import duty, plus expensive otherwise gettig it into the store, etc. Now I feel, Sir, that while I am one hundred per cent in favour of having agriculture I feel that these farmers should take into consideration that if they are to grow crops here they should not try to compete with the out-side prices. That would cause a lot of inflation

MISS ANNIE H.BODDEN (CONTINUING) which is going on now and to lower this inflation, if we are to grow crops here , they should be cheaper than what we have to import.

Now Lands Survey: I feel, Sir, that this is a very important feature of Government and I do not oppose it, but I see that it is costing now, or in the Estimates, $104,149. I suppose people wuld think because I opposed this Cadastral and Land Survey,etc. that I am against it - nothing like that. It has not brought me any loss. The Cadastral Survey, I would say, on the other hand, has strengthened my financial position because otherwise when I went to court fighting cases most of the time it was for not one penny, now I have told these people "if you expect me to go to Court at least you will have to pay me half of what you pay these other high-priced lawyers" and I feel I do a better job because I know land from the time I was sixteen years old.

Now, Health: Mr.President, health is a very important thing, in fact as a former speaker said he put education second to God, I put health because we must have health if we are to function. We cannot do anything, we get sick and feel bad and complain. I feel that we must be healthy and thank God, as of now, we have a fairly healthy population, but we have to keep up the high standard The building of our Hospital , I must say, has improved very greatly and I feel sure the staff is better than it used to be, but doctors and nurses and those connected with the hospital mustknow that when a human life is at stake they must give up pleasure for the time being. All of us have to make sacrifices and I feel that if a human being is taken to the hospital in a critical condition regardless of where the doctor is he should make it a point to try to save a life. And I feel certain, Sir, that with the new improvesments to the hospital it will be an incentive for them to stay around the compound more than they did before. Because let us be realistic about it that Hospital wasn't too good a place. I remember two sessions ago, I think it was, or it might have been the last one, we fought it must have been hours to try to get proper linens for the hospital and beds. Well I think all of that has been corrected now and I feel confident that with the new surroundings we should get a better job.

Now, Mr.President, I feel that people who can afford to pay should pay for their hospital treatment. I don;t say that they should be exhortionate in their charges but after all we have t get some money to run our Govdrnment and it is not going to pour down from heaven, we have to find ways and means to get this money, because we need the money to run the Government and all the facilities which Government affords - we need money and I feel that people who can afford should pay a fee that is equal to the service they get.

Now in regards further to health, I am very unhappy about the state of the condition in George Town with regard to street cleaning, cemetry cleaning which is my hobby, and I have gone over-board to the best of my ability to try to keep that Whitehall Cemetery clean but it seems to me it is impossible. Now I am not blaming Government, I feel those who have their dear departed dead in that place should have the ambition to keep that place clean. Now most of the people who are buried there were the elite of Grand Cayman, they have left property, they have left houses, they have left shops, they have left real, rich estates, but how many of their relatives have thought it fit and proper to donate one $5 per year, or $10 or $50 to keep that place clean - no, its Government's property. Well I say the Government should not spend one penny on it - compel those who have their dear, departed dead buried there to raise some fund and clean it . Now I have always felt that way about it, it is not because my mother and sister are buried there that I felt this way; my Grandmother was buried there fifty years ago and I have kept up her grave up to now and I feel that we should take a civic pride in our Islands and have the streets cleaned, the cemetery cleaned and all the public places. We don't need to have flowers right around this building, we need to have flowers all over George Town.

MISS ANNIE H.BODDEN (CONTINUING) I was very hurt the other day when I heard the Honourable Member from North Side say George Town is the most untidy place. Well, that hurt me because I know it is true and the truth hurts, and I feel that we should do something to have this corrected.

Now the Education Department, I will say, Sir, I am very proud of the buildings but is the system of education really what we want? Now I have had contacts recently with a little twelve year old girl who barely knows her letters, A.B.C but she is learning Spanish! She brought some sums for me to do which I told her I might have learned them when I went to school, but I had clean forgotten how to do them now. Now I think that is not the right thing. We should start and teach children as they are ready to receive education. Now I said, Sir, I feel that we are doing our best and we are spending a lot of money, but are the children taking advantage of it?

There is another thing that upsets me very greatly about this education and that is this, that the number of teachers that we have educated to come back and take their place in the school - I don't know whose fault it is whether it is powers to be or they themselves, but they are scattered to the four winds, they are not teaching in the school at present. The very Establishment Officer himself, as far as I know, was a trained teacher - where is he now? We have had other teachers trained, they have walked out. I will say, Sir, that sometimes I say that Caymanians do not really appreciate what they should do. We take public funds and train them to go to take their superiors in certain subjects, to come back here - some will work a year, some not at all and they walk out. That is not good enough. You have to stick to your guns. Money is not everything - not because the bank can pay $10 or $15 per month more that they should leave their because we are trying to do all we can to give proper salaries and, Mr. President, when some of these banks and other institutions have gone about their business, we shall still have a Government and the people should realise that they should stick to that Government and do all they can to help us run the country. Then, if we have to import people you hear that Caymanians haven't got a chance. They have had the chance, most of them but for the lure of money they have walked out of the job.

Now other people that we have education, Mr. President, have not been given a fair chance - higher jobs have been created to lower them down and a lot of them have walked out with just cause. I remember many years ago we had a Dentist here - he's still in private practice and because he was asking for $50 more per month what they would have to pay for an imported Dentist and they refused to pay him - they refused! Now that was most unfair. We had a Clerk of Courts here - same thing - wouldn't pay him what they would have to pay an imported Clerk of Courts - he left the job and the Islands have suffered by such actions and I feel, Sir, that there are exceptions when our own people have not been treated fairly and squarely by Government, and they have good cause to resent it, but there are others who are just taking advantage and playing on Government's pockets. As my colleague from George Town said "Pushing their hands in Government' pockets and not doing any work'.

Now I feel, Mr.President, that if we expect to have a good stable Government with Caymanians at the wheel we must be loyal.

I remember, I think it was in the year 1962 there was a placard out there where the Royal Bank of Canada now stands with a ship in rough waters, one man at the wheel and six or seven strugging try-ing to get on. One man thought he could run the show - it is nothing like that, Mr.President, we have to unite and go together - all of us can't be heads - some must be hands, fingers, arms, toes but we all work together to make one body and if as Caymanians expect to go on and continue our progress which has been laid by those good, old forefather, we must stick to the job - don't say one person can run the show - or this one is inferior - we must all work together to have a united Cayman Islands and I feel,

MISS ANNIE H.BODDEN (CONTINUING) Sir, with a man no less full of good works and deeds as you are, we can guide our ship to still further great victories.

Now, Mr.President, The Mosquito Control: I am very happy of what that has accomplished. If you had been here, Sir, in the year 1946 I don't think you would have stayed an hour, after you could find a plane. The mosquitoes swarmed! Now thanks to the Mosquito Control we have got mosquitoes in control and while I don't think I am going to vote for all the money they want, I am going to vote for sufficient to keep up the work as it is now.

Now the Public Works: that is an eye-sore, Sir. Because the men in charge seem to think that all they have to do is to give orders to someone else. Now, Mr.President, any department is only as good as its head - there is the church, the state, the family or what it is and, if whoever is in charge fails on his job the other lesser members do the same.

Now Tourism: I agree that tourism is one of the assets of the Cayman Islands but we can't let Tourism run away with us either, because these people come here, I suppose to enjoy the sunshine, the sea, the friendliness, they say but we can't let tourists dictate terms to us. We must run the show - if we go to their country we have to abide by their laws and when they come here they have to do the same. While I agree that tourism has put us on the map I don not agree that we should make sacrifices to the extent where we have to be in debt to finance Tourism.

Now the Post Office: The Post Office is a very valuable asset to any country, but it has to be properly manned or "womanned" as the case may be - but they must do their job. They must not be content to comb their hair, drink coffee every second, look in the mirror, stand up and talk, they must do their job and unless they are doing their job people suffer. Now I am not going to criticise any particular one but I say we need strong administration so that these younger generation who think, may be, they can get money without work, they are put into a position where they know that they must be disciplined and do the job.

I must agree with the last speaker when he says we need discipline in our Departments. Police Department, or wherever it is, there must be discipline. High moral standards must be maintained. Personally, I, Annie Huldah Bodden would like to see our Police Department manned by six-foot men, small people, as far as I am concerned, cannot play the part that big people can. While I am sure people are sorry for me for my size, thank God I am not a small person. When I say small, I mean small in statute. I could be a little thinner but I don't want to be any less tall and I feel, Sir, this Police Department, although they may be Caymanians, they are runts and they are not good enough. They are runts - little boys about that high, walking the street with his red-strip down - nobody is respecting that type. We want proper policemen and we want policemen with high morals, that is another thing.

Mr.President, many years ago there was a Civil Servant who was accused of a certain act of which he was not guilty, and it was proven to the world he was not guilty, nevertheless the Government of that day asked that man to resign and he was a school-teacher of no mean order - he had to go to plow the seven seas. Now we want that kind of thing put on our policemen or anybody in the Government service who is living slack lives (MR.JOHN D.JEFFERSON: Hear! Hear!) We dont want married men having four or five common-law wives - who could respect a policeman of that calibre? I know I couldn't.

Now, Immigration: Now I say Immigration should be manned by a man because women - although I am a very strong woman myself, I have been taught to be strong - responsibility has taught me strength. If I were a house-wife I dare-say I would be one of the weaker type, but I am a strong woman, the hard school of experience

MISS ANNIE H.BODDEN (CONTINUING) has made me strong and I have one particular gift, I would call it, I can look into people's faces, more or less and read them. Now most of these women at the Immigration Department they haven't got that gift. Anybody can come here now, more-orless - bank robbers, maffia-men, all kinds of people and we need an experienced man to cite and know when things are going wrong. Do you mean to tell me that if I were an immigration officer and I saw four or five suit-cases of money coming at the airport that I would not, at least , report it to some authority. Then I heard a rumour last week, its not coming in any more by suit-case it is coming by crocus bag - well, just imagine that! It must be illicit money and we don't want that in our country.

Now regarding this Drug Traffic: I am wondering what happened to the two Police boats that we were promised. We need proper police boats to go around the Islands and see all these suspicious characters who are invading our coasts. Some days you look out in the harbour you see four or five - they call them lobster boats - I have another name for them.

Now, Mr.President, I don't want to take up too much of the valuable time of this House - I feel that sometimes good things are made up in small packages so I won't go on for hours and hours because I might be repeating myself, but I would say this, Mr. President, that there are the little foxes who spoil the vines and the little things that we do not take cognizance of may undermine our society to the extent where we shall crumble. Now, for three hundred years our forefathers,from the offset they were lawless, or that's what history says,but with the coming of christianity they were enlightened, they accepted the faith, they went on from strength to strength. Now that faith is declining, it is going down. You couldn't see what I saw last Sunday afternoon, a week ago - it must have been twenty-five hundred people playing some kind of a game,hundreds of cars there and in our Presbyterian church, it was almost empty. Now there is something wrong with the churches or the people - I dont know which - but they believe they can do what they want, when they want, how they want, and when they get in trouble, they'll appear and ask God forgiveness. He is a merciful God,He does forgive us, but I think it is impertinence to waste our lives in sin, drinking rum, Sundays, carrying on all kinds of hellishness and then if you want a baby baptised or something you take it to the church - that's not good enough. We must take a stand and a stand for what is good.

Now, Mr.President, these figures I would say, this budget is a sweeping budget. I hope that we shall be able to find the funds to cope and so that at the end of 1975, if we live that long, we shall have a budget which is not in the red but that God has prospered us so that we shall have, I would say, a million dollars to our good. Thank you, Sir.

MR. JAMES M.BODDEN: Mr.President, Fellow Members of this Legislature, on Friday certain members were wondering my colleague and myself were trying to drag the debate out until Monday. We were not intentionally trying to do so, but we decided that we did need the week-end to search our souls and see if it was necessary to debate this budget. And the reason we have come to the decision to debate it is two-fold, Sir. First, we feel that this budget is reflective of the collective votes of Executive Council and that the gentlemanly ways of the Financial Secretary have been misled a bit and for his good nature he is putting forward an extremely large budget. The second reason is that we thought being the members had placed or played such an important part in te preparation of this budget that they would have also come to his aid and try to present it or help present it to this House.

Unfortunately, that has not yet happened and I am sure that they will continue to sit as they are and not say anything on the budget and it will leave it up to the few of us on this side to say the few words.

MR. JAMES M.BODDEN (CONTINUING) This is our most important yearly meeting of the House, as far as I am concerned, and personally I consider it a great honour to be here and play a small part in these proceedings.

Today we are debating an extremely large budget - one that I am sure five years ago we would not have foreseen as probably happening in the next 20 years.

This budget is large and probably most of it is necessary. We cannot sit here and agree with everything that has been presented to us because that would not be good opposition if we did. We do not propose to think that we will be able to get any major changes because most of us are aware that is well nigh impossible.

Tourism and the tax haven businesses continue to play the most important part in the progress of this territory. I am sure there is not anyone in the Chamber that will not agree to that, and it is mainly through these two facilities that we are honoured to be able to discuss a budget of this magnitude today.

But before I proceed further, Mr.President, I would like your permission to read a recent article from the Tax Haven Review published this month. It says - "The Cayman Islands seem to be starting to experience the loss of confidence similar to that which hit the Bahamas after the PLP Election in 1968, reports a Caribbean correspondent. One bank failure in these worried times can start a run. Thus far one Bahamanian Trust Company has picked up four sizable accounts as well as fielding a score or more of enquiries. The Bahamas was coming back into its own but even the most chauvenistic don't want additional business at the price which the Caymans may have to pay for dilatory Government supervision". It follows by saying "the recent Tax Haven Conferences which Tax Haven Review has helped to organise have offended representative Charles A. Vanick who has cited the conferences and the growing number advertisements for tax haven investments as a reason for calling an interna-tional conference to eliminate tax havens. Mr. Vanick made his conference proposal in letters to TreasurySecretary William E.Simon and Secretary of State Henry Kissenger - he claimed that capital flow into tax haven such as the Cayman Islands and the New Hebrides were being taken from vitally-needed projects invested in low priority projects and luxury vacation homes. Mr. Vanick, who is a member of the House Ways and Means Committee said it was particularly shocking that many of the tax havens were controlled by members of the organisation for economic co-operation and development, with a disproportionate number of the tax havens being British Crown Colonies such as the Cayman Islands, Hong Kong, the Isle of Man, Gibraltar and the Channel Islands".

In quoting from that article, Mr.President, I would not want anyone to get the wrong idea that I am coming here to preach as a prophet of gloom or doom today, but my reason for quoting from that article is to show that although we do get a lot of good publicity, we also get some bad publicity and it will not take too much of this bad publicity before we are back to a community of sea-faring people and nothing else to look forward to. So I am hopeful that every attention will be paid, other than increasing thebudget to see that these two important sources of revenue for our economy is kept in good standing.

The Financial Secretary in his address ha spoken about diversification. I am very pleased to see him bring that as a priority. But, Mr.President, I am wondering whether we were fortunate enough to obtain this diversification, whether we would still continue our lacadasical approach to problems or whether we would welcome this with open arms. My colleague and myself have preached this for several years that this is sometging our country should be thinking about, because the two main sources of revenue what we have today are very fickle - we could loose some of

MR. JAMES M.BODDEN (CONTINUING) that overnight - let's hope to God we don't.

In his report he has drawn reference to a gross domestic product of $28 M. The magnitude of that figure, Mr.President, will let us all realise just how far we have come. But I would like to know whether the Members this House could at a later date be told how this was computed and compiled. It is necessary, Mr.President, for the entire House to be cognizant of things of this nature that affect the Islands and not just a selected few. We must realise that we all in this House seek knowledge, just like a desert cries out for the need of water.

One thing in the speech so far that perturbes me is a veiled hint for direct taxation. Mr.President, this could be something that we should really keep as far back in our minds as it is possible to push it. It would not take too many of these hints and we would find that most of our business will begoing out of the window like the door to a cage being opened and let the pidgeons fly.

Mention was made of the revaluation of the currency and the important and prominent part that that played in this year's stability. Mr.President, I too agree that may be it has had a stabilising effect on this community but the thing that worries me about this is that privileged information apparently was made available to certain sections of the business community. At this time, Mr.President, it was the humble opinion of a few members of this House that that action warranted a thorough investigation, and if that investigation had been conducted it may have proved that the eight members who sit on this side of the House could also be trusted to keep a secret as much as the seven members on the other side of the House. In saying this, Mr.President, I am sorry that I have to link all the members of Executive Council together, but I feel like they would be thinking that I would be speaking derogatory of them if I didn't give them all the benefit of the collective system.

I am very thankful to see that effort and the expenditure that apparently is going to be made this year on agriculture. It pleases me more so because I can say to this House that some of those things advocated in this budget echoes the feelings of my colleague and myself and the things that we have said to this House since we have been blessed to take these seats. But I am hopeful that the Minister responsible for this will do everything within his power to see that these things become reality rather than just more empty words.

Mention has been made of a large demonstration and experimental farm. It would be a good thing, Mr.President, for all of the members of this House to know what this involves. It would be good if we, for once, could share, into just a little bit of the knowledge that some of the other members of this House have. If that was possible, Mr.President, it might be then be possible for us to consider that these things would become a success because the House would then be working together as a whole.

Mention was made of a spray unit. I must tell you that this somewhat distresses me beca se the district that my colleague and myself represent does raise more cattle than any other district in the Island, and I can remember in a recent budget session when we were promised that this spray unit would first be used and erected in the Bodden Town district. Now I find, according to the report from the Financial Secretary that this is not so but that it will be in West Bay Now I am sure, Mr.President, that the people in West Bay need it as badly as the people in Bodden Town, but Mr. President, I leave it to the minds of this House what has happened and the reason why Bodden Town has not received it. I will tell you

MR. JAMES M.BODDEN (CONTINUING) this that if there is another one coming to the Island we certainly expect it to be in Bodden Town, Sir.

In touching on tourism I am hopeful that the Tourist Board will not only try to continue to promote tourism and the tax haven aspect as they have done in the past but will also use some of that effort to help promote manufacturing and small industries to relocate here, but again, Mr.President, I have to say that I wonder whether we were successful in doing this whether we could wake up and appreciate it or whether the same attitude to this type of business would be taken as has been done in the past in certain other instances.

We have been told that during the last six months of 1973 that the cost of living rose 23%, but yet in 1974 it has only risen 10%. Mr.President, I have to question this figure because at this time again I reiterate that none of the members on this side of the House have been able to secure any of this secret information. None of us have any knowledge as to how this was compiled or computed or how this figure was arrived at. I cannot truthfully believe that it rose 23% in 1973 and only 10% in 1974 - I do not believe that the revaluation of our currency has played that great a part, and I would ask the Members on the other side of this House whether in the future it would be possible to make this privileged information available to the prodigal sons on this side of the House. We must remember the words of Frederick Langbridge when he said "that two men look out through the same bars, one sees mud the other sees the stars" Mr.President, on this side of the House we are only able to see the mud.

I am very pleased to see that mention was made of the possibility of relations being re-established with the Cuban Government from other countries of the world. I may say at this point that I am hopeful we will not be the first ones to take that step. But if relations are re-established between Cuba and the rest of the free world as we know it today we must realise that this is going to have a detriment on our way of living and for that reason we cannot rest on our laurels - we must realise other tax havens are beginning to be established and these are also going to have a deterrent effect on what happened in the Cayman Islands.

Mr.President, I have to speak at this point on a particular subject that I am sure will be distorted and the views of it will be very conflicting. I stand here as a person who has always been totally against any type of crime. I believe that it should be eradicated completely, if possible, from any community so what I am going to say is not meant that I condone the action of a few bank robbers in the United States, but, Mr.President, we have established our country on the foundation and on the basis of it being a tax haven and it being very secretive. Mr.President, at this point we must remember , as I have stressed, and as other members in the House have stressed, that our sources of revenue can easily trickle away and a safety deposit box has always been looked at in the free world nearly as sanctified as the old saying "every man's home is his castle". Past experience in the past few days or weeks has proven that that is no longer true in our country . I do not believe that it was correct for that money to have bneen taken out of the boxes and published in the newspapers the way it was. It must make investors, particularly investors in the United States, because thats where most ofour investment money comes from, quite leery. It will make them wonder whether any more of them can bring their investment or their secret documents to the Cayman Islands and put them in a safety deposit box. Again, I reiterate that I do not, in any respect, condone the actions of these particular people, but this is a fact that is tied in with our very existence and when we shake the corner-stone of that existence, Mr.President, we are liable to find that the bad apples may also fall.

MR. JAMES M.BODDEN (CONTINUING): At this point, Mr.President, I would like to pay particular homage and respect to the body of the Tourist Board. The results that have been shown have been excellent but I wonder at this point whether the statistics are true and whether we are getting quality and not just quantity. I must say at this point that the budget for the Tourist Board, in my view, seems to be extremely large. I am wondering, although it plays such an important part in our country whether it would be advisable at this point to decrease it. We will have to wait until we get into the Finance Committee in order to determine that.But we must remember that along with tourism, tourism brings investors. Investors who come to our Islands under our existing legislation are forced to first have to go before many Boards and Mr.President, to an extent , I agree with this and it is somewhat necessary. But I speak I think correctly when I say that some of the past antions of these various Boards seem to be beneficial to only a few. That type of action must be stopped because, Mr.President, at this point we can truly say that never has so much been done by so many for so few. Its a good thing that particular piece of legislation was given the name Cayman Protection, because I am sure there are a lot of Caymanians today that are wondering and looking for that protection and wondering where they can find it. It appears to me, Mr.President, that we want the investor but we do not want his presence.

Some of our actions seem to remind me of an old West Indian proverb that says " I will trade with you, talk with you, go to church and school with you, but be..... if I will eat or drink with you".

The present attitude of this particular Board reminds me further of the story of a young man who murdered both his parents and then when sentence was about to be pronounced on him, got up and pleaded for mercy on the basis that he was an orphan! Some of these actions, Mr.President, really make us believe whether we are acting in that manner.

Mention was made of the world economic conditions, foreign exchange affecting bank failures. I am sure, Mr.President that this had some part to play in it, but I think the biggest part that was played in this arena was the loss of credibility and lack of supervision. When I say the lack of supervision I would like to clear one point with the Honourable Third Official Member: I am not throwing that as a barb at him because it is impossible to think that any man outside of our Good Maker could carry the burden that we expect that man to carry. How can he supervise the actions of 180 something banks plus keeping our ship of state afloat with the finances that we need? It is time, time past that we should have given this man the assistance that he needs to keep these matters in control.

Another point on that particular item, Mr. President is that certain elements were allowed to burrow into the community as they pleased and no controls were exercised, and I must say in this Assembly that the action of our Government in handling this particular matter leaves a lot to be desired. It was handled similar to the way that an ostrich would handle a problem. In my opinion Goverment should have taken over and determined if there were any wrong doings. It is O.K., Mr. President for an investor to loose his money but a deposit should never loose his money. The depositors in the banks of these Islands must be protected and this is one very good reason why this Honourable House should have adopted a Central Bank. If such a thing had been done may be some of our problems would have been lessened.

The first of January of this year saw our Government with a surplus in the budget of $2,173,610, and the end of this year it is estimated that we will have a surplus of $1,748,073.

MR. JAMES M.BODDEN (CONTINUING) This is excellent and I am sure that every member of this House will agree that it took a lot of effort for this Government to get in that position. I think that we all owe respect and homage at this point to the Financial Secretary and his entire staff because without the staff probably he would not have accomplished all that he would have had. It also shows us that in 1974 we spent approximately $8.7M. The year of 1975 we are budgeting to spend approximately $14M that is quite a jump. If we are to try to control inflation which is rampant throughout the entire world not just another little country, then it is my humble opinion that Government should set the example and this proposed budget should be voluntarily reduced.

One item of particular importance to me has been to hear of the improvements at the Hospital. God knows, it was about time that we were told some good news. I am hopeful that the Minister responsible for this will be able to steer the CMO and the Administrator in the right direction, and that the Hospital and medical care will be improved and no longer will we hear empty excuses.

We have been told, according to the report from the Financial Secretary that two health clinics will be improved. I am hopeful that in this improvement, Mr.President, that it will not be necessary in 1975, God willing, for my colleague and myself from the Bodden Town district to come back here and argue the cause of the opening of the clinic in Bodden Town. We have a clinic there already and I do not believe it is necessary to spend a lot of money to have it in tip-top shape, yet, unfortunately, we are told it is impossible to staff it other than the manner in which it is now being staffed and in moreorless, decent words "take it or leave it". Mr.President, we will not be taking it, we will be coming back here and arguing that that clinic be put back in the condition in which it was before and operated in the same manner.

We hear of months going by before it is possible for a person to receive an appointment with the dentist. I truthfully cannot say whether that is true or not but if it is true certainly something should be done about it. A person with a tooth-ache is not too nice a person.

We hear of the increase of faith by the people of this Island in the hospital and the facilities, but, Mr.President, I would question that further and I would wonder whether this House could be presented with something that will show the occupancy rate this year compared to last year and whether that faith is really justified. In the past, Mr.President, it appears that the tail has wagged the dog in respect to this Department and we are hopeful that if that has happened in the past it will not be happening in the future. I am quite certain that the Minister responsible for this Department is as cognizant of all these problems as we are and that he will do everything he can to see that something is done to remedy this situation. If not, Mr.President, then we will really have to start questioning.

We see in the Education Department a staff of 173. We further hear that this is 14% of the recurrent expenditure. I personally do not consider that unusually high - I think if it was possible that we had the money it should even be higher because there is only one other thing other than a person's spiritualism that should be more important, and that is his health, but we also hear of the laxity that exists in the class-rooms. We hear of teachers having no interest in the students and at this point I must ask myself as I am sure most members of this Assembly are asking themselves to-day whether the comprehensive system is working, whether it is a system that we should pursue or whether it is a system that has completely failed us. Some-thing must be wrong in this system when in the past year with 2500 students registered in the Government schools we find

MR. JAMES M.BODDEN (CONTINUING) that we only have one student that could graduate with enough credit to go on to be accepted in an English University. If that is the best that the Cayman Islands can give we are certainly not giving our best.

I could stand here, like probably some of the other members and blame it on the kids, but I do not believe truthfully that the kids are to be blamed for all of this. I cannot belise that in the past few years the brains of the Cayman children have shrunken. I believe that it is quite possible to teach these children because if we do not teach them we must look around this hall today and most of us are climbing that ladder quite fast and we will ask ourselves where will the leaders of tomorrow come from? It is true that a lot of us assemble here have not been privileged to get a good education, but yet we have been able to meet with some medium of success in our lives. But we must realise that we are no longer in the jet age, we are in the missile age and it is going to take people with education to continue to keep this vessel on course.

One more point on that, Mr.President is that when it comes to either the principal or a deputy principal it is my humble opinion that one or the other of these posts should always be filled with a local person. By filling that position with a local person we put a person there who is quite familiar with the whims and fancies of the people. It puts them in a position where they know most of these kids and they know what might be affecting them, when they find a slow learner.

Years ago our Government spent a fair amount in the training of a particular gentleman to fill the post of Chief of the Education Department and instead of occupying that job where he could probably prove his metal to the country he has been placed in a position which is apparently of less importance and I believe that every man should follow his chosen profession.

I will stress at this point that more class room space is needed at Savannah and Bodden Town and in these two schools we also need more equipment. And I am hoping that in this near future attention will be given to these two important areas of education.

I would like to know what is being done in regards to upgrading our truancy laws and trying to enforce them. Any place on the streets of Cayman that you go today you can find school children all over the place and if this Government has to take drastic action which people may not like then it is time that we do so. These kids must be put into a place of learning whether it is an approved school or the comprehensive school or whatever it is, but these kids must not be allowed to roam our streets any longer in idleness.

The remedial studies is another point that this House should have some more information on. We should know what is being done to help these slow learners. It is not possible for every student in our school to eventually to become a professional man but we must remember that if Sir Winston Churchill had been left alone to roam the streets and had not been given may be a fifth chance at an education the world would probably have lost the greatest man other than Jesus Christ who ever trod this soil and I hope that due attention will be given to that.

We hear about the Teachers' Centre: I wonder really what this mean - I do not know, yet we are asked to vote on it. It is my humble opinion, Mr.President and Fellow Members, that the Education Department of this Island warrants an impartial investigation. It is time it is done.

MR. JAMES M.BODDEN (CONTINUING) We have heard of the glowing reports about the Radio Station. I fought the introduction of that in this same seat here and I will continue to fight it under the manner in which we are getting it because it is my humble opinion again that this country has seen its last free election and I mean that, Mr.President from the bottom of my heart, because once that radio station goes on the air we are really going to get a good snow-job, the snow will fall fastere here than it does in Alaska. This radio station should have been private ownership, linked with Government and I cannot see why this was not possible, or would not be possible when we are able to link up in so many other marriages.

We hear that Britain will foot this bill but, Mr.President, so often in this House when there is legislation that needs to be put through in a hurry such as the Cadastral law, Natural Resources Study, we hear Britain is footing the bill. And then all of a sudden, after we have been lulled to slpep we find out that we are paying for it. I have said in the past and will continue to say it that the citizens of any country should pay for its up-keep and not expect money from another country in the form of a gift. But don't tell us that we are being given some-thing and then we find out we are pay-ing for it.

I am of the opinion that this Radio Station will prove to be a constant strain and and a constant drain on the revenues of these Islands. We are probably looking at over $100,000 a year to staff and maintain this radio station and unless we embark on a terrific job of salesmanship we are not going to be able to raise that revenue from the advertising that is going to be done.

Something was said in the speech concerning the Development Plan: I do not know whether that was being said in order to build up support to change it to 1980 before it comes before this House. It has been voted in this House that that is to come before this House by June, 1975 and I do not want to hear any excuses, and I do not want to hear any more being built up as to why it has not been possible to bring it into this House on that time. But, I must remind this House that before that is brought forward that the Members of this House and the people of these Islands must be fully cognizant of everything that is in that plan. The guidelines that have been set down in that law must be followed to the letter - there can be no deviation because there is going to be no more ram-rodding of legislation of that nature.

The actions of this Board, Mr.President,have been spoken of in this House from time to time and again I speak on them because it seems to me that most of the decisions reached by this Board are partial and in saying that I do not believe I just echo my own words. It is possible for a person to know weeks in advance that a plan is going to be turned down - it does not appear that they wait and get everything that might be necessary for them to formulate an idea, but that actions are taken just as they see fit. But in doing so, Mr.President, we must consider that the present time it is necessary for the economic condition of this country to have an injection of capital. We cannot just sit idly by and hope that everything is going to be O.K.

I am of the opinion that this Law, the Department and the Board should be put into a washing machine, washed out, starched and then put on the line to dry. It seems to me like the actions of that Board are being condoned by this Government to the extent of where it echos the words of Frederick the Great, when he said "My people and myself have come to an agreement, they say what they like and I do as I please".

Social deliquency has become our biggest problem and I am sure that in saying that I will get the support of most of the Members of this House, although it comes from the Bodden Town Member. Professor Lockhead did a marvellous job in

MR. JAMES M.BODDEN (CONTINUING) pin-pointing the ills that affect our society, but, Mr.President, the implementation of that plan of that report must not in any sense be used as a political tool. Too much is at stake for the future of our country to do such a thing.

I question, at this point, who should know more about the ills that affect a community - the people that live in it and the elected members that they elect to the House, or someone else and I stand before this body here today and say that as important as this Report is to the Islands, as important at its implementation is for the good of the country in the future, that meetings have been held in the districts to try to get the groups together, try to implement policy, I understand, and as close as we are in this House with only 12 elected members, respect has not been shown to the Members to even acquaint them that the meetings were going to be held in their district. The first time we hear of it is when we pick up the Caymania and we see it. Mr.President, that is not the respect that is due to the elected members of this House and how do you expect to get our support when we are treated in such a manner. This is not going to bring the co-operation that is needed to implement this plan further. Some of us must not believe that we are Gods and sit in exalted positions.

It pains my heart to have to say this because I personally staked very much on the future growth of this country from that report and I am hopeful that in some way or the other we will each be able to participate and play a part to bring that plan to fruition. Along with that, Mr.President, I will also hope that in the very near future the Government Bench will see itself in to position that they can present to this House an adequate Social Security Bill. I hope they will not confuse this with a National Health Service Scheme.

Mr.President, when I say the following I say it with all the truth that is in my heart that I am as proud as any Caymanian can be to see the Caymanian emblem being flown on a plane. This proves to me how adaptable Caymanians can be. We were once masters of the sea and although a lot of us have left it I think at heart we still continue to be and now we find that our young men have been able to adapt to where they are also masters of the air. This is something that we all can be very proud of but in thinking of the operations of the Cayman Airline, I cannot help thinking of the story of the preacher who, having vainly attempted to collect money from his flock thanked God he had gotten his hat back. (MEMBERS - LAUGHTER).

In 1973 it did show an excellent growth earning but we must ask ourselves at this time "can this continue, particularly in the face of competition?" We must remember that we have entered a marriage that lasts for 10 years. We must stop and think. If there is slow-down in traffic or if competition really affects it who is going to pick up the slack? Is it going to be LACSA or is it going to be the Cayman Islands Government? We have been told that the surplus earnings have gone into the Government Reserve Fund. I am wondering at this time whether that Government Reserve Fund happens to be the LACSA reserve fund used to pay off our so-called indebtedness on another part of this operation.

I have said in the past and do not intend to soften my attack today that I cannot see why our Government did not enter this on its own. We have the creditability in our Government to enable Lacsa from our lease by signing a lease with them to be able to possibly buy this airplane on time. Yet we will continue to pay and pay and pay and in 10 years' time we will have probably have paid for three aircraft and we don't even own a seat-buckle on one of them.

MR. JAMES M.BODDEN (CONTINUING) I am glad that later on this meeting I will have a chance to further touch on that.

We have been told that the Port project - the cost has not yet been determined. This seems to be a typical Government contract because we were told at one time that there were guarantees that this job would cost one million dollars - how much is it going to cost now? Will we ever know?

Touching on that Department a little further - although we have gotten a fairly good road in Newlands and I would not like for the First Elected Member to Executive Council to attack me without giving him credit, because I have written him to that effect, but I am hopeful that the rest of the road building in the future will not continue along the pattern of the past. I would like to remind the Members at this time that the Bodden Town area needs a lot of road work and we are very hopful that we are going to get the blessing of that Department to have it done in the very near future.

I would also like to remind the First Elected Member to Executive Council that there is a particular stretch of road in Bodden Town known as "Cumber Avenue": this piece of road is in very bad shape and every day the Serjeant-at-Arms of this House is endangering his life by having to travel on that piece of road, so I am hoping that something will be done in the very near future to remedy that situation.

We face a large deficit of $458,655: this is large in this respect that in incurring this deficit we have also used up all of our reserves. 1974 produced revenues of $8,734,055 - I should say, anticipated, with a surplus of $1,748,073, yet we are budgeting this year to spend $13,946,578 from an income of $10,482,128, a total short-fall including the proposed raise to the Civil Service will amount to over $900,000. This is going to be quite a bit unless we are fortunate to be able to plug some more of the gap.

My colleague and myself were not in favour of the increase in the bank rates and it was not because of our particular love for these institutions but because we consider the plan was not bold and imaginative enough. We must get away from the old custom to attempting to balance our budget from items of this sort by just plugging the leaks.

Another thing I would comment on in regards to the balancing of the budget is that I am hopeful that we are not going to try to balance this budget from the ill-health of the people in this country. I will agree that the services being up-graded at the hospital it is probably necessary to increase the fees but in increasing those fees I hope that we will still have some mercy.

In regards to the transportation of children to the High School: I could agree with this, Mr.President, that the parents should bear some of this burden if it were not for the fact that we spend so much money otherwise in apparently unnecessary places. That is the main reason I could not vote to cut this out. I agree that the parents should realise and should not expect that Government can do everything but again I think that Government took it upon itself and entered this contract to do it when they built the Comprehensive system in George Town to where the students from all over the Island had to be transported away from their local localities. And in doing that I would say that the burden rests squarely on the shoulders of the Government and I do not think that 8% of the recurrent budget is too much to spend for this. We must remember that some of the students who occupy those classrooms, who ride on those buses will one day be the leaders of this country, sitting in this Assembly and talking foolishness like we all do.

MR. JAMES M.BODDEN (CONTINUING) The licence fee on the insurance companies is a good thing and I must compliment the Executive Council for bringing such a thing forward. In thinking of this I hope that they did not copy it completely from our manifesto. But we must think further than this - I hope that in doing this that they will go much further and try to control the collection and the liquidity which go along with these insurance companies. We have had cases in the past where insurance companies have collected money over a period of years in this country and people thought they were heavily insured and all of a sudden we were told "Sorry, there is no money, the company is out of business". This can be controlled if we set up a fund that we have discussed on our platform in the past where this money stays, a certain amount of it, in Government hands, and a certain amount of it invested locally. At least there will be something for the poor person to get back.

I was again very pleased to see the favourable mention that was made in regards to the ships registration bill. In hearing those remarks I am sure that when my colleague and myself later on in this sitting put our motion forward that it will receive the unanimous support of this House - I cannot see how it can be otherwise at this point. But at this point, Mr.President, I cannot help but think that this was injected to upstage my colleague and myself because our motion on this was tabled to this House at least three months ago, so there was plenty of notice that we would be bringing this forward.

We hear of an increase in the strength of the Civil Service to another 25 per cent. I personally am pleased to know that the staff of the Civil Service branch that the calibre of it has been improved, that it is now more efficient and more capable. I think, again, this will bear out the words of my colleague and myself when we have so many times said that if we pay for it we will get it.

Mr.President, we could not have enjoyed the economic boom in our country that we have enjoyed in the past few years if it had not been for the help of the Mosquito Research in its eradication of mosquitoes because those of us who lived here years ago really know what a menace they were, but this time we find that in the budget there is a sum of $439,291 for the Mosquito Research and hidden in a couple of other expenditures are $223,000 and another figure of $30,644. This is quite a large amount of money and I do not know whether members in the other districts of this Island have been as privileged as I have been in the last few months to have enjoyed the mosquito-bites again and I do not know what has caused it but I will say at this time that we always bring in experts to check on things and it is my humble opinion that now would be a good time to bring in an expert to check an expert.

The Cadastral Survey - we find it is costing us $160,000. We find the Natural Resources Study costing us $32,912 These were services that originally were supposed to cost us nothing. I am sure they will both play an important part on the future of our country but at this point, Mr.President, I would like to inject a sour note and that is if the Cadastral System is to survive and to be the fair system it was supposed to be then we cannot have a change in the interpretation of that law. Whatever was good for one end of this island must be good for the other and if we are going to get re-interpretations of this law, well, I stand before you here to tell you today that t here will be trouble when it comes to the Bodden Town district, because we have the support of our people on this stand, and if there is any thought in the Members' minds that common law is not going to prevailing in regards to the titles there as it has done in the other districts, well then that thought had better be eradicated like the mosquitoes today, because, Mr.

MR. JAMES M.BODDEN (CONTINUING) President, it will not be tolerated.

I would like to touch on one other item at this point, Mr.President, in regards to the Cadastral Survey. Under the Cadastral Survey system a lot of old documents will now be in the hands of Government and you may think that what I will be saying now will be just be plain foolishness but on those documents, Mr. President, we have stamps that are probably, some of them, 75 years old and as a collector of stamps myself I can appreciate the value of such thing and Government should take immediate steps to ensure that every document that comes in those stamps are preserved because I could venture to say that in a very short time the value of those old historic stamps would far exceed the money that has been spent on cadastral, and I am hoping that those documents will not be left idly sitting around to where any Tom, Dick, or Harry could take those stamps off. And if it is necessary for this Government to implement a law to make it legal for us to take those stamps off and still let the documents be legal then I think we should do so because it is going to provide quite a bit of revenue in the future for our country.

I would like, at this point, to touch on another item that could be helpful to Government and that is in the field of Work Permits. If our Work Permit system continues as it is at present I am hopeful that in the near future a policy will be set down by Government to where an employer bringing in an employee will have to post a cash bond with Government. Now this is necessary Mr.President, for two reasons - it gives Government a fairly large amount of cheap money to work with - it is true, eventually you will pay it back but you will not be paying any interest on it. The next thing is it ensures the poor person in subjection that when it is time for him to leave the island the money will be there for him to go with and he will not be a drain on the coffers of this country or having to beg his way back to his home. I am hoping that that will be considered and will be implemented.

We have an expenditure of $440,725 for the Tourist Board. I leave it to the good intelligence of the Fourth Elected Member to Executive Council to determine with us, head to head as we go into the debate, whether that is necessary. If it is if he can prove his point, I can assure him he will have my full support, but I would like to remind him of one thing before we get into that debate and that is we were promised a detailed break-down of expenditures connected with the Tourist Board and if I read that lengthy book right, I do not think it has been done.

We have a figure in the budget of $8,000 for Poor Relief: Now, Mr.President, I ask the Members of this House to search their consciences good - how much relief, in this day and time can we give with $8,000? It is time that Government present a bill to this house that will take care of these discrepancies, will increase the vote and will make some of the older people who still inhabit this country live a few days of their life with a little bit of pleasure. They were the people who set the corner stone of this country to work on and today we offer them a pittance. I do not believe in socialism in any respect but I believe that we must take care of our people who happen to be less fortunate than ourselves. We must remember the words of the Bible that are so often quoted here by our worthy Second Elected Member from West Bay, and th Bible tells us "that the poor will be with us always".

We have a figure of $2500 for Child Care and Protection. Now this is a very small amount, I am sure that nobody will try to cut it down but I have to ask for someone to enlighten me because I do not know really what will be done with this. I do not know what's expected to accomplish with $2500.

MR. JAMES M.BODDEN (CONTINUING) At this point, I would touch on the Police Force. I am very pleased to see that recently the Police Force has attracted quite a few of our young men to it and if I have to blow the bugle for my colleague and myself I feel that we were instrumental, very much, in getting this done. Because we would never get a Police Force with the pay that they were getting before, and this was the first thing that we attacked as we came into the House, because we realise that if we are to maintain the stability, if we are to maintain everything that is good and proper for this country then we must have adequate law enforcement.

I am very pleased to have recently heard an experienced man in crime detection say that our local CID force was nearly as good as what they have in certain branches in the United States, but, in saying this I hope they will not rest on their laurels and I am hopeful that the drug enforcement will continue and continue with much more effort than has been put into it in the past. If there ever was an ill that should be eradicated from a community or a society that is one.

I also hope that in the future special attention will be paid by the Police Department in regards to the traffic section. This is a Department I feel, Mr.President, that could actually be improved. I do not wish to touch on this too much because I realise this is a department over which you have direct control. But I could not leave this without touching on one more thing. This House has been considering the securing of a Police launch, we have questioned it in this House on several occasions and I think there is a token figure in the budget this year for us to vote on. Frankly, I will vote against it. I have heard many rumours on this, Mr.President, and I cannot agree, if they are correct, that we should be foolish enough, living in an island like this, to buy a 31-foot cabin-type cruiser to use as a patrol boat and a rescue launch which we will probably have to use it for in the future. It is time that we think - we do not need to bring in an expert from abroad to tell us about this because nearly every able-bodied Caymanian man has been a seaman and he knows what is to be encountered at sea and it is no use of us spending this money to get this craft and in a few months' time we get a distress signal here "there's a boat sinking 30 miles off or 20 miles off" and when we get back on the radio we say "I'm sorry, we can't do anything about it as our little criss-craft will only go up the pond". It is time that we get at least a 65 or a 75 foot steel-hull, fully-equipped boat - it will not cost us that amount of money. We would probably get by a lot cheaper than if we bought the pleasure craft.

We see quite an expenditure in the budget on Telegrams and Electricity and it is all grouped together. I have to question at this point whether the cabinet is paying subservience at this point to Caribbean Utilities Company. I am hopeful that in the future Government Directors on these boards will realise that they are put there not only to protect their own investment but to protect the good and well-being of every citizen in this country. This is something that must be done.

In the budget we have another blank cheque in the form of a $10 token fee for CAL - I do not know the reason for putting this here but I am here to tell you personally it will receive no vote from me. If CAL cannot operate on what its getting now then I am afraid it will not operate with the $10 that I will vote for it.

I cannot agree, Mr.President, with voting $100,000 for the printing of the Planning Report and Law until the Members of this House have had the right and the privilege to see everything pertaining to that proposed Development Plan. What is the use of us voting $100,000 and spending it to put together some other man's idea

MR. JAMES M.BODDEN (CONTINUING) into print and circulate them around and then we come back into this House and with a very remote possibility, it could be turned down. I say remote, Mr. President because we all realise that it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye than to mount effective opposition in this House.

One point in the budget that disturbs me again is number 16 under Head 21. the Police Department, where we are told that Executive Council has approved an expenditure of $300,000 for Police Development. We have not been told what this will cover and I put it to the Members of this House that, whether that was a typographical error or not it is incorrect and unconstitutional, because Executive Council can only recommend - they cannot approve. For an approval of an expenditure it must come before this House and have the democratic vote put on it.

I further I would like to remind the Fourth Elected Member (I am sorry, he is gone) that it is necessary in this budget to have an increase and that is for the Savannah Cemetery. I notice there is a large vote in it for two other cemeteries and I support it 100% and I am glad to know they are getting it, but I also wish him to know that I have spent some time with him on this particular subject and money must be allocated in this budget for the Savannah cemetery,

And I notice that we have a fee of $5,000 for the renovation of the Town Hall. I am hopeful that somewhere in that $5,000 figure a certain amount of it may be - $4,000 of it is allocated for Bodden Town Town Hall, because Mr.President, it would take nearly that amount to put the chairs in there that are needed because you have visited our Town Hall and you have seen the type of chairs that we have.

Another item that will have to be taken care of, and I think again this falls under the auspices of the Fourth Elected Member is the channels at Bodden Town, into the reef. I spoke with him about this on several occasions this past year and was always told that there was no money to do it. Now we are getting money and it must be put in.

Iwould recommend that serious consideration be given by this House to decreasing the New Service because in my opinion it appears to be too much. Mr.President, I cannot help but touch on the following item as it was touched on by the Financial Secretary and I speak in regards to the mention he made of the previous Governor. I can assure this House that I thank God he's gone, and Mr.President, I hope that you will not walk in his footsteps or his shadow. I do not believe you will because I frankly I am very pleased to have seen the way that you have conducted business since you have been in this Island and I am a man that very seldom gives compliments, Sir.

I would remind members of this House, particularly my colleagues on the other side of a recent passage in a book I read and it says "As for Murmurs' mother, we grumble a little now and then to be sure, but there is no love lost between this empty aisle". Now these were the words of another Parliamentarian - I cannot claimed to have coined it.

The Honourable Second Elected Representative from West Bay and myself agree on very few things but I support one idea that he has put forward here this morning and that is that if we could coincide the opening of our Administration Building with a visit of Her Majesty the Queen, I think that this is the most important thing that could ever be done for this territory and, Mr.President, I am hopeful and again I speak bluntly that if she can give Jamaica the respect to go there when she is an independent country at this stage that she will be willing

MR. JAMES M.BODDEN (CONTINUING)" to extend her visit to her little Crown Colony of Grand Cayman. I would be very pleased to see this and you can tell her that if ever we needed it it is now.

Mr.President, I am very proud to be a part of this Legislature and I am even more proud to be able to stand here and make my simple contribution. I am very cognizant of the fact that we have a wonderful country and although we grumble now and then the outside world must realise that when we have to unit together we will and when it is for the good of our country we are no longer enemies but friends. I hope that that will be put in the press. Because, Mr.President, it is a bad country when you have no opposition. It is a bad country when you have legislative membems that cannot take their democratic rights in hand and stand up for what they believe. And, Mr.President, in my life I 've always believed in one thing - if I must choose between peace and righteousness, I choose righteousness. Thank you, Sir.

AT 12.55 P.M. THE HOUSE WAS SUSPENDED UNTIL 2.30 P.M.

THE HOUSE RESUMED AT 2.30 P.M.

HON. TREVOR FOSTER: Mr.President, Honourable Members, it seems as if the other side has burnt us out after lunch. I cannot understand why some of our speakers there didn't get up and continue the debate as was so well started from Friday. Nevertheless, we shall keep the fires going and I am certain that after a few of us speak we are going to hear some more speaches from members.

Mr.President, I would first like to congratulate the Honourable the Financial Secretary on his budget speech. It has been a very comprehensive speech. I am certain that a lot of thought and time has been put into it and the document deserves a lot of credit. One must also bear in mind the many other jobs which the Honourable Financial Secretary has under his office, therefore he deserves congratulation on a speech such as this.

Mr.President, in his speech a statement was made which I thought all Caymanians should be very proud of and this is the high standard of living which these Islands havebeen enjoying. We should realise that there are many areas in the world which are less fortunate, however, we should pay our gratitude to our predecessors for having set this foundation and in turn we must do everything that is possible to build successfully on the foundation.

Mr.President, I must agree that political stability has benn our success, particularly in the two major fields in our development which is the tax haven and tourism. I also would like to add that if our success in the Islands is to continue this state of affairs must continue - political stability. We have as good examples many islands throughout the Caribbean that have faltered on account of this. I do not say that the Cayman Islands have everything in common to offer the visitor - I think the two major things which we have to offer which makes it a have for them is our political stability and the friendliness of our people. If this, should we say, is torn apart you will find that our success in these two fields will also diminish.

It is very encouraging to know that thus far it has been an increase in both of these areas of our development, but we have to seriously bear in mind that during this world-wide crisis of inflation, of our oil crisis, that at any time we could enjoy a slump. Another factor to remember is that if it becomes a reality and Cuba is opened again our tourist trade will, no doubt, have a bit of a problem.

Mr.President, many members in their speech thus far have spoken about the budget, particularly in the Department of Tourism. Needless to say that in our modern age it pays to advertise I can well agree that our budget seems somewhat large over last year

HON. TREVOR FOSTER (CONTINUING) however I think it calls for more advertising instead of relaxing that media. I think that this Department is going to have to stress harder than ever on advertising. Not everything in this field is comparable to the outside competition that we are receiving. It was just this morning that someone was mentioning that from Chicago to Jamaica is cheaper than from Chicago to Cayman. This particular field is one that is very touchy and I think that it is with this problem in mind the Department has been trying to foresee the problem and it is evident thats the reason why this budget is somewhat larger than it was of 1974, and I would say to Members, with my limited knowledge of it, it is no time to relax this media in the tourism trade. It has come and it can go - it is one of our main development and I think we should stress every means within this Government to keep this going.

It is very interesting to know the difference between 1974 budget and 1975. Mr.President, it has been much said here regarding the increase. The budget might look above our means I doubt very much having known our Financial Secretary he would have recommended such a budget if he was anyway afraid of us not being able to finance this in the slightest. But one part of Members' speeches that I cannot exactly figure out, Mr.President, is that in sometimes of the year in meetings all members are soliciting various funds for projects to be done within their districts. I happen to know that their answer to their constituents' problems is the physical action that takes place within that district for the year, and Mr. President, needless to say that before you have the physical action you have to have the financial action. I cannot help but think if the politician thinking correctly that he is only digging his own grave if he is not suggesting that funds should be supplied for his various projects. I am quite aware that it can be overdone, but Mr.President I fail to see how this budget could really overdo our financial position.

There is also another measure that no doubt the Financial Secretary takes as the year goes on that finances are released quarterly and I can, no doubt, suggest with a feeling that this will be done if the financial position as the year goes on is not rosy, well, naturally some of these allocations will be cut accordingly.

On the other hand, Mr.President, Government has an obligation to the people of these Islands - we must keep Government machinery up-to-date - we have to try to keep it as close to par with the private sector as is financially possible, which is not always possible, but we , the representatives of the constituencies are the first people to say to Government "we have to get certain things done.

Mr.President, this can only be done if the money is allocated to do such. It might be fine for members to realise when speaking of their constituency as is used here in many speeches, keeping them informed,etc. but that physical action is what the members of the constituencies see as political success. It is fine, but I would assure members, as far as I am concerned, if I could only have a successful political debate and without being success financial action in my constituency I don't think that I would be here on another term. So regardless, one has to bear in mind that we have to fulfill our obligations to our people.

Mr.President, the Financial Secretary has mentioned that Government is going to take a strong look into the agricultural department, particularly in livestock. I think that this is one of the best fields that Government could move into in the coming year - it is very needed within our Islands, particularly as the United States is not enjoying the very best economic position at present with the Islands that we have to import everything, it is

HON. TREVOR FOSTER (CONTINUING) very needed that we try to mobilise what resources we have into this field and see if we cannot start producing some of our own needs.

I think although the terrain within the Islands is not the best for this type of project, but I do feel that with scientific know-how we can go a far way in supplying some of these needs. It is going to take a drawn-out effort, I am certain, but I think it can be successful.

At present the head of our Agricultural Department is drawing up a scheme for livestock, particularly, for the Brac which we hope will be able to work. I think that the land is there, I think that it is a matter of grouping the land and the owners along with the people who will take out the every-day work and I think it can be very successful ultimately, and I am certain that Government help is going to be needed. I think that Government will be in a position if they can assist the cattle-owners in various measures and I think that this could be a great achievement, not only for the smaller Islands but also for the larger islands, bearing in mind if we can bring about a surplus this is evident where it could come for sale. I feel certain that members will give every support into this Department.

One member stated that this year's budget reflected collective decisions. I would hope that every member is glad that it reflected collective decisions, after all, I think this is the reason we were elected by these members to bring about their representation within Government.

Mr.President, I can understand that the opinion of four members which have been elected to the Executive Council does not necessarily show the opinion of eight more. Nevertheless, it should be borne in mind that this is our job. to represent to Government the needs of the various districts try to fulfill as many of these as is possible and see that during the year they are implemented. I can only say that if the collective decisions have been shown in the budget its evident that they are the projects for the various districts. If the money is cut, needless to say that the development will be cut. However, Mr.President, I notice by the statements made from members that have spoken in this very meeting they are suggesting to Government things that should be done. Should I say this is in addition to what has already been allocated for in the 1975 Estimates? If we go according to that reason, the budget will increase and on the other hand it has been stated that the budget should decrease. Now, it looks to me that we have to get our perspective right. Are we in here representing our constituency to try to get stuff for them or just what are we doing?

Mr.President, it takes money to get this done and I would humbly suggest to members that if these projects are not allocated for they will not be done and I would also suggest that their objectives will have been dumped along the way.

Mr.President, at times we have to add a little bit of humour to our debate. A Member stated regarding the cost of the Broadcasting system that he is not very excited about the inauguration of this project, he even went as far as to state, Sir, that the days of free election could be over - that the snow would be falling and no doubt placed to the individual's credit. I am not one to pick a cap and see if it fits so I could very well leave this alone, but I cannot accept who else it would better fit particularly in the 1976 election but the Four Elected Members to Executive Council. Mr.President, I don't think we have time for that, Sir, I think we can build our own snow-pile in our individual districts but nevertheless I would also like to say that this Broadcasting system would be too late for this election, Sir.

HON.TREVOR FOSTER(CONTINUING) This election has started right after the last one so that Boardcasting system would be of no earthly help for this one.

Mr.President, a member made a statement and I quite agree with him that we are trying to work together although we disagree in many cases for the betterment of Caymanians. I agree also, Sir. Sometimes we tend to go down different highways and I would ask members to accept this budget in the same manner. We may have priorities different but the same objective is within our minds.

Mr.President, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman which I represent thus far this year Government has injected money into various projects to help the economy which has been of mutual benefit to the two Islands. It has been done in a manner so that the people have seen it - they have seen the physical action within their district and it is our intention to do likewise for the coming year. However, I dont want Members to believe that neither of the two members are fully satisfied with what we are getting - I don't think that day will ever come, I don't think that day will come for any representative, because if it does its a sure sign that your people are not going to be continuously satisfied. You have to keep pushing you might even have to push for things that you know the very best is being done, but you still want more. A person that becomes satisfied in his own doings has lost his ambitions. Politically, we are never satisfied. We can only look forward to, as the Financial Secretary stated in his speech that as the months,as the years go on that other types of small industries might in the process of searching for good ground to set up its organisation might find Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. I cannot help but think that this is the ultimate answer for them, some type of light industry. I think it will be forthcoming. There's been a lot of talk of oil storage tank in Little Cayman. I wish it was possible for me to say at this point that it is a reality - however, I am not able to say so. One only can keep his fingers crossed and hope that it could develop to be just that. I do happen to know that it is still of paramount importance to the promoters and I believe that they are trying to do everyting to implement this project. However, a project of this size takes a lot of thought, a lot of consideration and last, but not least, a lot of money which is a hard problem at this stage of the world financial crisis. Nevertheless, we cano only hope for the best, But again like last year Government is endeavouring to place in its priorities as far as development is concerned, projects that will give labour to the various forces in the Brac and Little Cayman and keep the fire agoing until a more successful project is brought into being.

Mr.President, a lot has been said about the Financial Secretary's speech. I guess by my nature I like to be brief. One member said she likes six-footers therefore I am trying to curb my speech according to my physical size. Nevertheless I can only say to members that Government has tried to do everything within their ability, to implement the needed projects within the Islands, to keep Government machinery partially up-to-date. We have the Finance Committee ahead of us and I am certain that not only the speech but the estimates will be torn asunder. I sincerely hope that we are able to put the pieces back together and in turn make successful year.

The problems that Government each month tends to try to find a solution for have not been easy. It is quite easy for members to give us the problems, but the answer is another problem. And I would like to remind them, Mr.President, that without money to implement and make their problems right the members on Executive Council are at a loss. I can assure members that we have tried to do our best. Needless to say we all have faults, but I think without really trying to pat our own backs let us put it very simply - you could have elected worse than us. I can assure you that I personally

HON. TREVOR FOSTER (CONTINUING) have tried to cooperate and help in any manner that I could. It is my intention to do so in the future and I believe I can speak for the other three members that they have done likewise. Mr.President, Honourable Members, thank you very much.

MR.PRESIDENT: Honourable Members, I must remind you that if there are no further speakers I will have to ask the Honourable Financial Secretary to wind up the debate.

CAPT. A.A.REID: Don't make me laugh and forget what I have to say.

Mr.President and Honourable Members,of this Honourable House, I hope it will remain honourable always,we have listened to a lot of rhetoric on this budget and I don't propose to give you too much, I'll leave some of my breath for the tearing to pieces of it or getting what we want out of it for Cayman Brac, but I know we all should express our opinion here as well.

Now, I don't want to be considered one who preaches doom but I feel that I would be lacking in my duty if I didn't express some concern over this budget. I don;t think that we can go on increasing the budget by two million dollars every year - I think it is ludicrous for us to hope that we will be in that position next year when we think that North America, one of the three richest countries in the world, is going through a depression and that is where a lot of our money comes from, and Canada, of course.

We have today in this world,the three richest countries that I know of, according to what I read, Australia is self-sufficient, it needs nothing from anybody else, it exports. It has not got to import anything except may be some luxuries from France and good old whisky from England, wines and champagne from France, but they are self-sufficient, they have all the raw material in the world, everything that they need and they export it. America is short of bauxite, America is short of some other material, short of steel now. Canada is self-sufficient, but the three of them, together, all three of them can feed themselves. No other country in the world can feed themselves, except Australia, America and Canada. They grow, they produce everything that man needs to eat. Russia can't do it, nor China, nor India, so when we hear that they have a depression and you read about the many building companies, or contractors who are going broke, can't meet their bills, can't meet their obligations, their condominiums are being closed down. It is not a question of not having use for them, it is not a question of them not needing them, but the people haven't got the money to rent them or to buy them. Now a good lot of our money comes from American and Canadian tourism and if they haven't got money to spend, to buy new condomimiums or to buy apartments or to rent apartments, they are not going to have money to come here to spree - its bound to be cut down, this very year we are bound to see some of it, and it may not be in this season coming up in the next two months, but I can assure you that if this trend keeps up in America we are bound to feel it severely next year and we are going to feel it for one, tourism, its not only the two dollars per head that we may get from the 60,000 but it is the volume of food they consume which pays 20% duties to the coffers of this Government. And land sales are bound to drop off, if they have that depression and they are going through the depression.

Ford, you can buy a Ford car or chevrolet car today for $900 less than the 1975 is coming out for, they were prices $500 more than the 1974, but you can buy them for $900, a new 1974 car today for $900 less than the 1975 and there are still a lot

CAPT. A. A. REID (CONTINUING): of them to be sold, so they are in a depression which is bound to reach us eventually, so I wouldn't hold out any hope to see our vudget going up $18Mnext year - last year it was $14M with the borrowed money. It would be, as I said, ludicrous for us to expect even to see $10M revenue next year, in my opinion.

Now a lot of criticism has been levelled at the hospital. I, for one, don't agree with that - I think we'ver been lucky to have such good doctors as we have, and he is a human being too, you must expect him to go out on a party once in a while, or to be at home sleeping. You can't expect him to sit around waiting for somebody to have an accident on the West Bay road to be there, to save his life immediately.But I wonder how many of or people ever stop to think about this doctor who has taken from 5 to seven years to train for his course and to think how lucky we are that we can hold them here for the kind of salary I see them getting - you couldn't hold me for it.

Judges and other professional men - in my opinion, when you talk about raising salary there is not enough disparity between that type of qualified man and the others - I see ordinary people who might have gone to a university, but surely they didn't have that course and they are drawing nearly the same wages as the highest paid man in our service. So when people get up there to talk about the doctors and criticise them for not being on duty at any particular time, I think they ought to be careful what they say about those doctors. I would be.

Now on the subject of agriculture, I am very glad to see that you have a vetand I think that a lot can be done with agriculture, if the people weren't too lazy to do it. Now we have a lot of old men in Cayman Brac who are too old to get up on the Bluff, but I am hoping that when we get that road up there that those fellows will go back to the bluff where the soil is best - its the best in the country. We have about 5 miles, may be six miles on the Eastern end of the island that is perfectly good soil, that can grow anything and I remember when we used to ship yams out to the Canal Zone, when that was being built to feed the West Indian labourers out there, by the hundreds of tons. Many, many schooners left every year with a hundred tons each for consumption in the Canal Zone and they used to ship it here too, they used to ship food to this country. And I think that can come back - I think that Cayman Brac is the one hope where agriculture is concerned and I think we should concentrate on it and I think that, and in fact I am going to see to it, I am going to fight for it with all my little political power for that road to be, not only across the Island, but to go East to the Light House, go through the centre of the land and that is when we may do something with agriculture. I don't see any depth of soil in this country, to do much, but I know it: can be done in Cayman Brac. And I hope the Members will agree with me. I think it is a good investment for the country and looking at it from a business point of view, I think it would pay off.

Another source of income we could count on would be fines for escess driving - I think we could make quite a pot of money if the traffic cops would get out there and catch those fellows on the West Bay road. I am told, and I believe it is true that if a poor lady or a good citizen drives out on Walker's Road at 28 miles an hour they nab her and put her in the calaboosh until she pays up her fine, but I know that last night,for one, I heard cars roaring past my house in a procession that never ended - it went on and on,worse than the Member speaking last week - it just kept on going until 2.30 this morning and I am sure those cars are making 90 miles an hour. Now I live exactly 810 feet away from the road and it kept me awake, so I think that all we need there is a good stiff Judge who hasn't got any sympathy for people who drive at 90 miles an hour and give him the maximum instead of the minimum fine and we may collect a million dollars there.

CAPT. A. A. REID (CONTINUING) I wasn't prepared for this speech yet but these fellows forced me into it.

It was somewhat gratifying for me to hear my friend over here, the First Elected Member for Bodden Town criticising the Planning Board - The Caymanian Protection Board - well, its all one, they are both in one glove and especially after he refused to vote for me when I was asking for a simple thing like hearing in public or not in public, but if any particular man was concerned with an issue that he could sit in and hear who was against him and who was not. I don't think its ing a good job - I don't think its needed, not to that extent - I really don't and we may well find the day when we would be glad and may be not too far away, when we should be glad for some of these would-be investors to come back here and invest money. I know that we need things to make us a little more sophis ated, and we've got to have foreign capital, For instance, a good shopping centre on the West Bay road is a dire necessity - we are catering to the tourist trade - with a good, well established drug store where one could go and get snacks in a decent manner, reasonably cheap and a soda fountain on the American-style, the Walgreen-drug-store-style and supply the country with drugs at a reasonable rate. Here we have one drug store in the country, everything in it is about three times the cost anywhere else, and yet there is no one in Cayman (I am getting too old to fool with that sort of thing now), there is nobody in Cayman to do it, but we have the ideal spot of land for it and I have someone interested, but I am not going to front for anybody and I don't want 60% in it - so there you are - that's where we're left. It annoys me - it will only annoy me a little more to go up to the Board to argue the case - so I am just going to forget it - because at my age, I am not out for getting involved in too much, but I know it's necessary and I would love to see it - it would help improve things - improve the country - give us a little more sophistication.

Now there is something so unreasonable about it, because every man on that Board knows whos who and whats what in this country- they know who is interested in building a hotel - they know who is interested in building an apartment-house, but yet when someone is willing to go into a venture like that, "Oh, you must go out and get 60% Caymanian" or get the refusal and that is the annoying part of it. From the time I came back to this country to live, I was visiting here qu often from 1948 when I started bringing the asphalt for the Airport - I began to preach a sermon about who you let into the country. That has been a pet subject of mine - but I am not going any further with that - I am leaving that to the other people now, but I also spoke many times on the subject of our water-table. but the minute you open you mouth here 'Oh, he doesnt like Norberg". You know it annoys me to know how stupid some people can be. You speak about something that is so essential to the health of the country, to the health of the tourist coming here, because one epidemic and everything is ruined. Now in the last 10 years, last 8 years I would say , houses have been built in southern George Town by the gross, within 25 feet of each other - 15 feet may be, from one side of the fence to the other, but certainly with ceptic tanks not more than 50 feet away from a well they are drinking water from, and advertised in the paper weekly, not now, because I stopped that,"a good flow of water - drink sweet water" - well, sweet e ence yes, The only thing that has saved the country so far is that lime-stone seems to be the world's best filter.

Now, I don't know what we are proposing to do about this water table, but I see that as far more essential to us than roads, than wide roads and barber green roads to make one hundred miles an hour on and those half drunk youngsters to kill themselves on. I think that our water is one of the most

CAPT. A. A. REID: important things today and it was years before we got them to even build a cistern down there, in fact I dont think all of them are building cisterns even now but I know of one case in that area between Portuguese Point and let us Dr. Roy's - I'm not naming anything but a house was erected with a pit not even a concrete block septic tank, but a pit dug in the earth and I was told by someone whom I believe to be truthful that that was not the only one - there was quite a few of them. Yet when you get up here and speak about these things some of them will think you have it in for somebody - I haven't got it in for anybody - I speak my mind when I think the country's interest is at stake, but there's no personal animosity. But I believe everyone knows how serious it would be if we ever had an out-break of typhoid fever and that's certainly not impossible. Ten years ago when we had 6,000 people in this country it didn't matter so much - the well were probably 200 feet away from the septic tank or whatever they had but today it is a different story - they're getting very dense.

Now, I am very glad to see in the budget that a fair amount of money is spent on the school - in fact it is slightly higher than anything else. Next to that, I think, is planning development. But I'm wondering if everything that should be done is being done. No doubt the member for Education has done his best - he has been there a very short time but it is so vital to us that I felt I had to mention it, today. I believe that he may have to give consideration to a block to take care of backward and retarded children, because I am convinced that there are a lot of children in that school that are holding back the brighter and better-off ones. When I say better-off, I mean academically, I am not talking about their pocket - I don't know anything about that. But I know for certain, I've been to school too, and whenever you get a couple of backward children in a class they hold back the others - without doubt, and I believe that you have many of them, and I think that something will have to be done there. And unfortunately, I don't believe the boys are taking the interest that they should take and I don't know who can remedy that. I think they'd rather spend their time drinking beer - some of them. Its a pity, though, because they have got a good school-house and they have got some good teachers - a few that I know and I think if they made the best of it and got even the education they can get there, I'd say; studied, took courses afterwards and read something, but I sometimes wonder when you hear them talk if they ever read anything, or if they've ever read anything. It is so essential and yet it seems to me that the parents are to be blamed for a lot of it too - for I've been told that on one or two occasions when a child was chastised, the mother and father too, I think, went there and blasted off the teacher. It was too bad I hadn't been the teacher!

I remember once I was playing cricket, it was the only game we played and we played it immediately we stuffed that sandwich down in recess and we started to play cricket and I never heard the bell. And then we got in an argument, me and a boy, the fellow's name was Jonny Gozelle - he's in America now - and we had a fight and I was on top of him, giving him a good pounding when my teacher came down on me with a rule that my father, mind you, my father had made it from yellow oak - and when he hit me I thought the world had come to an end. I went home and told my old man that the teacher had given me a blow thatI'll never forget and you know what he said, I've never really forgotten it, every time I see an oakrule I remember that lick - he said "I bet you deserved it". That was the comfort I got from him. But imagine mothers and fathers going to a school to tell a teacher "You don't beat my child". I wonder what's wrong with our people.

Now I know there must have been some radical change in things when I hear them grousing about the things they grouse

CAPT. A.A.REID (CONTINUING) about, because the bunch that I grew up with, who unfortunately are nearly all in America today, they never broke any laws - they never wanted to break the law - and they wanted to get everything out of life that they could get in the right way. Believe it or not, they went to church too - I belong to the Baptist Church, so its not only these people here that go to church - people in Cayman Brac and Little Cayman go too. But our church washed down in a hurricane.

To hear of theft or to hear of anybody being drunk - it was unheard of - we never had that to contend with. People were well-behaved, the only thing they ever fought over was a game of cricket.

Mr.President, everybody wants more and everybody wants more every year. I know and I'm sure I'm right when I say this, that this is the second time we have increased the banks franchise, or their fee, whatever you call it and certainly we can;t go back under another five years and attack them, because they could well say "What's wrong with these people - they look like they think we are the only people who should pay taxation". So if our people expect all these luxuries, if they expect all these amenities, they must expect to pay for them, and I'm afraid the next issue of taxation must come hearer home. I wonder how many of our people really appreciate what we have? These business people - they do as they like - they charge as they like (most of them) and think of it, they pay 20%. Its the smallest duty paid in the world - I dont know of any country that pays a 20% duty - most of the Caribbean is paying 50 and 55 per cent duty - a duty on a motor car is something like - well a Volkswagen sells for about $4,000 in some or most of the other Islands - then the income tax man never bothers them - they dont have to open up their books to the income tax man.

Some years ago, it was six months before we got rid of the income tax man. When I was n't up there my secretary was there, when I wasn't up, she wasn't up, but he was in the office. But these fellows haven't got that to contend with - they are so lucky and everybody will tell you "Oh,the Government should do this, the Government should give us this, and the Government should give that"... but you wait till you increase taxes or increase duties and you will hear a squacking the other way. For instance, I am driving a big American car, for $24 a year - I paid $84 on that in Jamaica, same as I paid $36 on the Volkswagen in Jamaica, so let's hope that when they ask for all these good things that they expect - I don't know who they think the Government is because the Government is the people, the people finance it, the people's money. The Government doesn't have any mint and we can't make money from paper without having the backing.

Last year our budget had 183 pages, this year its got 190 - its going up all the time and that's seven pages of beaureaucracy - that's what it is, but that's the price you pay for all these things you want, because when you want water you got to get an expert to tell you you need water - now think of it - I never needed any expert to tell me we needed water- I told them that when I came here and that was expert enough, but everytime we want somethhing we've got to get an expert to tell us we want it, or how to get it.

One member mentioned Mosquito Research and I really think that is one of the most efficient bodies in the country and at least you can live here now with some amount of pleasure and I have nothing but good to say of them. I think they are doing a wonderful job but I don't think they are God Almighty and I don't think that they have to come into our life completely. For instance, I don't think we need them to tell us whether we can fill a swamp or not. I don't think we need any ecologist to tell us

CAPT. A.A.REID (CONTINUING) whether we can fill a swamp or not, that's all ballyhoo, because Im sure Bermuda wouldn't swap one square mile of her land with us for all the swamp that we have and if we didn't have the swamps I'm sure we wouldn't create them, and I'm sure that we'll never completely eradicate the mosquitoes until, at least, that West Bay swamp is filled. You may believe it or not, but you will see- time will tell you, you will kill them and they will come back and you'll kill them and they'll come back and then you will re quire a different insecticide and it'll go on that way- they're less, its true, one breed of them might die out but some will never and our swamps will never be any value to us and the fish out off my place, where there is 17 feet of water are bigger and better than ever they were. So there's no question -it has not hurt the ecology. And you can fish in Governor's harbour today and you will find bigger snappers and mangros whan ever - so its all nonsense they tell you about the mud taking six years to settle. I've never seen it take three or four days in my life andI've spent a lot of my time in the Caribbean.

I don't think I will go on any further, Mr President, I'm going to leave it to my worthy friend on my left to finish up the evening - Im sure he's capable. Thank you, Sir.

MR.JOHN D.JEFFERSON: Mr President, I'd like to ask the Member to clear up one thing that he left hanging - he said his church was washed out from a hurricane - does he intend to raise it up - we want to know about that.

CAPT.A.A.REID: Honourable Members, my countrymen, all the members of that church are in Texas. (MEMBERS - LAUGHTER)

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: Mr.President, in view of the fact that it is possiblethat if the debate goes on we might close this afternoon before certain members had an opportunity of speaking. I wonder if I could make a motion that we suspend the debate on the Financial Statement and have the other Government Business concluded this afternoon.

SECONDED BY HON:D.V.WATLER.

MR.PRESIDENT: Its been moved under Standing Order 23 (6) that this debate be adjourned so that members can proceed with the debate tomorrow, some of the members being absent. The question is open for debate. If there is no debate I shall put the question.

QUESTION PUT: AYES.

MR.President: The ayes have it and the debate will consequently be adjourned and we turn to Item 2 Government Business third reading of two Bills.

CLERK: THE BANKS AND TRUST COMPANIES REGULATION (AMENDMENT) LAW, 1974 THIRD READING

Moved by Hon. V.G.Johnson
Seconded by Hon. D.V.Watler.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. BILL GIVEN A THIRD READING AND PASSED.

CLERK: THE CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) LAW, 1974 THIRD READING

MOVED BY HON. V.G. JOHNSON

SECONDED BY HON. D. V. WATLER

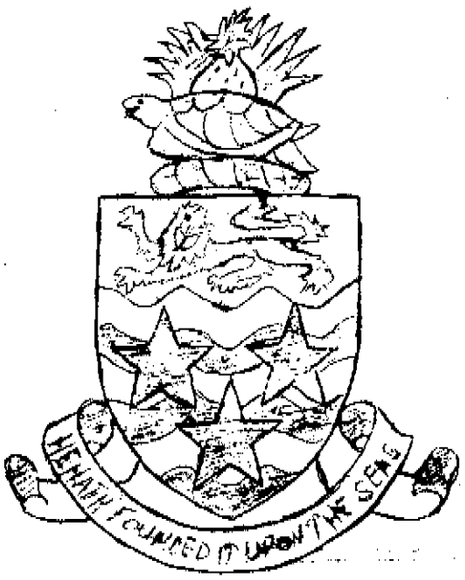
QUESTION PUT: AGREED. BILL GIVEN A THIRD READING AND PASSED.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY HON. D. V.WATLER

SECONDED BY HON. G. E. WADDINGTON

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: HOUSE adjourned AT 4.04 P.M. UNTIL 10 A.M. ON TUESDAY 26th NOVEMBER, 1974.



C A Y M A N I S L A N D S

L E G I S L A T I V E A S S E M B L Y

M I N U T E S

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OFFICIAL REPORT

B U D G E T A N D F O U R T H M E E T I N G

O F T H E

1974 S E S S I O N O F T H E

L E G I S L A T I V E A S S E M B L Y

TUESDAY 26th NOVEMBER, 1974

PART V

TUESDAY 26th NOVEMBER, 1974

PRESENT WERE:-

His Excellency the Governor, Mr. Thomas Russell, CBE - PRESIDENT

GOVERNMENT BENCH

Hon. D.V. Watler, OBE.,JP	First Official Member
Hon. G.E. Waddington, CBE., QC	Second Official Member
Hon. V.G. Johnson, OBE	Third Official Member
Hon. A.B. Bush, JP	Second Electoral District, George Town (Member for Communications and Public Transport).
Hon. Trevor Foster	Third Electoral District, Lesser Islands (Member for Inter-Island Co-ordination and Information).
Hon. B.O. Ebanks	First Electoral District, West Bay (Member for Education, Medical, Health, Social Services and Labour).
Hon. W.W. Conolly, OBE, JP	Sixth Electoral District, East End (Member for Tourism, Lands, Natural Resources, MRCU, Agriculture and Surveys).

ELECTED MEMBERS

Mr. T.W. Farrington, CBE., JP	First Electoral District,West Bay.
Mr. John Jefferson	First Electoral District, West Bay.
Miss Annie H. Bodden	Second Electoral District, George Town.
Mr. Claude Hill	Second Electoral District, George Town.
Capt. A.A. Reid	Third Electoral District, Lesser Islands.
Mr. James M. Bodden	Fourth Electoral District, Bodden Town.
Mr. G. Haig Bodden	Fourth Electoral District, Bodden Town.
Mr. Craddock Ebanks	Fifth Electoral District, North Side.

ORDER OF THE DAY

TUESDAY, 26th NOVEMBER, 1974

1. 1. DEBATE CONTINUED ON FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

2. REFERRAL OF DRAFT ESTIMATED OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE 1974 AND APPROPRIATION BILL TO FINANCE COMMITTEE BY FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

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TUESDAY 26th NOVEMBER, 1974

10 a.m.

MR. PRESIDENT: Proceedings are resumed. We continue the debate on the Second Reading of the 1975 Appropriation Bill.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: Mr. President and Honourable Members of this Assembly, I'm a little surprised we don't have any of the Heads of the departments sitting in on these debates, it ought to be a good place for them, regarless of what may be said against them or about them, they will still learn some good.

Mr. President, I would like to make these few complimentary remarks; the sitting of the House last month has been one of our best sittings that I have sat in, or enjoyed for a mighty long time. You have exercised to this House what we felt was due long ago. You have conducted the sitting in a right parliamentary manner, you have conducted the behaviour of this House without fear or favour. You have conducted the House with due respect to every Member in every way, and for this Sir, I feel that before your term of office has elapsed, we will have made mountain strides, and betterment for the people and the country. And I do hope Sir, that you will have the opportunity and that you would find the people and the Legislators not so unbearable or boring, that you may not desire the opportunity or even a second term. This happens to be your first sitting in dealing with our Budget, and I am sure Sir, what you have found that over the past three or four years we have been going in somewhat in leaps and bounds financially. And we trust that it will continue to grow, and the spending will be to every advantage of saving and development and improving for the people.

We have just two years ago entered our new Constitution, and this House operates under the Constitution, under the Standing Orders, and we look forward that we will continue to operate in this manner. Now when we are about to amend our Constitution, or to improve it we felt we would ask for four Members where we use to have two, feeling that they would be better prepared to argue our case before reaching the Assembly, to know just where we stood. Under the Constitution it has been said with the four Elected Members to the Executive Council they must have a collective vote. Mr. President, I agree one hundred percent whatever a Member or Members debate in Executive Council on a policy and agree on when it comes to the House, they should stand to it. But we're old enough Sir, as it's Members to realise and know that all the Members in Executive Council, I mean the four Elected Members to Executive Council I'm referring to. They're not going to see eye to eye in Executive Council anymore than we will see eye to eye in here. And if a Member disagrees with something in Executive Council, that Member should be privileged to exercise his disagreeance in the House as well. Because if he's got to swallow his conscience, his dictates to his mind, and say yes when he means no, then that's a dictator government. And that has been exercised in this House before you taking the Chair or the Head of government Sir. And I'm hoping Sir, during your term of office, that this will be looked into. I again repeat Sir, I would expect any Member will agree with Executive Council, they should agree when they come here; but no Member should be put with a threatening chain around his neck, that you must say yes in here, and say no out there. That's not good policy, and if that's what our Constitution is going to continue to stand for, we will soon have to seek an amendment to it.

With those few remarks Mr. President, I will now refer my debate in reply to the Financial Secretary's Budget Speech. And I will be brief, because I have to leave at three thirty. And I am trusting Sir, with all the good patience you have

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS (CONT'D): extended and exercised, I do hope that I do not tread too far on your cords of patience, to get you bored. Some of the sweetest roses that we have got some of the most awful thorns.

I must compliment the Financial Secretary for his hard toil of presenting such a budget. But I am sure he should not expect me to agree with everything that he's said, even though I'm sure he's expecting that as always when we go to the Committee Stage that we should agree with things as is. When we go to this Committee stage, when we're dealing with certain things, I'm going to make some motions against some expenditure into the Budget, hoping that I will find somebody as a seconder, that we can get to the roots of some things.

It has been said, I am well aware of the fact, while we're enjoying all the good things it's because of a major development, the investors or people that are coming in, your tourists. For this I am glad, I'm happy, and I look forward to many years for this development to continue. Not saying altogether in major bank buildings like in the centre of town, but we can still continue with a lot of development that will mean much to the country and to government for revenue to help run the country.

When I said a moment ago that it is regrettable that at least some of the Heads of Departments don't make themselves interested enough apparently to attend. We're all human, we're all human beings, we're all subject to failures and mistakes, and we're never too old to learn. And I do feel that they would better understand some of the grievances of the public or the people through their elected member, at such a time as this, if they were present.

If I may Sir, start with the Customs Department, which is one of our biggest earning sectors for revenue to come in. But I feel that even with all that government is collecting duties on, or that is dutiable, government is still losing a lot of money. Government spends a lot of money what they shouldn't have to spend; for one, we had a long drawn out warm debate here a few weeks back on utilities, Cable and Wireless involved. Both of these, all of their imports are duty free, yet government spends thousand of dollars a year handling their material being paid out of the revenue. I have mentioned it in this House before, and I still stick to that, that any duty free imports that come in ought to be taken care by the importer. It ought to be his expense to have it off the compound, even if government gets involved and has to spend a certain amount of money, it should be reimbursed. Sometimes the ships come in, they can't get the government dock, or the better one of the two. When they over on the other sidde. they've got dozens and dozens of these huge bundles of plastic pipes; truckers go in, it's loaded on the trucks from the ship, they carry it and dump it in the government compound, ten dollars for that trip, government paid for that truckage out of the revenue. When the importer feels like taking it out, he comes in, the labourer goes back and load the truck with it, government again pays for that labour. And yet they are the people that are ready to first hand take us for a ride when we talk about prices and we say a word, they're ready to go up in the skies and come down. Yet they're getting away with thousand of dollars from the tax payer for nothing.. I hope Mr. President you will look into these things. The warehouse space, I have seen it, I worked in that area for a number of years; duty free stuff pile up in there and stay there for weeks and for months, at their convenience they take it out.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS (CONT'D): It's time for the people to get some good from government in the light of customs. Look at the numerous amount of items that are duty free, and the public get nothing from it, no benefits. I know it's not just that easy to follow the trend of importation. One shipment is up, one shipment is down, but I have expressed that view too, but it appears like government could look into these eight or ten daily commodities at least one in a while, and see if something can't be done about it, that the consumer may get some consideration.

We're embarking on better docking facilities, it will take a lot of money. We were told in the initial stages, one million dollars, I stuck out then if we could get it for a million, we'd better do it right now. It was to have been started nine months ago, and it isn't much signs of it starting for the next nine months. By the time it's started and it's completed, I'm much afraid instead of it being estimated at one million, it'll be three million. Nevertheless, we need this, we need it badly; while it will provide accommodation for fast movement of ships, it will still take money to operate it, to see that it's maintained and everything that goes along with it. So I trust that government will look into every avenue and try to cut down money that is being paid to people who are able, or ought to be able to pay their own bills.

We have in the Budget certain amount of money for agriculture; this amount of money should have been tripled, or more before now. Government seemed to have realised or thought before now that we didn't need to grow our own produce as far as possible, that they were always the cold hammer thrown in it. What's the use of having money, if you don't have something to buy; we can't always look forward to importation, because many times now the importers can't get what they order. Walking around with a pocket full of money doesn't ease the tummy. I well know, when we were fully taken care of in our own way of producing our own food, but at that time I well know it wasn't any jobs, it was only to go to Mosquito Cay, to get turtles to bring back to help soften the produce, and eating it. But they were some good days , I'd love to see some more of them; when a turtle then cost probably two or three dollars, it's now dollar fifty, dollar twenty five a pound. But it's time that government really wake up to the fact, and try to help revive the Agriculture Department to be able to see if we can establish enough of somethings to reduce at least importation.

I know there're some things that we can, if government would go along with who maybe interested in going into this field. But the type of soil that we have, I know it's difficult for machinery to operate to produce just the crops that we would like to. But even some of that could be done. So I'm glad that government is waking up and the Member that agriculture comes under his Portfolio will spend as much of his valuable time trying to help promote and get this off of the ground as he did in the tourist business. Because it's many a tourist come here would like to know something about our native food; and it doesn't make one feel good to say that we can't get it, we don't grow it anymore. So I'm trusting that we will spend a lot of time discussing some of these planned projects with the Director of Agriculture, and that at not too distant future, we'll begin to see returns from some of this expenditure.

We've got a lot of good agriculture land in this island, and to the best of my knowledge it's the first Head of State in our country made the effort to go up in the jungles of our land, and that happened to be His Excellency the Governor when he visited the district of North Side. He said he wanted to see everything that could be seen; he wanted to satisfy himself to go down in

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS (CONT'D): in the jungle as far as it was possible for him to go. And he went, I had the devil to keep up with him after he got out of the car. He wanted to see the bulldozer where it was operating, the operators, and what not. When one exercises such an interest, and effort, when we must feel that there are good things in store, not too far away. This is a private enterprise, those people have spent a lot of money. When you can jump in your car now and drive up say two and a half, three miles, where I lost a lot of sweat and blood trodding on foot, in all kinds of weather and conditions. So we're getting some place.

As far as I know the little farm at West Bay - the importers have stopped importing eggs; I think we must be fully supplied. Then if that one can be self-sufficient others can be as well.

I know we're having a problem with our young men, they see a machete in a home now, they're wondering why it should be there; they're ready to bury it or break it off, throw it away or something. But it's the one thing that helped raise them. I know it's a job waiting for them, he doesn't even want to finish school, because he can get fifteen to twenty dollars a day. He can get a Hot Rod car, he can get a jet flight to Miami for a week end. He's just enthused, he says, you don't expect me to go up in there and soil my hands, and get it all messed up. But somebody has to do it, and without that our importation we would not be able to continue. We have to live, and it's only one thing will keep us alive and that's food. The only one thing that willl take us out of this world, the last draw of breath. So we have to live in hopes of both of these.

Our Education. I will not say very much about that department, I will say this, there has been a bit of improvement in certain respects, in and around the school since the beginning of this term. I only knew of one man that could probably bring that school back to where it ought to be, and that was the Lieutenant Commander Wilkerson, during World War II. If that man gave his mother a first chance, it would only be to save her life. He had no smiles for nobody, whether he was an official, or whether he was a mess boy. He treated everyone without fear or favour, and he didn't make anything go by. What was yours you would get, and what wasn't would go against you. I'll give you a little incident of myself in having dealings with him. I asked for leave to come home on one occasion, and I paid my way home and back; and owing to the change of air flights; it put me two days late in getting back to the depot. He put me on the defaulters, on a charge for going adrift without leave for two days. Yet he had in his hands all of my documents and the stamping by all the immigrations and the plane lines and everything, my routes and everything. But he said, you were away for two days without permission, you have to be charged. That was his attitude.

Much has been said about the discipline of the children. Much of that stems from their homes. It's regrettable that we as parents today let our children, most of us run our homes, and parents, and what else do we expect when they go out and do the same thing.

It has been expressed the amount that Governnent is paying for transportation, that parents should be bearing some of this. As far back as Mr. Cumber's time in office, the operators discussed this with him then, that as far as we felt, this ought to be some of the parents duties. And there has been more than one time meeting with the Education Department on matters, we have raised this question, still nothing has been done about it. Government took the

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS (CONT'D): steps to improve our education, our school and what not. They've launched out in this manner. So then it would be government to bear the cost, but I repeat again, it well should be the parents bearing some of it as well. It's nothing in the morning to see a boy getting off with a five dollar bill, a ten dollar bill to throw around for the day. If parents give them that to spend for the day, get them out from home regardless of what else may happen. Parents and Teachers' Meetings are called from time to time, they can't be anymore poorly attended, and every parent ought to be present at these meetings to find out all that could be known about their child or their children, to lend a hand in every respect, so that their child can get the best of what they're going there for. As I said a moment ago there has been some changes, and I hope that it will continue to change for the better, and the school year will run without anymore problems like it did some time ago.

I may make a few remarks about the Police Department; this has, for a long time been a sore spot for most Legislators. We have had expert in this field to come in, we've tried to tell them what we feel is needed, what we would like. But we still seem to be a bit away from that. What seems to be the most interest in building the department in its personnel, its quantity, and not quality. I'm say this Mr. President, with all due respect, I'm not against any young man making an application to any department of government seeking employment. And if he or she is accepted, then it's that, but I realise and know that we can't have a qualified policeman in six months, or in a year, it takes time. But when these new recruits are taken on, and given a preliminary, basic run down talking to, and disciplined them. If they're not going to take the interest in promoting themselves, that they would want to fill such a post as a respectable and honoured man, or woman as the case may be into our community, then he should not continue just to wear a uniform and draw a salary.

They get a lot of criticism, all of it is not justified, but one doesn't know the facts about something is at liberty to say something to satisfy himself. But the public feels on the whole that more could be done in the way of carrying out their duties. They just don't seem to see or know what to do other than what they're told. For days now and probably if one look out, it will still be there; the flag on the Post Office has been hanging there somewhat half mass, whirled around the pole for days. So in the light of that, it doesn't even come down at nights, and police then on duty, on beat around this, they don't see that, they don't do anything about it, because they're not told. How unconcerned, how disrespectful one can be when it comes to these things. I have listened and heard police approach members of the public in one of the most uncouth manner, they just don't know how to approach and speak to members of the public. No police should be put on beat until he's disciplined to the extent that he ought to know how to approach the public, and try to reason out things in a good manner, in a good spirit with whom they maybe talking to, or whatever they maybe talking about. When the police does that, he builds something then between himself and the members of the public. And still in making the approach to bring us together he makes the approach and starts to separate. Until they realise that that's the way that they should deal with the public, then we will have a lot of difficulties in dealing with the public. They demand no respect, the[illegible]y I've seen some of them dressed and move around and conduct themselves, they look like a mechanic boy around some old garage. The public could not look up to someone like that, and they have no choice of demanding that respect.

We have a growing traffic that's growing in leaps and bounds, careless, reckless, dangerous drivers. Well we can say that they're catching a lot of them, they're putting a lot of them in court, it's quite true. I go up there sometimes myself and listen, and it's sort of shocking to see what used to be, I don't know whether it still continues every Tuesday morning;

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS (CONT'D) :you would think that it was a recruiting or job seeking department. And the worst of it, so many of these fellows that appear before the court got a second, third, fourth, and fifth time of coming there. I don't know, it appears like government may . soon have to do something about the growth of our traffic, because we soon won't have enough roads to take the traffic and movement. So many waiting for the last minute to go to work, they only have ten minutes, and it's a sensible twenty five minutes drive, but you've only got ten minutes to make it, just ready to push everybody else off the road. So I'm afraid that something will soon have to be done in some way or another; so many of us talk about reducing the speed, it doesn't help. I'm sure for the island of this size, the population, and the amount of motor vehicles in this island, it's one of the biggest traffic movements in the Caribbean, and I belive I'm safe in saying that so many other things to tie along in that that shouldn't be, is the biggest and the worst in the Caribbean as well. The year has not even been completed, we still have another month, if we should live to see it, and for the eleven months already this year, it's a known fact by the department that we have got something like three hundred and thirty seven accidents on our roads. Now this is another probably hundred that government doesn't even know anything about; I've seen them many times in the sides of the bush pulling them out, and trying to set them up and get going before the law comes by. And out of those three hundred and thirty seven accidents on the road that are recorded, two hundred and seventy two are motor cars, and the other sixty five are all types of bicycles and everything included. Now if we just go on down to follow the statistics of this, we will find that we've already had nine deaths. A little island like this, a few thousand people should nine in the run of eleven months be wiped off of the face of the earth, and young people, that/the pitiful part about it, young people -

This is another thing that I feelthat government should do something about. Well, you say they're going to the courts, and the Judge fines them twenty dollars, what does that mean? A lot of our young people are determined to break the law, and continue to re-break it as long as they can get away and allowed to break it. I saw a young man Sunday evening, that his licence has been suspended just a few weeks ago, from driving for X amount of years; I crossed that young man Sunday evening sitting behind the wheel of a car. It kind of boils me, if probably one hundred of our young people over the past two years in our island had been suspended from driving for fifteen to twenty five years, we would have had a better driving behaviour today. And it's regrettable that this government will build its revenue on an offender of the law by driving at and exceeding speed, and causing damage and death and what not, and sell them a little piece of paper for two lousy dollars, to continue with the same weapon to destroy people and property. Our revenue cannot grow without such a two dollars. Any such driver that is deprived of that two dollars, it saves his life probably, saves his family from mourning, saves them from having probably an invalid in their home, that they can't throw outside. When will this goverament wake up to do some of these things to prevent some of these things. You're going to leave it to the judge to charge him ten dollars, then he'll come back again next week with the same offence, they'll charge him fifteen dollars, he'll come back two weeks with the same offence - It's ridiculous.

We're embarking on a road programme we say, making it that much more dangerous. They've got a smooth surface and a disfigured road. The speed that most of them are doing they cannot follow the trends of the road, they must cut from corner and corner, and there you'll approach on coming - this is not the police, this is the Public Works Department, I'm coming to that a little later, probably tomorrow. But it seems to think

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS (CONT'D): that because the road got a smooth surface, they then should drive without fear or favour, regardless of what happen. I mean I don't like to see anything happen, but it's bad enough if the driver got kill, and the rest walked out. But like so many times, the driver walks away, and the poor occupant left there - and the innocent suffering for the guilty. No government, no police department, no police, no member of the public can hinder anybody from speeding, that's his or her intention to speed. But I say we should bring an end to it, if we get them alive. Deal with them when we get them, and then it would reduce it. And I'm hoping in the new year coming that this awful menace of accidents, deaths, serious injuries, with twelve for the last ten months, fatality six, slight injury thirty two, damaged up to a hundred and thirty two; I hope that will be sliced in half during 1975. People are being afraid, I myself am afraid to drive on these roads, particularly at nights - you just can't. So I'm hoping that with what the police are doing they will so extend their efforts, and when they've reached the courts and to the Treasury Department - or other words they won't have any reason to go to the Treasury Department to get a two dollar shot gun, or a weapon of the magnititude that they are allowed to use, under the two dollar licence. And that we'll all be more at ease, and feel free to take an evening drive if one so desire.

We have so much for that Mr. President; I with your permission Sir, I think I would deal with Public Works, and probably then after dealing with Public Works we could have our coffee break, and get my throat wet with some water at least, and come back then, and I would resume. Now I don't have to get at the Third Elected Member, I get at all of them.

Mr. President when we elected these four from among our twelve to the Executive Council, I gave them my one hundred percent assurance that I would support them in all their undertakings, in all their work as far as possible. And I would expect them to do to the best of their ability everything that was reasonable, fair and right, and just. I also told them that if it came the time that I had to get on their backs, I wouldn't be afraid to do that either. During their two years in Exco, if I remember correctly, the First Elected Member of Executive Council made one visit to North Side, by my long days of arguing and pleading, other than that he hasn't gone. But what I'm trying to say, he has never at anytime said, well, Member from North Side, I want to visit North Side to see some things for myself; or let us have a look at some things.

The Third Elected Member said a few weeks ago he would like for us to go out to look after the possibility of a little clinic; that was his first and only time. Neither of the other two members have said anything about going out with me to look at what may come under their portfolio, to see something for themselves. Now I would have expected that at least once a year, and it ought to be the duty of the member responsible to get the member or members from the various constituencies and look around at things and see for himself what's going on - what things are like, what he might be able to do, from what he may not be able to do. And not just leave it to a member to be agitating on a member about something, and getting no further with it.

Now a few months ago when a piece of road construction was going on in the Frank Sound area, or across the turn land there for North Side, I pleaded with the member for about two weeks to visit this, to see for himself what I considered was wasting material, money, time and let's go. Subject to correction to the best of my knowledge, I don't know that he'd gone yet. Now I'm saying Mr. President, and usually when I say something it stays at that. I don't have anymore road grievances to bring to the member who is responsible for this, because if he doesn't have time then, I shouldn't bother myself, nor waste my time and energy to bring complaints,

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS (CONT'D); and to bring things that I feel are important, that he should look after, he turns a deaf ear to it, and not go to see for himself whether I'm telling him the truth or not. When I asked the question on that some weeks aback I got an untruthful answer, not from the member, the member answered me what was produced to him, but it was an unfounded answer. Thousand of yards of valuable marl for roads that we need so badly dumped in one place, dump it like you're dumping garbage - nobody responsible. I'm always pulled on, I suppose in a joking manner, why are you grumbling, you've got good roads out there - I hate to know that $50,000 of tax payers money gone where $30,000 should have done the job, that's what I grumble about. What I grumble about is when there is no supervision, what I grumble about is when there is nobody on the job to see that the job is being done. If the engineers responsible for road building in our country if they're responsible and if they're seeing that ,then we don't need them, because we've got one dozen of them walking these streets from bar to bar, club to club, and they should have the job in preference of what we've got.

A smooth surface doesn't make a road, because we have a black top and we can sleep over it at any speed you want - that's good roads, far, far from being that. For road being properly lined, levelled, shaped and everything else that goes with it. I read a lot about road construction - then it can't be a good road. As an illustration, if you looked off at a distance at a house that was just completed, you'd say, well that's a beautiful house, when you go over to look at it, inspect it, you find some of the windows are smaller than the others, they're not put in straight. You look on the inside, the flooring is probably /A-F different thickness of wood. The front door maybe hinged with a four inch hinge, and a two inch hinge. All of this then you put together and say well this is a terrible job - that's our roads, that's the symbol of our roads.

When we talked two years ago of re-building the road between West Bay and Bodden Town, I thought it was settled by this House that these roads would be relined, re-shaped and straightened as far as reasonable, and you've got three miles of roundabout, two and a half from Bodden Town to Lower Valley, because they've said now they've prepared the shoulders for the hot mix. And the only place that I've seen any fence interfered with, is where fence has been put back that never was any fence for God knows how many years. Somebody's pocket, somebody has scratched back. If you all don't know where it is, I could go and show you, where it hasn't been any fence for years, three strands of barbed-wire running there now. Barbed-wire poles six feet, seven feet apart - new cut. Then you want to find out why the money can't finish the road, never will either. Not until we get men that will resume their responsibility and be on the job and see that the job is done. But when you go to work nine o'clock in the morning, and knock off at three, and get paid for nine hours - I am going to get a job in Public Works next year too -It's a shame. The Governor's secretary be in her office at eight thirty; the fellows that are working East End and Cayman Kai, I meet them at Savannah, Red Bay, Prospect eight o'clock, eight fifteen. What time you're going to start to work. It's never been so much negligence and carelessness in the history of any government, than what is in the Public Works Department. Not a curve has been removed on this section of road that they said they are preparing for hot mix on the Bodden Town area - why. I could find the answer I guess, but if we live to see a hot mix surface on that road, God have mercy on the few people that are trying to live a long life. Because it can't be out of it when the road is so crooked - it can't otherwise but create and build up accident, accident, and more accidents. As long as the world .

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS (CONT'D): continues we'll have accidents, regardless of how straight a road maybe, we will have accidents. But if it's reasonably straight, somebody has got a little better chance than facing a corner every two hundred to five hundred feet, it's a curve to go around.

Get in the traffic quarter to eight on Monday morning, coming down from Bodden Town, when you've got fifteen to twenty ~~cars~~ five and trucks and things in a trail, two or three buses. Regardless of what emergency you're on, you can't cross unless you want to take the last chance. Is that good enough, that's what we say, we're going to have good roads. We should have had good roads with less money than what have already been spent, less talking about spending more money.

It was said that I had run away the engineer that was here about three years ago - Young. I had a few friendly quarrels with him about the roads, but it was all simply that I felt he could have eased up curves at certainly more than he was doing. Other than that I saw reasonable eye to eye with him. And let me say this, seven thirty you could meet him more or less in the Bodden Town area headed for East End or North Side, and four o'clock in the evening he was still there. That wasn't once a week, that was everyday, he stayed on the job. Now what we got probably go once a week with a white shirt, maybe a tie lying on the seat, drive through and pass back, and say we've got supervision.

At last I see where some pedestrian crossings are provided now for the public in front of the Post Office. By building a mud pen, and putting a few blocks, slab concrete on that, that's the only thing I can presume it must be for, for the pedestrians to cross along on this. If crying was any good, I'd cry to see if I could shed enough tears to flood it away.

You know what we get allured about, when somebody comes in here with a degree, he knows everything. The First Elected Member of Executive Council can well substantiate what I'm going to say. When Montreal Bank wanted to extend their sidewalk three or four feet further out in the road, now than what the've got it, he and I went one day and battled on with it. This was what the Town Planner had said, this was the mark - you've just come here, we're living here. And if it hadn't been for the member and myself, probably they would have put it down; and they've got enough sidewalk to run a locomotive. Weeks after that when they were about to finish on the curve, there they were bringing a dead end facing the public. We ended up in arguments, hot water again with them, to curve this. Regardless of where this mud pen is designed by the Public Works, or the Police Department, it didn't take sense to do it, what purpose is it there for? What purpose does it serve? Except it will soon be another filthy stinking area in the centre of George Town. One third of that size would have been enough for traffic, pedestrians and the public would have had more place to move in and out and around. Now heavy rains and you're standing on the Post Office, water is under the cars splashing up because it's no road for them to go around any further. Though they've got drains there, it can't leave fast enough, so there it is. All of this is what we're paying for, and got to suffer with the ills of it.

Mr. President, I hope as I said in the beginning that I didn't pull the cords, or strain the cords of your patience; but I'm not here because I want to be here, the people of the island on a whole said, you should be in there. And when they've got their grievances I must get it across as far as possible. Which I know since we've had the four Elected Members of the Executive Council, we never can survive, because it's always eight to seven, or six as the case maybe. So I know all of my efforts, all of my energy,

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS (CONT'D) all of my time is being wasted. I'm doing this because I promised my people I would do everything within my power to make things better for them. So anything with the Public Works Department, and a few others - I would ask Mr. President with your ruling, we may adjourn for a few minutes that I may get some water or refreshments, or something, or rest my throat for a bit.

Mr. President this House has relied a lot on the knowledge, and the experts advice and guidance, but it's a lot of own people haven't been given the chance and the opportunity that they should have had. Today we've got two young men from our own soil that are enjoying the jet age - pilots. Probably any Caymanian twenty five years ago had said so, some experts in this field - I'd like ot fly a plane, or I'll fly a plane, he'd say you're crazy, because you don't have a degree, and you don't have that. The first coloured man to navigate a ship across the Atlantic was a Caymanian. The leading pilot in the Canal when it was opened a number of years ago was a Caymanian. The first master to navigate a ship out of the New York Harbour in the night, in bootlegging days was a Caymanian. They didn't have any college degree, they didn't have this and that, and we've still got a lot of Caymanians given a little opportunity, and a little chance they would prove their ability even though they hadn't had the chance to get a diploma or a certificate, and what not. It's true we're improving, and we don't like to use too many of the old methods, and what not. But not every improvement is the best for us, not everything that is pointed out should be that way.

And speaking a while ago where I left off on the roads - a few years ago then, who I just don't know to be honest about it at that time who were the members in Executive Council. But they passed a regulation to control speeding they said, by putting on the back of a big truck thirty and twenty. It was the most idiotic thing that I ever read in any funny paper. And so far as I know, it still must be somewhat in existence, the only thing it's not in the law, but something along that line in the regulations. Now, with all of this wisdom and expert and knowledge would anyone expect to operate any vehicle on a twenty and a thirty, particularly a big vehicle, on a twenty and thirty mile speed limit, except for a few minutes, which is sensible and right. But for argument sake, here's government trucks, they're hauling material for roads from nearly down West Bay clean around the island, almost back to West Bay by going Cayman Kai, would have them involved in probably fifteen to twenty miles of twenty five miles speed limit zones. Then these trucks must drive these fifteen to twenty miles at twenty miles an hour, two weeks every truck would be burnt up. I mean how people that are supposed to be educated act so senseless? Under a warranty guarantee for breaking in a new truck, the speeds are supposed to be driven to the first five hundred between thirty and forty five miles. the second hundred miles between thirty five and fifty miles an hour, and then from that on. And you talk about establishing a speed limit on such vehicles to drive at twenty miles an hour. I wish they would enforce it, and see how much money then you would really have to spend on roads, and how much more money then you would have to take to buy new trucks. No heavy vehicles with loads can operate on such speeds as that, besides that they're prosecuting people into this category, and not a speed sign is on the roads indicating that this zone is twenty miles an hour, or that one is thirty miles an hour; illegially prosecuting people and putting them in courts, is it any further now for our government to go to the Legal Department of it. How does he know when he's

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS (CONT'D): picked up then he says he's charged for thirty miles, and it's not a thirty miles zone on the road, it's not a twenty miles zone on the road. Yet he must drive twenty, he must drive thirty. When you're going to make such deferentiate between the people depriving them of a privilege against another sector free for all. According to a report that I mentioned a minute ago, two hundred and seventy two cars have been involved in accidents for the last eleven months, and they're free to drive any speed. The truck that has had five or six accidents for the year he must only drive twenty, how could it ever be. I've travelled a bit, seen some of the far countries, the big country - glad I've had a few visits to my mother country. I have seen in areas where a vehicle of a certain capacity approaching a bridge, other words, a vehicle under twenty five tons, or over twenty five tons as the case maybe, don't approach that bridge, or don't cross that bridge, or cross that bridge at a speed of five miles an hour. That's sensible, I can understand that, an area where it's a dangerous area, on a curve, on a precipice, reduce speed to ten miles an hour- danger. But a wide open prairie, and you tell John Brown he drives as he likes, and I drive at twenty; only creating difficulties and enmity between the people and government. I hope Mr. President, that whoever is responsible for this will soon look into it and do something about it, because it just doesn't make sense no matter how you weigh it or measure it.

The fellow that spends five or six in fact to buy a new truck of probably ten yards capacity it would cost him twelve to fourteen thousand dollars; his insurance, his taxes, and you're going to tell him he can't operate but twenty miles an hour against somebody that spent a meagre five or six hundred dollars on a car, and he'll make a havoc - careless, dangerous,reckless driving, and what not; and he be granted the privilege. Don't start trying to divide the people in this manner because it will be a retaliation. And it's too bad when government creates an atmosphere to get the public upset and they have to do things that they would never have attempted to think about doing normally otherwise. So I hope this will be completely deleted out of the law, which is not in the new Traffic Law, it's one size truck and that's all, nothing about any other size vehicle. But it's the Regulations that covers it; but I hope that regulation will be burnt with that contents in it.

When you find the offender you bring him to court, deal with him with justice, don't try to take it out with him individually, as a good law abiding citizen, and paying for the rights and privileges of his country the same as any other tax payer. Don't try to deprive him of that, because that's where the things will go wrong, and undoubtedly the innocent will suffer for the guilty.

From the inception of speed limits in the last few years aback, they've been placed all through the island, the whole length of North Side from Grape Tree Point, the last house is a resedential area, to the entrance of the Hide Away Club entering the Old Man Bay area was twenty five miles zone. All out of the blue sky two or three weeks ago they split it in two, put half of the district at fifty miles, and the other half twenty five. It's like what my poor old uncle said when he got boozed up, instead of things getting better it was improving all the time. That's wisdom that expert knowledge again. I have done everything possible over the past two or three weeks to keep my people from tearing it down, I'm not going to try persuade them much longer, because I've been to every department, every department said it was the other department - It's this department, it was the other department.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS (CONT'D): Into an area where but a few beautiful people live, the dead, that is declared as a twenty five mile zone, where nobody lives; where people live you declare it fifty. Our community was abused without - word$ fail to express it with speeders. One Sundays one had to wander some times if the jet was making a force landing or a take off, with the cars speeding through the district. We know that, we know that would be, we know it's being abused every twenty five zone in the island is being abused. But when you turn around and fence your place, then open the gate, what do you expect to take place, free for all. Anyway as I said, I've talked to my people, they've come to me with numerous complaints about it, I tried to pacify them, but I'm not going to do that much longer. I suppose somebody has to die that others might live, so when we get involved by interfering with government's property it will be the way then out of it. These are all the kind of things we shouldn't have to encounter with, we shouldn't have to come here to talk about them. Because when I went to the Police Department about it, it was the Executive Council, when I went to the Executive Council, it was the Member Responsible for Works. When I went to him it was somebody else, when I went to the somebody else; it was somebody else, then who is it then? Anyway it won't be there for Christmas.

Mr. President, we have a lot of grievances from various departments about the various departments. We are now spending over half a million on renovating the Hospital. I wonder when it's finished if it's just the matter of having a beautiful structure from outside appearance. When one approaches what will it be said/ a beautiful building, is that where it stops then? Or when one walks in and looks around at the wards, and can come out and say, that ward, or the wards in those departments, the patients are one hundred per cent taken care of. Or they're going to have every convience that is possible to make the sick comfortable, or just a little old mattress there on a rusty bed, a little soiled sheet, and got to wait for another patient to go out to get a table for them to put their water, medicine or what not on. Somebody brings in a little "get well bouquet", no where to put it, you've got to put it on the floor. Or you've got to bring a fan from home to help keep the patient comfortable, I wonder if it's all of these things we're going in. It's true when we want something we must pay for it, and we'll reach the stage in this island- My colleague here has settled on a new Cadillac, because he says he can pay for it. All right, it shouldn't be any less for the Hospital either. Pay for what you want, or what you can get, or what you should have you should be able to pay it, and most of the people in this island can do that today. They can go to the club every night and spend fifteen to twenty forty, fifty dollars: and then because their room is ten dollars a day, fifteen dollars a day, they're going to say, we can't pay that. It's a few exceptional cases, and they must be taken into consideration when we come to them.

It's been a lot of grievances come out from the hospital, and much of it is true, much of the greivance shouldn't be, but it's there. I know you go to church somebody will wander why you pick up offering everytime they have church too. It's always somebody, but it's lots of room for improvement, better service, better treatment, better medical aid. Nobody doesn't want to be sick, somebody takes sick at midnight, and rushes to the hospital, how can you blame that person . When you call the doctor he'll say, no I ain't coming, give him two Phensics and send him back home, or send her back home, or wait 'til morning. We never had that service when we had one doctor. When you called Dr. Hortor he said yes, I will be there, even though he mightn't get there 'til the next day. But he left you with the assurance and he lived to that - I will be there.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS (CONT'D): Doctor Roper, when he walked out of the compound, if you want me you'll find me at such and such a club, or you'll find me at such a cocktail party - call me. These don't want to be called, don't want to be bothered. We're forever got to put up with that too. They're humans - they're human beings like myself; I've been tired, went to bed and wound't like to be bothered, but it has happened to me many times. I go to bed ten eleven o'clok in the night, and by the time I've gone alseep somebody call, I want you to take my child to the hospital - I get back to bed four o'clock in the morning. They must expect these things in their career, and I hope not only as I've said a beautiful structure will appear to the patients, but also on the inside they will find everything possible that this government can provide for them to make their days of illness in the hospital as comfortable as possible. But as well as I said we must prepare to pay for these amenities, these provisions that we want. I hope it will be provided, and then as I've said we ll have to pay for them when the odd case comes to deal with it separately,

Mr. President I could go on for some time yet, but it is so many things that some of our people say that we can't live here without, and if we should try to establish or enforce somethings we will lose this and we will lose that. We lost a lot and we lost a lot of morals of this country, we lost a lot of the standards; no one individual can be blamed for that, but that's what development sends - like what we've got in we'll do. But we shouldn't still have gone as far even as it has gone. We've talked a lot about drinking in our island, when we say we should close every place on a holiday, on a Sunday and twelve o'clock Saturday night. What are the tourist going to do? I heard a prominent citizen of our island saying recently after travelling almost a day from one flight to another, getting up in the state of Kentucky or some place or another. Sunday evening after he checked in to where he was going to lodge, and got relaxed a little bit; dinnertime, he just felt like he could enjoy a beer with his dinner. When he asked for a beer with his dinner, sorry, we don't sell liquor here on Sunday. Yet he was a toursit travelling in another country, he desired a beer - now that doesn't mean to say, probably that in some parts of that stat that somewhere mightn't been open on Sunday, but nevertheless, it is so much said here that these fellows can't have a meal on Sunday unless they have a drink. Yet he was told, we're sorry we don't sell liquor here on Sunday. Yet we can't get around the fact that if we stopped selling liquor on Sunday, we won't have anymore tourist - we lived a long time without them.

You know what made this island flourish in our days, what we lived off, what we enjoyed, some of what is coming in despute - this Cadastral Survey, swamps, cliff. I wonder where all these houses in George Town, West Bay were built from if it wasn't from the iron wood posts out of North Side and East End cliff. I wonder where our fathers provided a Sunday morning breakfast for us then if they didn't go into the mangroves and chip the bark to ship it and sell to get a little sugar and make a potato cake for us for Sunday morning. And now the hundreds of thousands of barbed-wire poles that has been through this island, where have they come from - North Side and East End cliff. Then you said the cliff was no value to us, what value it is today, it's the same value today as it was three hundred years ago, that made us enjoy life at its best then. And I am afraid the pot is going to start boiling Thursday night when they come to North Side, because I'm sure Members of this Honourable House then that were Members when this was first muted, that when Mr. Lawrence said with all his going around, there was one constituency that was concrete against it and it was North Side, I'm telling you they're still the same today. That was the land that saved our lives,

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS (CONT'D): that was the land that fed us, that was the land that clothed us; the cliff, the swamp, the mangroves, every part of it, and it's not going to be turned loose just that easily.

Mr. President while I could cover some more ground, I'll just leave off at this and let some - probably some other member or members that maybe are a little bit anxious to get something off of their chest - I don't want to be selfish, I'd rather give up my turn that somebody else may have.

But our Postal Department can stand a little bit of brushing up sometime. Our people talk about we want a job, and get a job, the other morning - which I've seen it many a morning, but I did speak about it a few mornings ago at the Post Office every counter window should be opened at eight thirty for service. The employee that is to serve a window shouldn't be on the outside quarter to nine gossiping, and people on the inside waiting to be served. These things are happening. I told the chap when he was going in because I was waiting for his department , I said when your pay day comes if it was five cents short you would be going up in the air, but because you're depriving government now of ten minutes this morning, it doesn't mean anything to you.

I went in there, I was trying to get a bit of crushed rock off to my son in school, he wanted it for experimental purposes, so he asked me to send him fifty pounds of crushed stone from the quarry here. So I thought the fastest way to get it, was either Air Freight, or mail. Now we're asking the question, we're wondering if our planes are making any money, they ought to be. When I called the department and asked them what it would cost to airfreight a package weighing approximately fifty pounds to Trinidad - forty five to fifty dollars. A package in the size of eight by ten, by twelve or something like that - small package - forty five to fifty dollars. I asked what would be the cost of it air mail, forty five dollars, so our rates ain't low in either of these fields. Anyway I air mailed it, fifty pounds of crushed rock for the benefit of his schooling. What I'm trying to say then, I am not reluctant that money should be spent for the benefit of our people, and if we want to get the best of any of them, and make life comfortable for them, we must be prepared to provide for them the amenities that they need, and they will in turn have to pay for them. Thank you Mr. President.

MR. G.HAIG BODDEN: Mr. President, I have become sympathic to your office as Speaker, you are having an arduous task getting the Members of Executive Council to their feet, so that the debate on the Appropriation Law, 1975 maybe completed. I am now giving you an unconditional guarantee that when I sit down today, your troubles will be over. They will be fighting amongst themselves for the use of the microphone, it is even possible that long before I'm through, they may nervously scramble to use the mike. These men are suffering from mike fright, mike fright is a similar disease to stage fright, Robert Moore in his best selling book "Man Alive" says that stage fright is cause from persons thinking about themselves. Mike fright is caused from the same thing, instead of thinking about their audiences, they're thinking about what impression they're making, they're thinking about what we will think of them, and so I'm really in sympathy with them, because mike fright is a very serious malady. It afflicts even actors and actresses, but I hope I will dispel some of this fright today.

Members of Executive Council have an opportunity to tell us about their programmes, let us know at what stage of development each programme is, and they should not lose this opportunity to communicate with us.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONT'D): The Budget is too big, it is far too big for our resources; we have reached a stage where the regular sources of income or revenue are no longer sufficient to maintain life upon our budgetory plan . . . So what are we going to do next? We have already started to over-work the areas of taxation, we can only now exploit these areas, and that exploitation has already begun. We could turn to other sources of revenue, such as ships' registration, and there is a motion in this sitting by the Member from Bodden Town to introduce ships' registration, this is an untapped gold mine, which will give us some revenue. But an alternate measure to seeking out new means of taxation would be to reduce our spending, and reduction of government's spending will be the title of my remarks.

Last year's fiscal policy was filled with high sounding phrases about curbing inflation by voluntary restraint, but government should practice what it preaches. Government should practice what it is asking the business and the public sections to do - government should set an example, example is better than precept. And nowhere is this more true than in the matter of public spending, or spending money as a whole. One man buys a car, and all of his friends want a shiny automobile. One man paints his house, and everyone of his neighbours starts thinking about improvement to the yard.

Our Budget is getting bigger every year, the Member from Cayman Brac called the attention of this House to the seven additional pages in the Draft Estimates. I took a look at the speech that went along with those Draft Estimates, and I find that in 1973 the speech was sixteen pages long, last year it was eighteen pages, but this year it required twenty three pages to put forward the extended Budget. So as the Revenue gets higher, the speech gets longer, and therefore the debate on the speech must also get longer. This was the most inopportune time in history to put forward a Budget of fourteen million dollars.

It is a known fact that whatever effects the United States of America must effect us here. The United States is now facing a recession, in fact they have coined a new word "Stagflation", to express their present dilemma. Stagflation is ram rampant in the United States; the United Kingdom is undergoing one of the worse crises in its proud history. Throughout the world many countries are suffering the pangs of rising cost of living, under-employment, unemployment, and all the economic evils imaginable. A severe jolt was given to our economy this year, people in the construction field saw themselves out of work, but worse than that, people saw their life savings disappear. This has indeed been a gloomy year for this island. We have heard much talk of Cuba opening its doors and starting to take a part of the economic growth in the Caribbean; this means that Cuba will eventually share in the tourist business in this area. The island of Grenada is now going into the matter of tax exemption, company registration; the Bahamas are settling down, and the tax swallows are returning to Capistrano; so all of these things must have an effect on our situation here. So this is definitely not the time to embark upon large spendings without paying attention to the climate around us. Even the Cayman Brac newspaper,"The Bluff", recognises the problem, in its second issue in the Editorial, they mentioned that some people from Cayman Brac who were living in Grand Cayman are now returning . . . They have pointed out in that Editorial that the days of Cayman's prosperity are about over and the days of adversity should soon begin. Government's embarkation on such a programme as we have before us can only help to snow-ball our own inflation.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONT'D): Now inflation is caused, and all economists agree on this, by too much money in circulation. So there is no better way to find the fires of inflation than for government to spend more money. Now I will endeavour to show how government's annual expenditure has gone up year by year. In fact how it has galloped along since the introduction of the new Constitution. But to give you a true picture I'll start from the year 1971. In that year our recurrent expenditure was three million no hundred and eighty eight thousand seven hundred and twelve dollars, quite a respectable figure even at that time. In 1972 the approved Estimates were three million two hundred and sixty six thousand two hundred and fifty one dollars, an increase of six percent, a very normal increase. But 1972 in August we had our new Constitution, and from that time onward government went on a rampage of spending unknown in the history of these islands before.

In 1973 the Recurrent Expenditure, and I am using the Draft Estimate figures here because we do not have the final figures for '74 and '75. The total expenditure in 1973 was estimated at five million two hundred and sixteen thousand eight hundred and six dollars, an increase of fifty seven percent over the previous year. In 1974 our estimated expenditure was eight million three hundred and nineteen thousand seven hundred and eighteen dollars, or another increase of fifty nine percent over the previous year. And the Appropriation Law of 1975 is now asking for a total expenditure of thirteen million three hundred and sixty eight thousand nine hundred and ninety nine dollars, an increase of sixty seven percent over last year's Draft Estimates. So that since 1972 the year of the new member Constitution the expenditure has more than quadrupled; since 1973 the expenditure has more than doubled. Since 1971 we have an increase of more than four hundred percent in government's spending. In 1975 we will spend five million dollars more than we estimated to spend in 1974.

we will spend nearly ten million dollars more than we estimated for in 1972. In 1975 we will spend approximately two million dollars more than we did in the combined years of 1971, 1972 and 1973. This is all madness, but it's all true.

While we amount for New Services recommended for 1973, was only one hundred and seventy two thousand seven hundred and ninety eight dollars, the New Services recommended for 1975, amount to four hundred and seven thousand two hundred and ninety three dollars, or an increase of two hundred and thirty five percent over the 1973 figures. In 1973 we were asked to approve only two hundred and sixty thousand dollars for the Department of Tourism. Today that figure has gone four hundred and forty thousand seven hundred and twenty five dollars, an increase of sixty nine percent. And in addition to the four hundred and forty thousand seven hundred and twenty five dollars, we are also asked to approve yearly twenty two thousand dollars in New Services for Tourism. And it can only be expected that next year the New Services will follow the pattern of the previous year, and will have another increase of sixty nine percent. How is it possible to get away with such a thing with twelve intelligent elected Members? I'll tell you how it's possible, it is done by that magic token figure. A figure of ten dollars, a token figure is put in the Estimates as was done in 1974, and then that token figure has all the latitude it needs. I'll first give you one example found on page one hundred and seventy five of the Estimates. In 1974 a token figure of ten dollars was inserted, today that figure of ten dollars is now three hundred and fifty thousand dollars. What is the solution? Do not pass these token figures. What is the result of all this

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONT'D): government manipulation, if I can use that word to express what goes on in the Budget; the end result is, that although we had a surplus of one million /seven hundred and forty eightthousand and seventy three dollars, or an estimated surplus of one million seven hundred and forty eight thousand and seventh three dollars for 1974, we had to go out and bring in new tax measures to save us from having a deficit of nearly one million dollars this year. Although we will end the year 1974 with an estimated surplus of one and three quarter million dollars, we had to use all our ingenuity to keep from having a deficit of nearly a million dollars at the end of 1975. So it is my contention that from the introduction of the new Constitution government has embarked upon a spending spree.

If the public wanted an advanced Constitution with collective responsibility to spend their money, the public is certainly paying a high price for it. The end block vote of Exco has guaranteed the carrying out of every government attempt to spend money in the last two years. That statement is worth repeating, the end block vote of Exco has guaranteed the carrying out of every government attempt to spend money . No matter how bizarre or how expensive the programme, it has been put through. Let us look at a few of these things. Setting up of a Department of Toursim, Natural Resources Survey, four major projects embarked upon in a single shot. Here I refer to Roads, Airport, Administration Building, Harbour Development, Broadcasting, and I could go on much longer. Coincident with government's spending has also been government's ability to increase taxes, and they have done so. Stamp Duty, Bank License, Company Registration fees, you name it. Since the introduction of the new Constitution they have all increased, we have paid a high price for our Internal Self-Government.

The 1975 Budget/Address/In a few respects is a rehash of the 1973 speech. On the very first page I read about the diversification of the economy, from the 1973/I quote the same words. This is a good thing, but the bad part of it is that since 1973 we never heard another word about diversification of the economy, until it was necessary to put forward in a biennual year, the 1975 Budget. And I suspect that we will not hear anymore of the diversification of the economy until two years have passed, and it is necessary to put forward the 1977 Budget Address.

Last week in this Chamber we heard about the development of small scale manufacturing and processing industrieselectronic and watch/assembly operations, oil storage and refinery installations. But we will never hear about them again, unless it is necessary to put a little salve on the next astronomical Budget. If we do not find other means of taxation, we will have trouble in raising the funds to finance next year's Budget, if next year's Budget follows the pattern of the last three years - fifty seven, fifty nine and sixty seven percent increases. If next year's Budget reflects the growth in government's spending, which the last three years have reflected, we will be called upon to approve a Budget in excess of twenty million dollars. One has to agree with those people that fear taxation is coming, those people that have their fears that their property will be taxed as soon as soon as the Cadastral Survey is finished, they have good reason to fear, because as the Lady Member from George Town pointed out, as an economist you cannot spend what you do not have. And if the growth of spending continues, we will be called upon next year to finance a Budget in excess of twenty million dollars, and that money will have to come from somewhere.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONT'D): The financial community is now carrying its fair share of the tax burden, perhaps it is even carrying an unfair share with registration fees, annual renewable fees, licence fees, rental of office space, telephone rates, postage rates, stamp duties increased every year. The business places are now carrying a very heavy burden. I have been here three years, and every year the burden has been increased upon the financial community in some way or other. And it has been increased by government intervention through putting up rates on something or giving to private franchise companies the right to increase their rates. The question is, how much more can they endure? The tourist industry is being price out of existence. If we are not killing the goose that laid the golden egg, we are certainly enfusing him with a crippling and incurable disease, and the name of that disease is high prices, and high taxes.

One brand new and surprising feature of the speech is government's 1975 attitude towards agriculture. Government's attitude on agriculture according to this year's Budget speech seems to have undergone a dramatic metamorphosis. From page two of the speech I quote, "Local food crops and livestock production could become profitable operations". Government was not saying this some time ago, one year ago it would have been sac-religious to mention agriculture in the same breath with tourism. But today we are told in government's policy speech that the agricultural community, or the agricultural industry can provide jobs paying nearly equal pay with tourism. This is a complete change in attitude, and I'm glad to say that our little probings of the Member for Agriculture has probably done a lot to change their outlook. One only has to look at the 1973 Budget for agriculture, which was only thirty three thousand dollars, this year the figure is seventy four thousand dollars, an increase of more than one hundred and twenty four percent. As late as the 12th of March, 1974, the former Governor in delivering his Throne Speech said, and I quote, his exact words "Agricultural possibilities seem likely to be small in scale". I am glad that with the coming of the new Governor government's policy on agriculture has had a right about turn, because up to the 12th of March, 1974 agriculture had a very lowly place in the Estimates of the eyes of this government.

Mr. President I'm sorry that the Members have gone asleep already, but there will be a lot more. So up to March, 1974, the Governor himself mentioned that agricultural possibilities seemed likely to be small in scale. But not only was the Governor saying this, his Member for Agriculture was saying the same thing, At least he certainly paid far more attention to tourism that he did to agriculture. And I hope that government now believe what I read on page two of the Budget Address.

Now one change in the Budget I would like to see and that is that two hundred thousand dollars be made available for loans for the small farmer here. The theme of my speech is to cut government's spending, making this money available need not increase the spending, we'd just have to change our priorities. A little re-shuffling of the deck could provide money for this important area, money which is now assignated to cover far less important areas.

I want to touch on the subject of insurance, because it occupies a full paragraph in the Budget speech. And as this is perhaps the only subject on which I'm really qualified to speak, and the only subject on which I think I could speak for an hour, I must give it some attention. However, I'm going to confine my few remarks to the paragraph in the Budget speech. I see that in 1975 a licence fee will be charged to insurance companies. I support this measure, I support it wholeheartedly. They should pay a fee, but the fee should be commensurate

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONT'D): with the earnings of the companies. Government should bear in mind that in this island the income of an insurance company is not the same thing as the income of a commercial bank; because there was some mention in that paragraph about putting the insurance companies in the same category with the banks, as a matter of assessing the licence fees. The plain fact is that the income of a commercial bank in one day far exceeds the income of an insurance company for an entire year. I'm talking about the operations in Grand Cayman. The reason for this is, that although as the speech points out, in this island we have off-shoots of foreign companies, the plain fact is that most of these companies are represented by one or two feeble agents who do not generate very much premium income. If one of these companies operated in an island like Jamaica you would find that that company would have from fifty to one hundred men on the street trying to get premium income for the companies. In Cayman a company which would employ fifty agents in Jamaica, can only employ one here. So there's a limit to what these companies are doing, it is true that the company itself might be a multimillion dollar company with a premium income in the case of one that I know, far in excess of a million dollars per day. But their income from the Cayman Islands would be only a very insiginficant part of their total income.

Also in that same paragraph we see mention that an appropriate form of legislation is now being examined. Here again I'm very happy to hear this, and I only wish it could be introduced today. But I hope it will be an appropriate form of legislation. I hope it is not the same legislation that has run other foreign companies out of the Caribbean. I touched lightly upon this in the debate on the registration of the Companies Law, but it is so important a matter that I must touch it again, because I know that whatever Executive Council brings before this House, will go through. I want to see that they bring something that is good; the fact is we have seven in block votes, we can always count on an extension vote, which means that government has eight votes, and everything that has come to this House so far, has gone through.

The position with insurance in the Caribbean is this, I'm not qualified to talk about general insurance, but I can tell you about life insurance. Canada's largest life insurance company, the Sunlight recently closed its entire Caribbean operations. Great Standard Life of Britain, one of the world's oldest and largest insurance companies recently left Jamaica, St. Vincent and Trinidad. On the day when Standard Life closed their Trinidad operations, Standard Life had been in Trinidad for over one hundred years. The Manufactures Life of Canada, who fifty years ago operated in two dozen Caribbean countries, today only operate in three, Barbados, Jamaica and the Cayman Islands; and because of recent legislation they maybe packing up their operations in one of these other islands. Now why have these companies left? In nine cases out of ten it is because of legislation, and it is because of a single piece of legislation, a piece of legislation that has been used as a model for the Caribbean. It's a piece of legislation that caused all the trouble in St. Vincent. If this government is going to draft a law, I think they should go to a country like Gibraltar, or a similar territory, and find a law which suits the small countires in the Commonwealth. But it seems to me that our government does not know what is a small country in the Commonwealth, but you're not peculiar in that respect. Recently when I attended the Conference, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, I found that of the two hundred and eighty delegates at that Conference, there were only two or three of us that knew the twenty three small countries in the Commonwealth. And their confusion there was, they were treating the developing countries like the small countires.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONT'D): So I trust that in the presentation of this legislation, Cayman will not blindly follow many of the Caribbean Islands, in adopting a law whose implementation has had such evil repercussions. Personally I am a strong advocate of a good insurance law, to control not only the companies, but the personal representatives. And I would strongly urge this government to make a study of the Gibraltar law, or similar pieces of legislations. And do not put before us the kind of tripe that has been presented to other Caribbean territories.

A significant portion of the Budget will go for Education. In the last few years there has been some improvements in the school building and the facilities, but there has been no improvement in the academic results, and there has been a weakening of the personnel at the school, and I'll cite a few examples. The officer with advanced training in education has been shifted to Establishments, it is true that Establishements has been strengthened, but at the expense of Education. Another example a trained teacher with more than twenty years of experience and recently with further training at university level has been taken from the schools, and put up in West Wind Building. And although West Wind Building is better off today, it is at the expense of the educational system. Recenlty the Headmaster of the school in Cayman Brac resigned, some business has been strengthened, but it is a loss to the school. Only this month we see that the Deputy Principal at the High School has resigned, another stone removed from the education system. The bad part of it is that these four cases all add up to more than sixty years of teaching experience gone down the drain pipe to other services.

Our comprehensive school, in operation for five or six years is now operating without a single Caymanian on the administrative staff of this important school. What has caused the vacuum in the service? Is it the fault of the system, is it the fault of the times? Whether we like to hear it or not, the comprehensive system has failed; at least it has not measured up to the expectation of those who started it out. This year we will spend one million two hundred and ninety thousand two hundred and ninety four dollars on education, plus the New Services asked for of another forty one thousand eight hundred and thirty two dollars, making a total of one million three hundred and thirty two thousand, one hundred and twenty six dollars. Out of this vast sum, only twelve thousand one hundred dollars will be spent on teacher training at the ordinary levels. Less than one percent of the Budget for Education is designated for teacher training at a time when there is not a trained Caymanian on the administrative branch of the school, at a time when we are importing more than fifty percent of our teachers. In this very Budget this year this government will pay out two hundred and forty thousand dollars in gratuities to public officers in the service of this government. Not all of that money will go to teachers, but the fact is that a quarter of a million dollars will be paid out in gratutties to public contracted officers. So I was shocked to learn this, and to see that despite we know we have to pay all of this, and these people should be paid, because they are making a sacrifice to come here, they should be paid, but despite the fact that we have to pay this year we will only spend seven hundred and thirty dollars more on teacher training than we did last year. That is a disgrace, somebody in the Education Department, or the Member for Education, somebody is asleep. We are not training enough new teachers to even take care of the daily attrition in the service, let alone to ever think about making ourselves self-sufficient in this important area.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONT'D): One Member touched on transportation, and the money we spend.

MR. PRESIDENT: I think before the Honourable Member gets launched on another subject, perhaps if there's no objection we might suspend proceedings. You'll naturally continue after lunch, and as its now five past one, I'll suspend proceedings until two thirty this afternoon.

AT 1.05 P.M. THE HOUSE WAS SUSPENDED

AT 2.30 P.M. THE HOUSE RESUMED

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Mr. President when we adjourned for lunch, I had succeeded in carrying out my promise of curing the members of their mike fright, and I had also successfully put one member to sleep. I will try to contain my remarks to a few short minutes this evening. I was dealing with the subject of transportation for the school children, which a member singled out as one of the items in the Budget that should be reduced, and the Financial Secretary in his speech also mentioned something about a part of the cost being carried else where.

I fully support the amount of money in the Budget for the transportation of our children. Government has brought a dilemma upon itself, and I think it ought to continue to live up to the responsibility which it assumed many years ago when it established the Comprehensive School. The plain fact is, we either have to take the school to the children, or take the children to the school. The sum requested for transportation is ninety nine thousand four hundred and ninety two dollars. It's almost one hundred thousand dollars. For some purposes a hundred thousand dollars is a lot of money, but for the transportation of our children for the schools, it is not such a large figure. The service provided for the spending of this money is a great service. The men who own and operate the school buses have given us the best that could be offered; we have not had any problem with reckless driving from the bus drivers, we have not had any problems with injuries to the children, and luckily we have not even had a single death. This is a remarkable service, it should never be in the hands of anyone else. And we should not at this time when the school is having so many other problems add a new problem, because this would definitely create a new problem. It would be a new source of division, it would bring more contention into our educational programme than we already have.

Now if we were in difficulty for a hundred thousand dollars for this purpose this year, we could easily find the money. I will just point out a few of the ways we could find this money. First of all we could cut out the one hundred thousand dollars ear marked for advertisements in the Tourist Department. This island has had enough publicity this year to fill every bed in every hotel in this island. We could cut out the one hundred thousand dollars earmarked in the Public Works Department for the purchase of new garbage trucks. We can get along with what we have, we have gotten along with them. In fact up until a few months ago, we got along with very much less. So rather than the education and the children suffering, we could cut out that hundred thousand dollars. Or even better still, we could split in half the two hundred thousand dollars provided for the accommodation of public officers. They could live in less luxurious surroundings, cheaper rent could be found. But we're not in trouble for the money, so why are members raising the question of making the cost of transportation pass on to the parents.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONT'D): In championing the cause of busing; I'm not fighting for the bus drivers, or the bus operators, although they do belong, I will admit to the opposition front. I'm not fighting their battles, they are all men who can take care of themselves. I'm fighting the battle of the parents who will have to pay out of their pockets this cost. It is true some parents can pay, probably those in the top five percent can pay, what about the masses. A person with three children going to school will have to pay a minimum of one dollar and fifty cents per day to provide lunch money, twenty school days per month, and this would add up to ninety dollars per month, just for lunch alone. That is what parents are now paying for three children. So I feel it is not right to ask the parents at this time to bear the cost of transportation, nor is it time to look into asking them to pay it next year; because I know anytime we hear these little ripples, these little mild murmurs an explosion is coming, and it's eminent.

In this island we have an absence of a public transport system, and in the absence of this system can we pass on to parents the responsibility for the busing of their children, we cannot. Because the bus operators could not operate an efficient service if they had to be paid by the parents. Talk to any bus driver who takes children to private schools, or to schools run by institutions that are not governmental, and they will tell you that they have a hard time collecting from the parents of these children. So before we put anymore bad issues on to a service that is now riddled with bad issues, we should consider it carefully. It is true that busing of school children was one of the popular issues in the Nixon Administration, but the Nixon Administration is now in disgrace; and the busing of school children could well become a political issue in this island, and I don't think we should make it so.

In speaking about Education, (and this will be my final statement on this matter), the Budget Speech says, "the major difficulties have been overcome." My version of it would be, the major difficulties have just begun.

The area of the Budget in which area of government has displayed what I call its asinine propensities, is in the Broadcasting. I welcome a radio station, I perhaps listen every night, but I cannot welcome what is recommended by our government. I cannot accept what these spoilt children are offering. I feel along with the First Member from Bodden Town, that if we are going to have a radio station, it should be privately owned, or at least the public should have an opportunity to acquire shares in this radio station. Because I see a government radio station as a political weapon in many countries particularly in the Caribbean, the radio has been used as a tool to brain wash the public, to force upon them things that they wouldn't accept if they were in a position to hear both sides of the story, and I cannot offer any support to an establishment of a radio station here, that would be fully owned, fully operated, and fully controlled by government.

Belize has had a radio station for the past fifteen years, and during that time the opposition has only been allowed free time but once, and that was on the occasion when an opposition member along with the Premier went to London to discuss the take over of Belize by Guatamala, or in connection with the trouble with Guatamala. And when they returned government had no alternative but to let this learned gentlemen get on the air; and in a live broadcast from the Assembly in Belize this member whose name I think is a Mr. Goldson, I believe it is, used his time to the full advantage. Mr. Goldson spoke for five hours, and everyone knows the dramatic end to that speech. By the time he had finished the people who hadn't heard the truth in years, who had been kept in the dark had flocked to the building, and they were ready to put him up on their shoulders,

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONT'D): and carry him off like the hero he was. So I'm afraid of a radio station here, because I can see it being used to project certain images which could not be projected in any other manner.

Another area in this same matter in which government is behaving like a child, is that we are not offering to the public the sister child of radio, that is television. So I have to oppose this item in the Budget, because it is my feeling that government should not embark upon a costly project like the establishment of radio without taking along television. It is true television would even be more costly, but the experience in other countries and particularly in the Caribbean has been that every country which started out with the radio station, has ended up with a television station. But these people started long ago, they started before television had reached the stage of development that it has now reached, and this is why we're behaving like children. Because suppose today we were considering the inaugural flight of Cayman Airways to Miami, would we go out and buy an obselete D.C. 3 or an outmoded catalina flying boat, or a relic from Kitty Hawk to provide the service. And then if we find out that this old fashion thing can work, we would then lease a jet. We're doing the same thing with radio and television, we're saying to the people, if you can appreciate a radio station, we will give you T.V. later on. In five years' time when you have reached a state of maturity that in our minds is sufficient for you to appreciate your television, you will get it. But we must first try you out on this less dangerous toy, and find out if you are able to absorb, and to get it working in your system.

Regardless of what an expert says we are now ready in this island for television. The motion picture industry is well received, people are craving for entertainment, and what better form of entertainment than entertainment that can be brought into your own living room. People are now crying for knowledge, and what better form of knowledge is there than that presented by the picture. It is said that one picture is worth a thousand words; if you get a combination picture with a few words, you can learn more in one afternoon, whether for good or evil, you can learn it in one afternoon, more than you could from a thousand books.

St. Vincent is a recent example of television in the Caribbean. They started out with their radio station several years ago, and have now completed their arrangements for television. So we are acting in an infantile manner, even if it is at the advise of an expert. But experts generally advise on what they are paid to advise on. So let us not tell the people that there is no money for it; we would be far better off to cut this radio station out of our budget, as I am recommending that you do right now; cut it out and wait until the time when we can have both.

One member I think mentioned the political aspects of a radio station, when he said that this will be the last free election - very prophetic words. In the last election, the newspaper was used as extensively as a paper could be used for political purposes. Now the newspaper will have a supplement in the radio station. The bit of ointment has been put upon the broadcasting station. As are told that the capital expenditure will be provided by Her Majesty's Government, that is the bit of ointment. The truth is, as the Financial Secretary has pointed out in his speech and in the Estimates, is that the British Government has committed itself to spend two hundred and ten thousand dollars towards the capital expenditure of the broadcasting station. Apparently this commitment was made some time ago, the estimated cost of the radio station is to be, and is shown as two hundred and ninety thousand dollars. We need right now eighty thousand dollars more than Her Majesty's Government has committed the government for. So that to provide the capital expenditure alone, we need an additional eighty thousand dollars. So

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONT'D): the one hundred thousand dollars in the Budget, is not a part of the capital expenditure; the one hundred thousand dollars will be for the recurrent cost of operating your radio station in 1975. So that any member who votes today for the one hundred thousand dollars, is in fact voting for one hundred and eighty thousand dollars today. Because we need that eighty thousand dollars to make the short fall for the capital expenditure. We are told in the Budget Speech that we can get this eighty thousand dollars, perhaps Her Majesty's Government will agree to lend it to us, it's plain as the nose on the faces of some of the members here, that we can borrow this money, in fact I read it as saying that it is advocated that we borrow this money. Does anyone know the cost of borrowing the money today? I will give you two examples.

If we borrow eight thousand dollars at today's rate of twelve percent, and pay it back over a twenty five year period, we would have to pay back two hundred and forty seven thousand six hundred and eighty dollars, or three times the amount borrowed. But if we are extremely lucky, and can borrow the money at seven percent, over a twenty five year period, we would still have to pay back one hundred and sixty eight thousand one hundred and sixty eight thousand one hundred and sixty dollars, or double the amount which we borrowed. It is true that government may be able to borrow at a rate of interest less than seven percent, and it is true that government with its resources maybe able to repay that loan in less than twenty five years. But nevertheless, we're going to pay a cost, we're going to pay a price for borrowing this money.

Now I said in dealing with transportation, that a hundred thousand dollars is not a lot of money, and I'm saying here on broadcasting that a thousand dollars is a lot of money, it seems like a contradiction. It is not, because the two monies are spent for two entirely different services. The one hundred thousand dollars for transportation of school children is being spent for a service which has been an inherent part of the expenditure of this government for many years. It is a service which we cannot do without, unless we are prepared to close the schools. But a hundred thousand dollars for a new broadcasting station, which we could do without until after the election in 1976, is a lot of money. Because the one hundred thousand dollars for this broadcasting station cannot run it until all the capital expenditures have been met, and the capital expenditure cannot be met out of the two hundred and ten thousand dollars provided by Her Majesty's Government. We need immediately eighty thousand dollars for the capital expenditure plus a hundred thousand dollars for the recurrent expenditure.

Now to show you how much one hundred thousand dollars is for this government if we'd taken it to improvise something that we can do without, it will take the revenue from eighteen combined sources in our Budget to give us ninety eight thousand four hundred and seventy five dollars, and I have the sources here. The biggest one is the Judicial with thirty thousand dollars, I won't name the amounts, you can look them up in the Estimates. But if we take the combined revenue for Judicial, Personal Head Tax, Licensing of Firearms, Motor Vehicle Licence Plates, Light Dues, Berthing Fees, Market and Pound Fees, Lease of Crown Lands, Profit on Bank Lodgements, Fees from Districts Clinics, Civil Aviation Licences, Trust Registration, Royalty from Dredging, Loan Repayment, Survey Fees, Fees from the Dental Clinic, Court Fees, put them all together we'll barely have sufficient to pay for the recurrent expenditure of the Broadcasting Station. So if we vote for the Broadcasting Station today we are committing ourselves for a lot more than a hundred thousand dollars. And I say it is very foolhardy to talk about going

Radio Licence, Cemetery Fees

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONT'D): out to borrow money, when we have a deficit in our budget now. And it is also foolhardy to talk about borrowing money for a service which could be deferred for sometime. It would not be foolhardy to go out and borrow money to subsidise a service which is in operation, or a service which the people have become used to, but it is the height of stupidity to talk about going out to borrow eighty thousand dollars to meet the capital expenditure on a service which could well be a disservice to this island, My contention that most of the radio stations in the Caribbean are nothing but governmental propaganda agencies.

I am making a lot of contradictory statements today, and I hope the members are not dozing, because they have to be very much awake to follow me today, because I would welcome broadcasting as a supplement to the press, because our press has deteriorated to such an extent that it can no longer be called a free press. I'm looking forward to debating this in detail when the legislation comes for the setting up of a radio station. But when these programms are put forward, they're so far out that the humble mortals on this side of the House are not able to follow them. I can only say of the people who produce these fantastic things which we see in our Budget today, that the Gods have come down to us in the likeness of men.

The members from Bodden Town and North Side who spoke before me, mentioned the Cadastral Survey. It is our understanding that government is about to change the policies laid down for the survey of George Town and West Bay. A meeting with the member for Agriculture, Lands and Development has not been able to satisfy us in our minds as to what government is intending to do. But we would not like to see a change in government's policy. We say that whatever you did in West Bay and in George Town please follow it in Bodden Town and North Side. Everyone knows the Cadastral Survey was on the way when I came into the House, and here today I'm not seeking to change something that has gone too far. I'm only asking that the lands in the Bodden Town area, and the North Side area be adjudicated in the same fashion as the lands in West Bay and George Town were. So far we have not been able to get that assurance from the Member in Executive Council. The two Members on my right hand, and on my left can bear me out with this. One question that I would like answered today, is why is the policy being change? Or has government decided to not change its policy, after we have started a little noise about it.

In the Budget Speech the Financial Secretary mentioned the plight of the Hotel industry. He tells us that this year the hotel only had an occupancy rate of about fifty three percent. But even this fifty three percent occupancy which is a low rate, is an improvement on previous years occupancy rates. This year the occupancy rate is fifty three percent, and previous years (these figures come from the speech) it was forty percent last year. But I've heard on a previous occasion from the Minister for Tourism that a hotel needs a sixty percent occupancy rate for it to be called a"viable business," to use his exact words. The point I'm driving at, is that is seems to me that right now we have more beds than we can fill. Later on in this Session government will be putting forward a law to amend the Hotels Aid Law, to renew it for another year - I don't think this is right. If we now have more hotels than we can fill, if we have more hotels than we need, if we have hotels that are not breaking even, if we have hotels that are not making a profit, why should we have a law to encourage the erection of more hotels. I fought this matter in the Budget for '73, I fought it in '74, and I intend to fight it again.

MR. G.HAIG BODDEN (CONT'D): We should not behave like the Medes and Persians, who once they'd put something into operation, could not stop it. Perhaps if the Hotels Aid Law is not renewed this year, and government is able to get the little tariff which will come from this source, we may not have a deficit at the end of the year. The plain fact is, we're losing revenue to a business that does not need it. If this law was helping in the operation of the hotels, it would be a different matter. This law is for the erection of hotels, and for goods imported within a certain period after the erection of the hotels law. So we are here encouraging a law which we do not need.

In the matter of Medical Services, we will be asked to spend quite a lot of money, and we are asked to spend this money; everything has been prepared for it. In the last sitting of this House, we re-wrote medical health laws, laws which were vehemently opposed from this side of the House. Certain sections were amended, certain bad sections remained as they came to us. But the main purpose of re-writing these laws was to put the power in the hands of the member, as provided in our Constitution. Because the member could no longer operate under the old laws. The law had to be changed, just the same as it was changed in the Tourist Law to put the power in the hands of the member, and as it was changed in the Liquor Law, I imagine to put the power in the hands of the member. This is all in keeping with our Constitution, but I am worried about unlimited power being put in the hands of the member. And I recall a quotation from one of the greatest parliamentarians that every lived, William Pitt, the Earl of Chattan; and William Pitt said, "unlimited power is apt to corrupt the minds of those who possess it." And I do not like to see unlimited power being put in the hands of members.

In the Public Health Laws that were re-written, we fought desperately, we fought in vain against Executive Council, being given the power to make regulations for every part of the law; forty different sections were in that law to be taken care of by regulations. I will not attempt to go into forty sections, I only want to mention one section, that is the section with quarantine. I have to bring this in in the Budget debate, because I will not have an opportunity to say anything when the regulations regarding quarantine are acted upon. I hope that this new regulation dealing with quarantine will make provisions for what is popularly know as short armed inspection of all the males coming in on ships, because I understand in talking to a private doctor this week, that recently he has been treating an increase number of cases of venereal disease. It is the responsibility of our government service, and it is the responsibility of the Quarantine Board to see that a short armed inspection is carried out on every male member of the crew of every ship that comes to this island.

Money is provided for clinics in the districts, will the money be spent? Because money was provided for the same member for a playing field in Bodden Town, and it wasn't spent. Two thousand dollars was ear marked at a previous meeting of the Finance Committee, and that money has not been spent. I hope the member will spend the money this time. We have a motion in this sitting which calls upon government to staff the clinic at Bodden Town. We had assurances in May that this would be done, I hope the money we'll be voting for, for clinics in the districts will take care of this. Incidentally there's also a motion asking government to do just this. These things should not be necessary if the member would carry out his responsibilities to the Eastern districts in the same fashion that they're carried out in other quarters.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONT'D): In examining the Estimates for this year, I see that government only expects to collect eight thousand five hundred dollars from the Dental Clinic. The approved Estimates for 1974 showed an anticipated collection of eight thousand five hundred dollars. The Revised Estimates for 1974 also showed the same figure of eight thousand five hundred dollars, and the estimated figure for 1975 is also eight thousand five hundred dollars. What has happened to this figure? Why is it not more? Why was this not increasing with everything else? Provision is made in the Estimates for 1975 for two dental officers; will it mean that with two dental officers working in 1975 we will not have greater revenue from this source, than we had revised in 1974, and brought back in 1975.

On the other hand I see that the medical fees will be three times as much. In 1974 the revised figures for fees seemed to be forty thousand dollars. In the Budget for 1975 we estimate that we will collect one hundred and twenty eight thousand dollars for medical fees. This is an increase of three hundred percent. Why is the dental clinic not showing a three hundred percent increase as well? It is expected that during this year our medical fees will be revised. Here again I have to say what I have to say now, because we will not be given an opportunity to have any say in the revision of these fees - they will just be published. Are you going to increase the medical fees three hundred percent, and not increase the dental fees three hundred percent? Or do you intend to cut down the services at the dental clinic by a three hundred percent?

On strong line in the Budget Speech is, that the Development Plan for the islands will be ready in 1975. I don't expect to live to see the day when that plan will be ready. This plan should have come into operation several years ago; nobody seems to know why it has not come. The question I would like answered, what are you going to do with a Development Plan for downtown George Town? It is already five years too late. But this must be written down in government's speech, because the Planning Law which we have cannot operate without the Development Plan. The Development Plan is mentioned forty times in that Law, it is the soul of the Law. You might as well think that a human being could live without his soul, or without his heart, as to think the law could function without this plan. So we have to keep saying it will come, I predict it will not come. What are we going to do with it if it comes? Can we plan for areas that are already developed? It is like when I heard some time ago in the Finance Committee that somebody was coming down to plan the Hospital grounds, when every available bit of land in that area had already been consumed by the Mosquito Research, with the exception of one little piece that was saved for the Natural Resources Survey.

I read in the speech that the plan will cover the period until 1990. I think that is a typographical error, and the sentence should have read, "the plan will cover the period from 1990," because it certainly will not be available to us in a few months time.

It hurts me in this Budget Session to have to vote for money for the Council of Social Services, although I had brought together with the member from Bodden Town a motion dealing with Social Services. And the reason why I'm hurt is because the inaugural meeting for the establishment of this Council was held in Bodden Town last week. It was held there on Thursday night, I had spent Wednesday and Thursday in close proximity to the Member for Executive Council, who is responsible for these services. I did not receive an invitation to the meeting, neither did the First Elected Member from Bodden Town. Yet when I read the Cayman Brac newspaper, I saw in the Second Edition of the "Bluff" that another Member of this House was the Chairman for the meeting in Cayman Brac. I do not feel

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONT'D): that this was just a mere oversight. I feel that I was dealt with unjustly, and I think the Social Services Council was also dealt a damning blow. Whatever the faults of the two members from Bodden Town, their names are still magic in that constituency. Had we been invited this service would have definitely gotten off to a better start, although we will still do all we can to promote it.

If one is having a meeting in Bodden Town and one wants to have a big crowd, at the present time the names you need to announce there are the names of Haig and Jim Bodden. The public feels safe and secure when we are there. They feel safe and secure when we are near, because they know that their interest will be our interest. And if there are to be anymore meetings of this nature, I will be willing to bury the hatchet, and beg for an invitation at the feet of the member. I do not believe that this was an attempt to play politics at the expense of the public, and at the expense of the Social Services Council.

In the Budget there is still a token figure for Cal - Lacsa, I'm not going to try to cut it out, because I believe we're going to need it. Southern Airline will be flying into Cayman, its first scheduled flight will be at three o'clock on the evening of December the 4th. It is good to have some competition, it is good to have another airline. But with our limited passenger load it is not good to have another airline coming out of Miami to Cayman. I could go home right now and I could still come back and tell you the arguments that I will hear. I will hear that this government cannot do anything about it, because the almighty Civil Aeronautics Board has granted to the Cayman Islands a concession to fly into Miami, and Pan American Airline therefore has a reciprocal right to fly into Cayman. I would like to see that in writing. I don't believe one word of it, what I believe is this, that the Cayman Islands having given the rights to fly into the United States and that the United States therefore has a reciprocal right to fly into the Cayman Islands.

We did not make a sufficient attempt, I don't think we made any attempt at all to find out if the Civil Aeronautics Board would make their licence to Southern Airways a conditional one. That conditional licence could have been that they can fly into Cayman providing they do not take passengers from an over-worked Miami route. Because the purpose of the Civil Aeronautics Board is not only to control aviation, it is to protect the interest of aviation. And can the interest be served if we allow something that is not economically feasible. I believe that had we gone to Southern Airways and said look, we are poor people, we have a small route, try not to interfere, they might have been able to lift passenger from another city.

It may be a surprise to members to learn what I knew long ago, that the flight which is coming here does not originate in Miami. The same plane and the same crew get up very early in the morning and fly from Memphis, and when they arrive in Miami the number of the flight is changed, but the same plane and the same crew come to us from another city. It's the same thing that happens here, Lacsa flies to Miami under a certain number, and when they're coming back, the same plane, the same crew come back as a different flight. So it wouldn't be a very difficult matter to have arranged a departure point in the United States different from Miami. It is true that competition can help any business, but so far Cayman Airways together with Lacsa has been able to take care of its passengers out of Miami, even if they had to put in a few extra flights. So we may need that token figure in the Budget . It is possible that had we gone to the Civil Aeronatutics Board we might not have won, but what is wrong with putting up a good fight, for a good cause.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONT'D): I am coming down to what I would call the last half of my speech, and in this part I would like to offer congratulations to the Financial Secretary for the many things that he has been able to implement, the many programmes he has been able to get started. Programmes which were in the manifesto on which the First Member from Bodden Town and me came into the House, and we will have to get busy and create a new manifesto for next election, since two out of three of the items have already been implemented.

We're working today under a defective Constitution, and the defect in that in my opinion is the matter of collective responsibility. Because this collective responsibility will enable this government to force through a budget of fourteen million dollars. But I do not pretend to do anything about the Constitution, because one of the promises I made at election time was that I would not attempt to change the Constitution. This is very dangerous ground upon which I am treading, and with the half dozing members it might be used against me sometime. But at the next election I will have to consider carefully whether I must tell the people the plain truth as it stands, and that their representatives are greatly out voted, and that we were unable to make any major changes in the Budget's spending for 1973, 1974 and 1975.

One of the major capital developments that we will have to deal with this year is that of the Harbour development. And I'm not going into the merits of this, or into any adverse criticism, but I heard something that startled me quite recently, and I heard that although this government will have a proper harbour in a short time, that a private firm has made application to dredge a certain section of the George Town harbour for its exclusive use to provide facilities for containerized cargo. Now if this little bit of news is correct, I hope that government will not fall for such a scheme, unless the contract makes provisions for all other ship owners to use this dock. Of course the other ship owners would be expected to pay a nominal fee.

In docking/Cayman we must consider our docking facilities are limited. In the winter months the use of what facilities we have would be restricted, it would be contingent upon the mercies of the Northwesters, and so government should not, in the George Town area give a concession to a private firm to monopolise any section of the water front in George Town. If a section can be found/in Colliers, or Red Bay or some place like that, well you could consider, but not in George Town. And so I'm asking Members of Executive Council if such a request should reach their ears, please consider these things, and if you do give a concession to a private firm, do not let that private firm monopolise the dock.

One question which for twelve months has had no answer, is why has the new Traffic Law not been put in force? Attempts have been made to answer this question, nevertheless the law has not been yet put in force. I remember this time last year we were here hurrying through a Committee, so that the new Traffic Law would be ready for the 1st of January, 1974. And I believe there will be an even greater scramble to have this important bill signed into law in time for 1975.

The new law will increase the penalities provided under the old law; that is very necessary. We heard a member this morning telling you that this year alone nine people have died on our roads, and if the Christmas holidays give us their usual number of corpses, we will have a statistic rate of one per month, for the year 1974. We also heard that sixty odd people were injured on our roads this year, that is an average of more than one per week. And we heard of nearly four hundred vehicles being involved in accidents, an average of one per day. These are

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONT'D): statistics which I wish were not true. But I believe that this government has played its part in providing those statistics. You heard a member tell about an area in North Side which from as far back as he could remember was in the twenty five mile per hour zone, and it has recently been increased to fifty miles an hour, at a time when the accident rate on that particular piece of road has never been higher; this is governmental action. And the member although he visited many departments and spoke to many people, could not find out who was responsible for this increase. The member from Bodden Town and I have sought to reduce the speed limit in the Bodden Town area; up until the time when this drastic step was taken in North Side, Bodden Town was the only district in the entire Cayman Islands, that has a fifty mile zone within the confines of the district. The entire George Town, the entire West Bay, the entire East End, and up until last week the entire North Side; all of them were in the twenty five mile zone. But Bodden Town remained for the greater length of it a part of the fifty mile zone. And we believe that government's lackadaisical attitude in reducing the speed limits, and in enforcing the Traffic Law has helped these statistics to mount.

The Traffic Law has been one year in going into law, from the time it was passed by this House. I understand that it was also two years before that in the drafting. The law is now ready for amendments, because it has been three years in its formative process. Government is not taking sufficient steps to control traffic. Why should we have an over all limit of fifty miles per hour, we only have thirteen thousand people. The island of Bermuda has fifty three thousand people, they have a speed limit of thirty miles per hour. And in September when I talked to Mr. Robinson from the Bermuda Assembly, their traffic deaths at that time out of fifty three thousand people were far less than ours. I met this man from Bermuda in the Republic of Sri Lanka, and I found there, that is an island with thirteen million people, and an over-all speed limit of forty miles per hour. Why does our speed limit remain at fifty miles per hour? I believe it would be reduced if it were not for the collective vote of Executive Council. And I'm giving notice that during 1975 I will be testing this collective vote.

Now Mr. President, in conclusion I would like to mention that we need to cut this Budget, that has been the theme of my speech. We could cut the Budget by two million dollars, we could cut the Budget by taking out unnecessary items, we can also reduce some of the items. This will be the job of the Finance Committee.

In the very first part of my speech, I drew a comparison between how spending has increased since 1971, until the present time. I have shown that spending has increased by an astronomical figure. There should be some increase in our yearly spending, but is should not go up by the precentages I have shown. We need to slow down a bit in our spending. And my final bit of advice Mr. President, is to the Elected Members of Executive Council and that advice is, that they must not scramble too hard to get to the mikes.

HON. A.B. BUSH: Mr. President, Honourable Members, I know the other side of the House will be delighted now to hear the Executive Council Members speak, and reply to criticisms which have been levelled at them.

Mr. President and Members I will confine my remarks to the Budget Speech, and to the subjects which fall under my portfolio, rather than ramble around in general terms of conditions in the island.

First I would like to touch on Broadcasting, as was mentioned in the Financial Secretary's Address. As was in the Address, it was talked about for some eight years, and government did not see fit to attempt to implement this until now, because government did not see its way clear in doing so. And the British government as has been disclosed has offered to stand the Capital Expenditure,that is the building and equipting of this station. And rather than government refusing it again, government decided to accept it. Because it was pointed out to government where it could be a very viable concern for this government. It was thought best that government should operate this station, rather than private enterprise. I've heard it said that it is not needed, it could be used as a political weapon, it will be a financial drag on the government. Well let me say, I hope that because some of the members are against it, it was passed by the majority members of this House, that they just haven't taken the view, or the attitude to kill it, and done with it, and have nothing good whatever to say about it. We are I believe the last little territory in the Caribbean to have such a station, and I know I have been told since it all came up anew that we've done the right thing by waiting until now to get this station. Because we're going to get one of the finest stations in the Caribbean area. And so this is anyway one thing in its favour, we're going to get a good station.

Now it has been mentioned in the Financial Secretary's Speech that the recurrent cost will be something like a hundred thousand dollars, and this is what two members seem to take the opportunity to lash out at this, and say that it will be a financial burden on the government. Now we have gone into all this and although it will take a hundred thousand dollars or may be more recurrent expenditure to run it, it will not really cost this government a hundred thousand dollars a year, because one must remember that the station will be earning money, and depending on what it earns, the expenditure of government on it is bound to decrease. So let us say instead of for the first year, a hundred thousand dollars, it probably will be ninety thousand dollars. And we have been shown where in three years the station will be self-sufficient. So with these prospects in view, government has entered this. And I believe that the time has come now when we should have it. And members, believe it or not, you've gone too far into it to turn back, you've got to accept it now. So you're going to get the radio station whether you want it or not. And I can tell you more, work has already started on the building, and the equiptment has been ordered, and although we don't expect to get it in operation in June, we do hope to have it in September, if everything works fine. But it is more to this than what you know, or what you read about. It's a lot more complicated than any of us here can imagine, but we're on the road to it, and we're going to get it this year. And I do hope that the members who opposed it will be offered the first opportunity to broadcast over it.

HON. A.B. BUSH (CONT'D): Now another subject in the Financial Secretary's Address which falls under my portfolio, is air transport services. As he has pointed out, these are most vital to our economy. And I think those of us who remember in the days when we didn't have an air field how far back our island was, and we can remember when the particular type of plane that the air field was built for was serving us; we thought it at that time a wonderful form of transportation. The island then started to move ahead, but not until we got our jet strip did the island really start to boom, and it has been going ever since, increasing year by year, and I think we can see that what the Financial Secretary said is absolutely right, that it is most vital to our economy.

Much has been said about the new airline that's coming in to serve us. They predict it is the end of our own airline Cayman Airways, I don't look at it in this light. I look at it that rather than it being a competitor to our own airline, that it will be a collaborator, and that it will also help to boost our tourism in the island. Because I believe that this additional services that are needed are going to be expanded, the service is going to be improved, enlarged and is bound to be of great benefit to us in the future.

I remember when, and I speak about the competition which is predicted on this airline. I remember when one hotel was in the island, I remember when another one came, it was predicted that one or the other would go out, there wasn't room for both of them here. But lo and behold rather than it proving to be a competitor one to the other, they all collaborated one with the other, and so it grew, and much more hotels sprung up, and today I think we even need more.

A member made mention of the law that will be introduced here in this Session asking for the extension of The Hotels Aid Law, which he is saying he is against, because of the poor occupancy mentioned in the Financial Secretary's Speech on the hotels. Well this could be because we need an expansion of our air services to attract more tourists- and I think that we should have this. And I feel sure that one of the airlines isn't going to kill the other. I feel that the service is going to be improved, and both of them are going to make money, and the island will on the whole benefit from it, and in particular our tourist industry.

When we advertise for tourists you advertise the island as a tourist resort, you don't know whether one tourist is coming or a thousand. And my fear now that we have the other airline coming in is, not that the tourist is not coming, but I'm wondering whether we're going to be able to accommodate them - this is just why I'm saying, I think we need to look now for more accommodation on the island, for the tourist which I expect anyway to see coming here. Because in all my travels in the Eastern Caribbean, into places which don't have really as much to offer, I may be a little conceited on this because I still believe the Cayman Islands is the best island in the Caribbean, and may be I say I'm a little conceited on this, but they haven't got as much to offer. They are further away from home, and when I see so many touristsflocking into areas like that, it makes me to know that really our island hadn't been fully discovered, I'm sure that this same airline which we complain about coming in today is going to help us to be fully discovered; and I don't want to say swamped with tourists but I know we're going to have our fair share of the tourist business. I think we should get ready, prepare for it now. /The Member for Tourism will no doubt tell you more about that. I'm sorry if I strayed off and went somewhat into your departments.

HON. A.B. BUSH (CONT'D): Now just one more on the airlines. I think the Second Member from Bodden Town said he wasn't convinced that government had tried hard enough to keep this airline from coming in. My dear good man this is something that this government couldn't do, this is authority we had from Britain, not from the United States, from Her Majesty's Government; it is a reciprocal agreement and we couldn't alter it. Isn't it fair and right that if we are permitted to go into some place that that some place be permitted to come into us, and this is just how it is with the airline. I don't think we should feel hard about this, and I do hope that we would not display any evidence of this to this airline, because I feel sure that they haven't just come here, because they know they have the right to come here, I feel sure that they see there is a great potential here, and they have come to help us to develop it.

Now I will touch on the big projects which government has embarked on, and most of them fall under my portfolio. The Administrative Building as you all know is well on the way, and although the date for its opening has been somewhat set back, we do hope to have this building ready by May of next year. It was to have been in February, but because of delays in obtaining the materials necessary for a building like this, no fault of the contractors really, it has been put off until May. I hope we don't have a further delay in the opening of this, because I'm sure that all Members especially the Government Members want to be seated in this lovely building, as soon as possible. I think it was mentioned by the First Elected Member for Bodden Town of the cost of it, and the contract price. Whatever additional cost, it will be to this building, it will not be on the contract price, it will be due to the cost of material.

Now the Roads Programme - I'm sorry my friend from North Side isn't here, and I hate to talk behind his back, or in his absence let me say. He'll have to read what I have to say I suppose in the Minutes when they're all put together. The Roads Programme that is, re-construction programme has been somewhat delayed, not through any fault of Public Works, or myself. The equipment was ordered more than a year ago, and we have just now received most of it. I do hope that work on this will start early in the new year; and I do hope too, that when this programme is completed that there'll be no more criticisms of roads in this House, but nothing by praise for them said. I know that especially in the North Side district, I've had more criticisms of the work being done than I suppose from any other constituency in the island. And I firmly believe that the only way that it could be satisfactory, would be if I had the member who is a member of this House in charge of the roads in that district, and he might get this one of these days.

He mentioned of me not going into North Side on occasions when he asked if I go there. I went on many occasions, but the complaints were so numerous, that I couldn't go every time I get a complaint; and especially I didn't want to take him along with the Director of Works, or the Chief Engineer in charge of Public Works, because every time we met we clashed, and surely this wasn't a very good attitude at all; and most of the time I went into North Side with the Chief Engineer in charge of Public Works, and the Director himself. And on the particular piece of read, as it has come up here more than once which he mentioned as so much money being squandered on, I took this up also with the department, and I was convinced that money wasn't squandered on it. It mightn't have been done how the Member for North Side wanted it done, but to my mind the engineering that was

HON. A.B. BUSH (CONT'D):carried out on it was satisfactory. We had a fall in between two humps, which water went across the road, washed it flooded it, the member wanted it cut down, that is the humps; instead the engineers thought it best to build it up. And I believe if you drive there today you'll find that it's a very nice piece of road. We are now trying to complete the whole stretch of road from the junction wherever it is into North Side - I hope they'll have enough money to finish this. And so we'll get a little relief from that particular piece of road for some time.

What is taking place in Bodden Town, again much fault has been found with it, I can't see why, because the road is better today than it ever been before. And the corners and curbs and what else are in it, certainly the Public Works didn't put them there, they're trying to take them out. But if we tried to take every curb out of the road into Bodden Town from George Town we wouldn't have any money for the surface. We would have money only to move the fences, this is about all we would have. So what is being done there is, where the road is not thirty feet wide, we are slipping the fences to make it thirty feet wide, Because the carriage-way of hot mix asphalt will be twenty two feet wide, with four feet shoulders on either side. Where there is not thirty feet, we slip the fences. But I don't believe that the danger so much is on the curbs in the road, I think it's the corners that have grown up to such an extent that you can't clearly see around them.

I believe that members will know that I have been trying for years, from the time I was Chairman of the Road Board to get some By-Laws or some Regulations of some kind to keep these corners cut down, not by the Public Works Department, because if the Public Works Department has to do all of this, we have to provide more money. And I wanted to see this a responsibility of the owners of the property on either side of the road, that they would keep this property cut down ten feet from the fences on either side of the road. I think if you had that done you wouldn't be so critical of the few turns in the road. I would like to see a dead straight road from here into Bodden Town, but would this be the best thing? This one would cause you far more accidents than anything else, because I don't know how many of you know it, but a dead straight road is one of the most dangerous roads to drive on. And although we would like tosee this we know that it's impossible to do this any part of the island. But when our roads are completed in the way in which we are going to do them now, I believe there will be criticisms here from this House, that the surface is too good, because you can go too fast on them, and you should have some holes put in them.- may be we'll miss the pot holes that we used to have in the past. But when these roads are finished and they're all marked off with a centre line and a line for the verges, I think it's going to cut down our accident rate. As of now you know no one knows where the centre of the road is, no one knows where the verges are, and so when these are all clearly defined, I'm sure our roads are going to be safer to drive, and also to walk.

The Port Facility, I'm happy to tell you that after almost two years we see the beginning of this. And the contract documents are now being prepared, we expect the consultants back here again on Friday, when they will bring the contract documents and put it out for bids from contractors.

A member made mention of the undetermined cost of this facility. He said he heard first it was a million dollars; this is what we started at, and although we have a figure of which we believe may be the price of it - no good of me telling it to you here now, because not until the contractors have their go with it, will we know really what we

HON. A.B. BUSH (CONT'D): will get it built for. We estimated at so much, but we don't know really what it's going to cost when the contractors bid on it. So it would be useless for me to te tell you here today what its estimated cost. I can assure you government is as much concerned about the cost of anything not only the port, but everything else. And the Financial Secretary as you all know, especially in the Finance Committee holds expenditure to the minimum, any time he can do so, he does it. And I think we've got to appreciate it because we know that especially some members of this House would like to see more spending on certain things, even though they disagree with spending on other things.

A member made mention of dredging, and what he had heard on it. I don't want to go into this, but I want to show the member that no one dredging in George Town will have any right to deprive anyone else from using any part of the harbour that this may be done - this will be for one and all. I think we'll make a statement on this some time or other, if it really comes to a position. I must tell you that I have a meeting on this on Thursday morning.

Now the Airport is about the last of the big projects, and this is the last that we are starting on, because of the wishes of members of this House. I think what they wanted to see first was our Administrative Building, our Roads, and our Port Facilites, and lastly our Airport, something done to that. The first phase of that is just about completed. We expect to receive from the contractors the transit shed the end of this month. And I hope some of you will come up there and look at it, and see what a big and beautiful transit shed we have - this is very badly needed. We also have a hundred and twenty five thousand gallon cistern to take care of the water needs for the Terminal Building. As has been said in the Financial Secretary's Address that this will be the next phase of development for our Airport. We're looking for ways and means to get this money now, and we hope before 1975 is out that we will have a new Terminal Building; I think all of you who go there surely see the need for it. And I'm hoping that this will be done in 1975. They're all ready, we only need the money, and I feel sure the members here seeing the need for this will collaborate with government in trying to get the money to do it.

Mr. President and Members as I said I wasn't going to speak in general on what was said; but I don't think I should sit down without replying to statements made by the Second Member from Bodden Town, in which he critised government so, for what he good as termed extravagant spendings I wonder if the member really said that in any sincerity at all, or whether he was just saying it to hear himself talk. Because could any member of this House expect that this government or any government any where would become stagnant, and spend the same amount each year, or spend less, he mentioned nothing whatever about the revenue. He didn't say where this money was being spent from, one wonders where did it come from, if you didn't have anything to spend, how did you spend it? Yet we've spent five million more in 1974 then we spent in 1971, so we must have made far more revenue too than we did in 1971 to be able to spend it. And I believe you know, that this is an indication, he mentioned the Constitution and it only came about all of this extravagant spending since we had our new Constitution. But I believe that he realises this is an indication of good prosperous government. Because they have been able to find the revenue in order to incease the expenditure for the amenities of the islands. I wonder if he or anyone else could say here, that government could do without any of the projects which I have outlined. I wonder if anyone could say that we could do without

HON. W.W. CONOLLY (CONT'D): four to five thousand dollars to have one page advertisement for one shot only in New Yorker Magazine. Not to mention a magazine like Esquire, where it is too expensive for us to advertise. I'm only doing this members to show that a hundred thousand dollars when we talk of a hundred thousand dollars for advertising, that we are talking about peanuts.

It is fortunate, and I would like at this particular time to pay compliments to our department's staff, the mileage we get out of a hundred thousand dollars. We have just had a thirteen minute film run, the production of that cost twenty thousand dollars. The first film we got, we got that for a matter of three thousand dollars, because Schlitz Beer Company gave us the pictures. If we had to get them, it would have cost probably fifty thousand dollars. So when we talk of tourism, and we talk of the amount of money, and about cutting tourism, let me say this, tourism today contributes directly or indirectly more than any other single thing to the economy of these islands. It is estimated that each tourist that comes here spends an average of two hundred and twenty dollars. And if we have this year, as we hope we will have, fifty five thousand tourists, we can then estimate that those fifty five thousand tourists left approximately twelve million dollars in these islands.

A point was raised of the advertising. I would like to get it clearly understood that the Department of Tourism does not advertise banks and tax business. You might have seen [illegible]xes with that, but they're not sponsored by the Department of Tourism. Mention was made in the General Script on our film that there's a lot of things that the Cayman Islands don't have. They don't have any thieves, they don't have any robbers. they don't have any tax. But we play down off shore tax business to a very low key. And it might be interesting to note, that just last year the National Broadcasting Company T.V. that did a Script and ran a film on this island, when it was shown it reflected more on the banking business, than it did on the tourism business, and the Department decided not to use it. So I don't want members to get the idea that the Department of Tourism is advertising for tax business in these islands. I would like to get it quite clearly, our advertising programme as designed by the Department of Tourism is designed to attract people of the income bracket of fifteen thousand a pear up, and that is why we advertise in certain magazines, certain journals which this type of person reads.

The Honourable First Elected Member for Exco mentioned hotel occupancy in his debate on the airline, naturally the airline occupancy and the hotel occupancy are so well tied together that it would have been impossible for him not to mention it. And the Second Member from Bodden Town has said that he is going to oppose the incentive on building to hotels. I would like the member to realise that up to the present time we have a seasonal business. If our occupancy was year round, if our occupancy as reported between the 15th of December, and the 15th of January would keep up year round, then I could see he would have an argument. Let me say this, that according to the last report I've had, there was not one available room in these islands over the Christman period. In fact they've been sold out months in advance. But this fifty three percent occupancy that the Financial Secretary spoke about, is an occupancy that has been calculated over the year. And even though it is true to say that we have more tourists coming to the island, their stay is shorter, and rated on bed nights, it reflects a fall in occupancy.

HON. W.W. CONOLLY (CONT'D): I feel today that there will be no argument when we go to the Finance Committee on this point, because I'm sure this would be one of the last areas in our Budget that you would want to trim. I can see by the faces around, that everybody agrees with it. So rather than take anymore of your time, I think I will close that point.

Much was mentioned about Cadastral Survey, which is a kind of touchy point. But members seem to forget. And if my memory serves me correctly, it was an agreement and it was accepted by us that this expenditure for Cadastral Survey would be borne seventy percent by Her Majesty's Government, and thirty percent by this government. It's a committment, and as far as I'm concerned about it, it is a committment that we should honour.

The second thing dealing with Cadastral Survey, mention was made about a policy being made, the government changing its policy. Now let me get it straight, government has changed no policy. I was approached by members, the two members from Bodden Town, in respect of this, and my statement to them was, government has changed no policy. As far as I'm concerned about it, the policy of government is stated in the Adjudication Law. This is the policy of government, the Law. The government can't change the law without we come in here and change it, amend it. But the law is there for anybody to read, and there is a due legal process. There is first of all as you well know, you make your claim, if there is any objection it goes to the Tribunal, and from there to the Grand Court. So as far as I'm concerned as the member under whose protfolio this particular subject has just fallen, I cannot make a statement, but I'm sure government's policy has not changed, it is reflected in the law.

Much has been said about the Radio Station, and this is a point that I know is a very touchy one, because it is one that has been going on for the last ten years. I remember about eight, nine years ago I was Chairman of some committee dealing with somebody off these islands with radio. Now I think we need a Radio Station. As the Honourable Members said, and hopefully we are going to get a Radio Station that is going to be something worthwhile. Probably if we had accepted what we were being offered eight or ten years ago, it might have been that we would be the losers.

I can see very well why the members for Bodden Town are so concerned over the radio. I didn't know why, but the Honourable Second Member for Bodden Town, in his debating the subject of the Council National Services, he said if you want to get a following in Bodden Town, you call two names, not mention no other names. And I think that is what the member is afraid of, that the radio might come across and mention other names. I'm sorry about this, really sorry, because may be the people they're only getting one side of the story. May be this will be a chance for them to get the other side of the story. Let's hope that it doesn't play too heavily against them. If that is the fear, I see no danger in it myself. As far as I'm concerned, broadcasting station should be, particularly in this island in the hands of government, this is my conclusion. I feel today that the control of it, and don't tell me today that government can have control of something, just because they own one or two percent, or have one or two directors on there. If you're going to have control over this you must control from the top to the bottom. And I feel today that the people of this territory are going to benefit by govern-

HON. W.W. CONOLLY (CONT"D) ;ment having control of it. And until such time that this community develops to where they can be above small prejudices and stuff, biases, I think it is the good thing for the government to be in control.

This is the subject that I'm not going to do what the member from North Side said, cry. I'm not going to cry, but I can't say that it doesn't give me a bit of concern, and it is the M.R.C.U. Unit in Grand Cayman. Not from the point of the efficiency of the Unit, but there are certain difficulties over which human beings have no control. Insects build up immunities, human beings build up immunities to certain medicines, and this is the reaction, and reaction, so one cannot do very much about it. The only thing we can do, is what has been suggested, is to take the law of average and use the lesser of the two evils. But with all the worries of people over M.R.C.U. and the expenditure on M.R.C.U., I think M.R.C.U. in this island has made a great success. I am sure that hadn't it been for the M.R.C.U. we would not have had a jet aircraft flying in this area. It would be too dangerous for those jets to fly with all of these bugs going into those fins, they would always be grounded. No airline would venture their jets, if M.R.C.U. hadn't been here.

In 1946 someone said you could see the mosquitoes flying up there in balls. Well definitely jets couldn't fly, so let's take from then, let's take it. As a result of M.R.C.U. we can even have jets, and not only one, we're having two. We heard the Honourable Member said, another airline is coming in with a jet - just think of it.

Mr. President and Members I think the money we spend on this is well spent money. And I do hope today that we are wise enough to look at this thing very broadly, because if it had not been for the control put on by that Unit,, we would not have had tourism, no joke about it, there wouldn't be no fourteen million dollars hanging around this Chamber, or any Chamber in this island to be spent.

I read a statement recently when years, and years ago, and I think this statement was written by one of our Administrators after he had left Cayman. And he said if the development of tourism is going to be a reality, then something must be done about the mosquitoes. Something must be done, he said it, he said it in no uncertain terms. Mr. President and Members we have done something about them, there was no idea, any short term eradication programme, what was considered was a control, and I think that the Unit has done a successful job of controlling mosquitoes, to where people can live. And at least I might say, the mosquitoes are not deterring tourists from coming here. I would ask that when we get into the Finance Committee, and we take this subject that members here would consider very seriously what maybe the effects, if the Unit is unable to continue its programme. And let me say this, this is not a cheap exercise, everything has gone up in cost, and if we are going to develop just to keep on what we did last year, we have to increase.

Mr. President and Members, if the Members words are true, that the change of Constitution

HON. W.W.CONOLLY (CONT'D) has caused government to go on the spending spree. I'm proud to be associated with it, because as the Honourable [illegible] Elected Member of Exco said, surely if the boys went on a spree, they worked to get the money for which to go on this spree. The government has seen a time of prosperity and naturally the obvious thing for the government to do, was to plan for the infra-structure, plan for the amenities of the people. I feel today that you can have a lot of critics about government's spending. If the boot was on the other foot, you would hear, we had to spend this money. If you didn't spend the money you would have criticism about it. Naturally we want roads, we want docks, we want hospital services, we want other social services, we want education; and let me say this, that none of these services are cheap - we have to pay for them.

Last year when I spoke on the 1973 Budget Address I said that it was a marvellous thing for the Honourable Financial Secretary to be able to present a Budget without/at the the same time presenting tax measures. This time, I cannot use the exact words, but I can say this, that I feel like the government and the people of this territory all put together should be grateful, and should be very proud that in a population of twelve to thirteen thousand people, a Budget has been presented for approximately fourteen million dollars, and the only tax measures were measures of indirect taxation. Measures that I'm sure will not affect the average man on the street, and I'm sure if these measures had been in any way controversial to the institution on which they were placed, we would have heard the rumblings long time ago. I take it that they have accepted these in good spirit, those institutions on which an increase in taxation has just recently been placed, or measures to effect this in the new year. Those institutions I feel they're happy in a sense to know that they are able to contribute to this. I'm sure they are, and I'm sure they're willing to support us in our action. So let's hope that the year 1975 will be a year when coming to the end of it, the Honourable Financial Secretary will be able again to introduce a Budget and despite what the member from Bodden Town says, I would like to see it doubled, once he could find the money to pay for it.

We have a lot of things in the country parts of the island to be done. We have here a lot of social work to be done, and you know as I know, and every body knows people in this island are not too anxious for the thing call self help, they're depending on government must do this, and government must do that, and government must do the other thing. Recently we have the service clubs who have come in who are willing to help, and I would hope that this spear-heads the interest in the districts, and get the National Council of Social Services off to a good start - because there's a lot of work to be done. The problem in Cayman today in my opinion is a little more deeply rooted than what can be corrected with dollars and cents over night. It's going to mean a lot of sacrifice on each and everyone of us, and I think that if the year 1975 presents itself to us, with the measure of prosperity that 1974 has done, and if the Honourable Financial Secretary is able to produce a glowing report, I would be more than happy to support it.

Mr. President, I think I've covered most of the points that I have under my portfolio Sir, there's no gain saying that there has been a little bit of misunderstanding as to the preparation and to the debate on the speech, it was not/the matter of having smoking the Members of

HON. W.W. CONOLLY (CONT'D): Executive Council out, the Budget Speech reflects the policy of government, and it reflects the policies in the individual portfolios and departments for which the Elected Members of Executive Council are responsible; and surely we had to wait to the end to find the criticisms, to listen to what you felt about it, we support that, we put that document out, it is for you to criticise it, and then we come back. This as far as I see it is straightforward, and I would hope that we get our Broadcasting Station before the next Budget Speech, so that the people of these islands can have an opportunity of listening to some noise, not all together continuous one, but enough to keep members from going sleep. Thank you Mr. President.

HON. D.O. EBANKS: Mr. President, I've heard someone from across the floor suggest an adjournment, I don't know whether they're prepared to make a motion or not for this.

MR. JOHN JEFFERSON: I'm prepared in this respect Mr. President, it's after twenty minutes after five according to my watch; and I think adjournment at this time would be in order. In fact I couldn't be prepared to carry on any later, because I have some other engagements today.

CAPT. A.A. REID: I think the member should speak for half hour at least, and if that can't satisfy him, we could finish tomorrow, but I have other things to do, at least I have to go away, and I'd certainly like to hear him.

MR. JOHN JEFFERSON: My motion has been seconded Mr. President.

MR. PRESIDENT: Who is the Seconder please? Well there is a motion before the House duly seconded that this House do now adjourn. I take it that the debate on this motion will be adjourned before they put this question - I'll take that as read.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. HOUSE ADJOURNED AT 4.04 P.M. UNTIL 10 A.M. ON TUESDAY 26th NOVEMBER, 1974.



C A Y M A N I S L A N D S

L E G I S L A T I V E A S S E M B L Y

M I N U T E S

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OFFICIAL REPORT

B U D G E T A N D F O U R T H M E E T I N G

O F T H E

1974 S E S S I O N O F T H E

L E G I S L A T I V E A S S E M B L Y

WEDNESDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER, 1974

PART VI

WEDNESDAY 27TH NOVEMBER, 1974

PRESENT WERE:-

His Excellency the Governor, Mr. Thomas Russell, CBE - PRESIDENT

GOVERNMENT BENCH

Hon. D.V. Watler, OBE., J.P.	First Official Member
Hon. G.E. Waddington, CBE., QC.	Second Official Member
Hon. V.G. Johnson, OBE	Third Official Member
Hon. A.B. Bush, J.P.	Second Electoral District, George Town (Member for Works, Communications and Public Transport).
Hon. Trevor Foster	Third Electoral District, Lesser Islands (Member for Inter-Island Co-ordination and Information).
Hon. Benson O. Ebanks	First Electoral District, West Bay (Member for Education, Medical, Health, Social Services and Labour).
Hon. W.W. Conolly, OBE., J.P.	Sixth Electoral District, East End (Member for Tourism, Lands, Natural Resources, MRCU, Agriculture and Surveys).

ELECTED MEMBERS

Mr. T.W. Farrington, CBE., JP.	First Electoral District, West Bay
Mr. John D. Jefferson	First Electoral District, West Bay
Miss Annie H. Bodden	Second Electoral District, George Town
Mr. Claude M. Hill	Second Electoral District, George Town
Capt. A.A. Reid	Third Electoral District, Lesser Islands
Mr. James M. Bodden	Fourth Electoral District, Bodden Town
Mr. G. Haig Bodden	Fourth Electoral District, Bodden Town
Mr. Craddock Ebanks	Fifth Electoral District, North Side

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WEDNESDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER, 1974

1. DEBATE CONTINUED ON FINANCIAL STATEMENT

2. REFERRAL OF DRAFT ESTIMATES OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR 1974 AND APPROPRIATION BILL TO FINANCE COMMITTEE BY FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

Wednesday, 27th November, 1974

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WEDNESDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER, 1974

10 A.M.

MR. PRESIDENT: Please be seated.

Proceedings are resumed. We continue with the debate on the second reading of the 1975 Appropriation Bill.

HON. BENSON O. EBANKS: Mr. President, Honourable Members, I will be very brief with my remarks on the Budget because in effect there was very little opposition of substance to the Budget, and had it not been for the determination of some members to oppose anyway, I think it would have been accepted with acclamation.

Mr. President, no reasonable person reflecting on world economic conditions, could be expected to debate this Budget at this time without a lot of soul searching. Because if we are to believe what we read and what we hear on the radio, America and the other metropolitan countries are in serious economic problems and in fact are in a recession, if not a depression. And I believe that the old adage holds true that as goes America, so goes the rest of the world. And then coupled to this we have an entirely new ball game with the oil producing countries and in particular the Arab countries taking an inordinate amount of money from the developed countries economies to pay for oil at exorbitant prices. And this new found cash in the hands of these newly rich countries, poses a problem because they are not used to managing large amounts of cash, they are uncertain what to do about it and as a result it has some what upset the international Monetary Market. But I have done my soul searching, and if we are to believe what we hear, I can and I do support this Budget.

I believe that 1975 will be a bright year for the Cayman Islands in the tax haven operation field, because as the developed countries grapple with inflation. I expect that in those countries there will be an increase in taxation, on co-operation and individuals of better means. And as a result there is going to be a search for places like the Cayman Islands to use as a tax haven, and with our reputation we stand chance of getting a fair share of this, infact I am told that the business is pouring in at the movement. I also believe that our winter tourist season is assured, because the type of tourist that comes in the winter is the better off tourist, and I believe that they will seek the sunshine as sure as the swallows fly south in the winter. But I can also foresee that the summer tourist season will probably, that is, the 1975 will probably be a lean one. Now this is bound to bring a falling off of employment in this sector during the summer. And I don't want members to take this as an invitation to cut the tourist budget, in fact I think that this should strengthen the argument for giving the Tourist Department enough money to try to attract those small numbers of tourists that will be available during the summer of 1975.

I do not see either, many large construction project on the horizon in the private sector. And for this reason, I feel that it is timely unfortunate that government can find it possible at this time to put forward some much needed infrastructure development that will serve to prime the pump, as it were to tide the economy over the slack period which I believe will inevitably be created by world conditions. I do not believe that we can here completely escape the effect of the international situation. Of course I regard the international Monetary situation as of a temporary nature. I believe that there is sufficient expertise to bring this around, and to correct the imbalances and that by 1976 the economies of the developed countries will be on the rise again, and we will feel the surge of that in our own economy. If therefore we can keep our Islands labour force employed, at a time when employment is running at a high percentage elsewhere, then I think we will have achieved a remarkable feat. And I am confident that before 1975 has come to a close, those who have criticized this Budget will be glad that Members had the vision and were determined to put forward the projects which appear in this Budget. And in spite of what I have said Mr. President, I would argue that nothing in this Budget is unneeded. There is no image building in this Budget, and I cannot accept the arguement that government has gone on a spending spree.

HON. BENSON O. EBANKS:(CONT'D): Ofcourse one need only examine the remarks ingeneral from the members who hold this view, to see how absurd these remarks are. For example, the second member from Bodden Town stated that from the coming in to effect of the new constitutution in August 1972, members of Executive Council embarked on a spending spree. Well it is well known that the responsibility of members for subjects did not come into effect until 1973, after the 1972 election. Infact these sections of the constitution did not come into play until that time, But this is in my opinion consistant with the double standard and forked tongue approach throughout the debate.

The first elected member from Bodden Town was quick to take credit for the increase in Civil Service salaries granted during 1974, and then the second member attacked government for it being in the budget. Now this increase was in the region of fifty percent, and represents a very large increase of the recurrent expenditure in the 1974 budget, and to a lesser extent, in the 1975 by way of increments. Another example of this tactic is found in the fact, that everything that is worthy of praise either goes to themselves as a result of some resolution which they brought to the house, or to His Excellency the Governor. And whereever blame is to be attributed before the poor old four elected members of executive council is always saddle with it. As an example of bad money management, the second elected member quoted or made reference to the token vote of ten dollars appearing on page 175 of the budget, and made a big hollabaloo that in 1975 this had mushroomed to three hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Surely this member understands what has taken place here, it is simply that in 1974 a token vote of ten dollars was placed against the head of expenditure for the comprehensive school or high school merely to keep the vote open, and to make provisions in the event that funds were required from local revenue to undertake any capital development at the school. But in 1974 the capital development at the high school which in the event, and as mentioned inthe budget speech by the Financial Secretary totalled four hundred and twenty-eight thousand one hundred and sixteen dollars was provided for from aids funds by the British Government, and there was no necessity to spend any money under that vote or to provide any money under that vote. Now in 1975 it has been decided that we will finance some of the projects at the school from local revenue instead of totally from aid, so we have put three hundred and fifty thousand dollars from local revenue to be spent on capital development at the high school, and this is to finance the physical education programme and facilities at the school. These facilities will also be available to the community during evening hours. The provisions of these funds from local revenue will provide greater flexibility in building the much needed facilities, because when money is provided from aid funds, one first has to seek the approval. The money is not released till April, and one is required where possible to purchase goods from the United Kingdom to be used in the construction. I am only mentioning this by way of explanation, because there is nothing unusual about this provision in any aid funds, this is general with any aid. In addition to this, we are also seeking a similar amount of three hundred and fifty thousand from aid funds for a library or learning resources centre at the high school. So there is nothing extravagant or dishonest about this, it is merely that we are shifting projects that are being budgeted for from local funds and those that are being budgeted for from aid. If you look at the budget you will see that our normal aid provision is entirely taken up and accounted for.

Now Mr. President, this brings me on to the subject of education generally. One or two speakers questioned whether the comprehensive system is working, and one said it has failed I could not disagree more. As the financial secretary pointed out last year the school was plagued with many problems, but since its opening in September this year it has been running smoothly and well. I am satisfied that at least ninety-five percent of the teachers are happy and working hard to make the school succeed. Most of the parents for the first time in many years are happy with the school, and what is more important, the children are happy and are learning, and if this is not a successwell then I would like to know what is the

HON. B.O. EBANKS: (CONT'D): criteria for success. There will always be a small minority in any school of this size, one must remember there is something like seventy-seven teachers on that staff and apart from different nationalities, you are bound to get different personalities involved. But one would expect that in an institution like that, people would be mature enough to work together and accept responsibility and authority where it exists. And there is bound as I've said to be a small minority who will object when chaos is replaced by order. I recall last budget session, members referring to teachers being out on the street when they should be in school and what not. I don't believe that this can be said this time, and possibly this is what is causing the little bit of strain that might exist at the school. It is being operated with a tight rein and I think it is a good thing that it is being done. One member also said that the school will never be a success until a Caymanian is made principal or deputy principal, and I wonder if that member is suggesting that the only qualification required for that job is Caymanian nationality. Now I am all for Caymanians holding positions when they are qualified, and no stone will be left unturned to see that they are placed in positions when they are qualified to hold them. But I will never be a party to short changing the twelve hundred students in that system by appointing or loading the staff with Caymanians merely because they are Caymanians.

Now History was reap/ed up which happened so long ago that I don't even know when it took place. That is for example, mention was made of the present establishments officer being removed from education department and put into establishment. Well this took place so long ago Mr. President, that I am not going to even mention that. The member mentioned the resignation of the Deputy Principal from the Cayman Brac campus, he said it was this year, I think it was last year. And he expressed his opinion of what a great loss this was to the school, he is entitled to his opinion and I am entitled to mine. And I am still undecided on that factor, the matter as far as I am concern/ed is still in the computer awaiting analysis. Mention was made of the resignation earlier this month of the Caymanian deputy principal, while I regret this, I have been assured that the resignation was for personal reasons. And as such, I don't know what members expect me to do about it, this is a free country and if someone feels like changing his occupation or profession, I would think he is at liberty to do so. As I said earlier, every effort will be made to find a qualified Caymanian to replace him, but if this search proves impossible, well then someone of non Caymanian origin will have to be given the job. And perhaps this would be a good place to ask the question, why all of a sudden Caymanian children are unable to learn from teachers of non Caymanian origin. Our history is steep/ed in the importation of teachers from abroad, and children have always learnt well, and there are countries much better off financially and much larger, with much larger population that still depends on teachers from abroad. So why this hue and cry now in Cayman all of a sudden? I believed that the situation is being exploited by some people for their own ends, and if it does not ceaseit will have serious effects on our children. I think what Caymanian children should do, and they should be encouraged by their parents to do so, is to learn from whatever source they're able to learn from regardless of the nationality of the teacher this has nothing to do with it. We have as far as I am concern/ed seventy-seven teachers at that school, we don't have nationalities. And if teachers work they are rewarded and they are encourage/ed if they don't work as far as I am concern I know what my recommendation will be. But Caymanian children and their parents should encourage them to learn from whatever source is available to them, and encourage them to go off and qualify themselves to come back and fill these vacancies that exist. This is the only way we will solve the problem, because we cannot put an uneducated Caymanian to teach another one, we first got to get the educated Caymanians, and we got to get dedicated Caymanians. And there is no doubt in my mind that we will get a reasonable number of these people coming along as time progresses.

HON. B.O. EBANKS: (CONT'D): Now the second elected member from Bodden Town also made the point that Government was only providing twelve thousand one hundred dollars for the training of teachers when Caymanian teachers were so short in supply, again he does not seems to understand what takes place. This figure is for local inservice training and for teachers who are already in the service to attend short courses and seminars which are amounted almost every summer by the school of education, at the University of the West Indies. This money is to upgrade teachers already in the profession, The training of new teachers is covered under the vote for scholarships, and it will be noted that the amount for 1975 for this head stands at forty-four thousand three hundred and sixty dollars as against an approved figure of twenty-six thousand five hundred and fourteen dollars, and the revised figure of thirty-five thousand five hundred and fourteen in 1974. The members will see that not only have we provided considerably more money for scholarships, but it will also be evident that during 1974 when more money was needed for scholarships that this money was made available. And I can state emphatically that I have no knowledge of any person who was qualified and had been accepted at an acceptable institution of higher learning abroad, and made application to this government who has been refused assistance during the last few years, whether this was for teacher training or not.

Another member mentioned that he thought there should be special provision at the school for slow learners, well this is already in operation, and I am happy to say it is well staffed. Probably some of the most hard working teachers at the school can be found in the progress department, and the results are beginning to show. But it should be remembered that not every child will be an academic, there will be a certain percentage that will have to go the technical route, and we have made provision in our system for both streams of children. Our next objective at the school is to make the facilities available during evenings to adults and youngsters on a community college basic so that they can further their own education. My request to members is, please do not let us dwell on the past, let us deal with the present and look to the future, and let us not rock the boat at this time. The school as presently operating can do the job we need done, and I would hope that they would be allowed to get on with the job.

Mr. President, I was specifically accused of being negligent or not spending money that was approved for the Bodden Town Primary School playing field, as far as I know this reference must be to the two thousand dollars that was provided in the 1973 estimates. And I was assured by the Public Works department that this money was indeed spent on the Bodden Town field. The money in the 1974 estimates is for the high school where the facilities are badly needed, and where they will be utilized by children from all over the Islands. And I would say further, that in my opinion among the primary schools the Savannah school and the East End school are in much worse position as regard playing field, than is the Bodden Town school at present. There is nothing in either of those districts to offer any recreation to the children, and before leaving education I would like to comment on the question of the transportation of children. Now the Financial Secretary in his address made it quite plain that the remarks he was making was his personal opinion, While I have definite views on the subject, I would suffice it to say at this time that any system which employs approximately ten buses and ten men for approximately three hours per day is poor economics. I will agree with members who have said this, and I intend at the appropriate time to have a much closer look at this question. And again in order that I might put the record straight for the second elected member from Bodden Town. The bussing of children did not start with the implementation of comprehensive education, this started many many years before.

During 1975 it is our hope that we can have some advice on the establishment of a proper canteen at the high school, not only do I hope that it will serve the high school, but I would hope that

HON. B.O. EBANKS: (CONT'D): arrangement could be made that from a central kitchen, lunches could be provided for the primary schools as well. But this will be gone into and perhaps in the 1976 budget you might find provision for a canteen at the school. Now we don't want members to get the wrong impression that government will be going into the restaurant or canteen business, our idea would be to provide the facilities to retain a say in the diet that is offered and to keep the prices within tolerable limits and we would of course rent the facilities on abid basis to someone to operate.

Mr. President, it was also suggested that perhaps I was playing politics with the National Council of Social Services. I would like to assure members that this is not the case, I do not need to, and it is against my nature to seek such cheap publicity at the expense of the public and particularly at the expense of the national council of social services. For information of the members, I was not present at the meeting of the steering committee that set up the various district meeting and arranged for the speakers, I was ill. I was requested by a copy of the minutes of the meeting to attend as many of the meetings as I could, and up to this point I can say I have attended everyone that has been held. The council as members know is to be non political, therefore I did not regard politicans as requiring any special notice of this meeting and I imagine that the steering committee was of the same opinion. Much publicity was was given to the fact that the meetings were going to be held, notice was put in the press and in the churches and the members complaining admit, that they knew of the meeting from the notice in the press, and I would have thought that they would have considered it their civic duty to attend the meeting rather than to boycott it because they did not receive a personal invitation from me. I could sympathize and would apologize if they did not know of the meeting, but by their own admission they knew of the meeting. With regard to the member from Cayman Brac this can be explained quite easily how this happened, When the steering committee was formed it was sought to have representation on a district and organization basis. A member from Cayman Brac was named to the committee, but unfortunately that member never attended any of the meetings. When the meeting of which we are speaking was held, the second elected member to Executive Council happened to have been in the Island and he was invited by the steering committee to sit in to see what was going on. And when the meetings were arranged, he was asked to arrange the meeting in Cayman Brac, so there is no big thing about that. And before leaving this subject, I would like to remind the member who stated that Mr. Lockhead did a good job on putting his fingers on the ills of the community and without of course detracting from the splendid report and the importance of it that neither Mr. Lockhead nor Mr. Prosser before him found themselves in Cayman by accident, there were requested to come here. Government is aware of the problems, and we are seeking to do something about it. And I would also assure that member that there is no likelyhood that the government is going to confuse a National Council of Social Services with a social security scheme, not unless and until there is a change in the present composition of government.

I should also mention Mr. President, that Government has had someone from the International Labour organization under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme, do a study on social security within the territory. This report we would have hoped to have received before now, but we are still awaiting it. Mention was made of the votes for poor relief and child care and protection in the 1975 estimates. I would be less than honest if I said that I am proud of the amount of relief that is given to indigent people in the community, but it should be pointed out that the vote for 1975 is exactly twice what it was in 1974, under poor relief that the vote for child care and protection is twenty-five hundred dollars as opposed to one thousand provided in 1974, and that the revised estimates show that roughly only six hundred dollars will have been spent during 1974. The increase in 1975 is based on known

HON. B.O. EBANKS: (CONT'D): cases due to the imprisonment of the bread winners of the families etc. So we know or the department knows that there will be an increase in the demand on this vote during 1975.

On the question of Medical Services, I was pleased to hear the complimentary remarks, and I also noted the statements of members under areas of dissatisfaction. I give members my assurance that I shall endeavour to continue to try to upgrade that service. The funds for capital development under this head or of the hospital in 1975 as members will realise is merely a carry over from the funds provided during 1974 because the project was not completed in 1974, infact it has just about started. Preliminary plans for the development of the hospital indicater that we would require approximately six hundred thousand dollars per annum for the next four years to really put us in a position to cope with the situation, up to about 1990. I hope that members will support these requests when they come forward.

Questions were raised regarding the figures in the budget for the dental service. The member couldn't understand why in 1974 the approved estimates were eight thousand five hundred dollars, that is the revenue estimates, as were the revised estimates and the estimates for 1975. When as he pointed out two dental officers are budgeted for. If the member had examined the budget a little bit more closely, he would have seen that two dental officers were budgeted for in 1974, but he would also know that only one was recruited. And had he looked a little bit further, he would have seen that in 1975 although the establishment is shown as two, that this had to be a typographical error as a figure of nine thousand four hundred and sixty-eight dollars only is provided for salary. And immediately below that he would have seen that therewas a provision for two new personnel, two new dental auxiliaries, and these represent or this represent a change in the philsophy of the department on the delivery of dental care. It is believed that with two dental auxiliaries who will be able to cope entirely with school children, except for most severe dental problems, and who will also be able to assist at the clinic with minor dental problems that we will get more milage out of two auxiliaries, than we would out of one dental officer. So this is the route that we have elected to go. We are going to put a lot of emphasis on preventative care rather than curative.

I was also pleased to hear that there was one hundred thousand dollars in the estimates for the purchase of garbage trucks. I'll have to investigate this when we get into committee, because my estimate shows a figure of only thirty thousand for the purchase of one garbage truck, And the member further said that this could be done without, this was unnecessary. Nothing could be further from the truth, we do need the hundred thousand dollars I'll admit, we could do with about three new garbage trucks, but please don't cut out the one that we are being given. I am also surprise that no member saw fit particularly in view of fast criticism, to mention the fact that the collection service, that is the garbage collection service of this department has been greatly improved in recent times. That the department has disposed of in excess of three hundred wrecked automobiles from around the face of the town, and that the dump site is in a very healthy state.

Now Mr. President, that covers my subjects. As I said the criticism was not that bad, I expected a lot more. But I would like to refer to the debate on the broadcasting station. I am not going to try to usurp the authority of the member responsible for that subject, I am only going to refer to remarks made about this. There'll never be free elections again if we get a radio station, and also the fact another member said he wouldn't oppose it too much if it came after the 1976 election. I am wondering if this is an indication of how the radio station would be used if the cards were reversed. So I am saying that it is a good thing that the radio station is likely to be on the air by September 75 I think it is, so that we can at least give the people an insight of how it is intended that the radio station be used. Stifling information would

HON. B.O. EBANKS: (CONT'D): be most detrimental. Infact I believe that it will be the greatest asset to this country, so that people will be able to hear for themselves both sides of the story instead of only getting in most cases one, and a prejudiced one at that.

I thank you Mr. President.

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: Mr. President and honourable members, first of all I want to express my gratitude to those members who debated the budget address, and for their very kind remarks on the work which was put into the presentation of the budget. The debate took many forms I must say, it varied from mere comments on head of expenditure in the estimates to subjects never known to go into a budget address. However on the whole I must say it was rather interesting and I enjoyed thoroughly all the debate. I think there is only one member from the elected group who did not speak, and I want to also extend my gratitude to him for his silence. I know that if the budget address was in any way controversial that he would have been to his feet to take part in the debate also.

Mr. President, I would like to say that this is my eleventh budget presentation to this honourable house. And I would like to say that during the eleven years in which I prepared the budget of this government and presented it to this honourable assembly, I have received the full support of each and every member. This is the reason why I must also associate myself with the words of Gladstone as mentioned by the Honourable Donald Fleming, "Give me good policies and I will give you good finances." Over the years because of the cooperation of members of this Assembly, I gave of my best to the cause of this government in marshalling and administering the financial affairs of government. I know that all the remarks cannot be rosy and in favour of government, and so we accept as men with broad shoulders any criticisms that came from other members. One which I hasten to mention early is. that pertaining to the dividend declared by Cayman Airways Limited in the sum of sixty-eight thousand eight hundred and fifty dollars. And which I reported in the budget address, was placed to government reserve account. Now a member said that he hoped that it wasn't placed somewhere where it could be used to offset the debts created by Cayman Airways to Lacsa, as has happeneded in the past.

Now, Mr. President, there are two ways in which funds received by this government are treated. The first is that it can be placed to the general revenue account or it can go to a reserved account. When it goes to the general revenue account, it is placed under the administration of the Financial Secretary who is responsible for the commitment of all expenditures authorised under the Appropriation Law. It means that he must find funds from the various resources of government to finance the provisions of the Appropriation Law. But when a sum is placed to a reserved account, I am sure that members here are quite aware of this, that those funds cannot be spent or used for any purpose whatsoever without the authorization of this Assembly. I think the remark was uncall for really, especially when it was stated quite clearly that these funds were placed to government reserved funds.

Speaking on inflation, I must say Mr. President, that the debate on this subject was somewhat interesting although I haven't got very much to say on it, all I had to say was put in the budget address. I would hope that all the debates and the concern of all members of this Legislative Assembly will also become the concern of every citizen of these Islands. I am sure it is a subject which can very well be debated by many people, it is something too that everyone can assist in controlling

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: (CONT'D): if there is a concerted effort to do so. As mentioned in the budget address, when there was an opportunity earlier this year for the government to take appropriate action to control the growth of inflation, it did so or at least an attempt was made to do so. And this was the action taken to revalue the local currency and switch its parity from sterling to the United States dollar. Perhaps the effect cannot be readily assessed -- and we no doubt need a bit more time to investigate and decide whether there was any result from that action in this direction. My own personal view is that there was some result.

Speaking on Agriculture, Mr. President, the member responsible for the subject cleared the air very well from remarks made in the general debate. Mention was made of the fact that a spray race was not established in any other district, besides the one in West Bay, quite true. The member reminded me to mention, because he forgot to do so in speaking on the subject, that there was a proposal to establish a spray race in the Savannah, Lower Valley area. But owing to the lack of cooperation of land owners in that area in making available sufficient land for the purpose, the decision to erect this project in West Bay was taken instead because the land owners in West Bay made available land under very reasonable and attractive terms. I am sure that the idea of establishing a spray race in other districts is still in the mind of the agricultural department, and whenever suitable arrangement can be made that the matter will be dealt with accordingly.

Figures were mentioned in the budget address Mr. President, concerning a gross domestic product and cost of living statistics. It is unfortunate that this government has not yet established a section whereby national accounts can be prepared and made available to members of the Assembly and members of the public, who would like to have these records. However, quite recently the United Nations has very kindly placed at our disposal, and a National Accounts Adviser who will be attached to this government for a period of one year. He will be preparing, accounts and statistics in various areas, and I am sure that when these are computed and are available they will be circulated to members.

Mention was made Mr. President, of the fact that the government had recently taken action to enter a safety deposit box of a certain bank, and this was perhaps infringing on the secrecy of banking in the Cayman Islands. Secrecy in the financial operation in the Cayman Islands is something that we cherish very much, because it forms the basis of the tax haven operations in this country. And I am sure that we are all aware of the fact that without secrecy in operation many of the operators would not be here. However, I must also say that when fraud and crime enters the scene, secrecy in operation loses its priority. The case in question is very well known by members here. The government in an attempt not to make the matter become too public, and at the same time investigate the local aspects of it, made certain attempts to look at accounts of individuals and companies who were involved through what is normally the proper and correct process, by an application before the court. I must say too, that the financial institutions that were involved were very cooperative, however they relied largely on the advice of their legal representatives. Their legal representatives perhaps went to extreme in trying to defend these applications which eventually met with defeat in the court, and they were refused by the court. There was only one other alternative, and that was to hand it over to the police to carry out a part of the investigation which was envisaged in the application before the court. I am sure Mr. President, that that action by government cannot be interpreted as infringing on the banks secrecy operation of these Islands. Because it is one thing that we should not do in this country, in our operation as a tax haven, and that is, to create a haven for criminals. In order that this country grow and progress in the way that we would like it to, and in the way that the big reputable institutions would like to see it become, we must at all times ensure that it is kept clean. And I must therefore say again, that when fraud and crime enters the scene, then the government must be seen to take some form of action.

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: (CONT'D): Mr. President, in our debate from time to time, we complained of a lot of things. We tend to blame the police if they are not able to keep abreast of every breach that is committed. Well, although we are not police ourselves, although the police cannot see everything themselves, I think as law abiding citizens it should be our duty to assist the police in keeping order whenever it is possible. A member reported that there was a driver with a suspended license, he was seen driving a motor car. Well, if I had seen that driver I would certainly get to the first telephone and telephone the police, and report it because its not likely that the police would have seen that chap. But, I think Mr. President, that if we all as people who are anxious to see law and order maintained forget about the reaction that these things would have at time, and assist the police. Maybe we would find a better atmosphere and I am sure that for instance the driver with a suspended license might not want to take the chance again, because he is sure that whether he sees a police or not he might be reported by someone.

Everybody had a go at broadcasting, and I think I should mention or have a word or two to say about the subject again myself. Not the political aspects of it really. Earlier this year Mr. President, when the decision was taken by the Cabinet of this Government, that is Executive Council, to recommend a broadcasting station, and after the British Government had indicated that it would approve an aid project to finance the capital element of the project, I immediately summoned the finance committee to deal with the subject. Although I did not ask for any funds of this government for the project, because any work carried out on the project this year would be construction and purchase of equipment which would be paid for by the British Government, and any recurrent expenditure would appear in the budget in 1975, I was nevertheless concerned that before any financial instructions were issued for the implementation of the project that the Legislative Assembly should know about it, and should give their blessings to the project. The debate was taken on it, and while I will concede to the fact that there were members opposing in one form or another the establishment of a broadcasting station, nevertheless, by the proper process the matter was put for a decision and a decision was taken which approved of the project. I know what members are going to say, that it took my casting vote to carry it. But, nevertheless I am a member of the Legislative Assembly and I am also a member of the finance committee and my vote is as good as the other votes. Mr. President, if there was any doubt in my mind at that time that the finance committee had objected to the establishment of a broadcasting station, I certainly wouldn't have issued those instructions, and the project would have been reported to government as being not acceptable to the Legislature. Now, mention has been made of objections to it, I think members are just kidding us all the same. I know the broadcasting station is going to be liked by everybody, its going to be one of the finest little broadcasting stationsin the Caribbean. The fact is, this was one of the requeststhat we operate a fine broadcasting station. And I am sure that all members will have the opportunity of somebody hearing their voices on the air. I am sure Mr. President, that youwill specially arrange that, we'll have to limit the time for each speaker.

A member said about the registration of ships, that I must have known what was being proposed. Well, that is to say in his motion before the house, well quite frankly a port of registry for the Cayman Islands was something that I was involved in from ten, fifteen years ago when it was first mooted here. Its an old subject in the Caymam Islands, it has been brought anew again and I know that members are well interested in seeing this established, I am too. It will be a very big revenue earner, and it will solve many of the problems if we can encourage it. Of course there are a lot of hurdles, and I can assure members its not a matter of just establishing a committee to make recommendations. Investigations will have to be made because many international matters

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: (CONT'D): which will have to be cleared, and discussion will have to be at top Government level between this Government, the British Government and perhaps United Nations. So it is a far reaching subject which needs much investigation, but nevertheless I wanted to say that I was not aware of the motion coming forward when I mentioned it in the budget address.

Now, Mr. President, we heard a very interesting sermon preached during the debate and the subject of the sermon was to reduce the level of Government spending. Well, I personally looked at this again and my interpretation of this was that it was preaching stagnation of the economy. There is an old psychology which says, "Three things too much, and three things too little are pernicious to man." One is to speak much and know little, the second is, to spend much and have little, and the third is, to presume much and be worth little. Mr. President, I want to say here, that I am not relating any of these to any member of this chamber, But I wanted to speak on the last two, spend much and have little, and presume much and be worth little.

As I've mentioned before Mr. President, I have been dealing with the Government's Budget for the last eleven years, and I have always adopted the policy in Government, and I am sure that members here pretty well know by now that they're not going to get approval for any spending in Government unless I am very well aware that funds are available - that the revenue aspects of Government must come first, And when we are certain of what we have, then we decide how we spend it, that has always been my own policy in government and I am sure that I speak on behalf of the old treasurer, Mr. Watler, who occupied this position before me. I must also say here, that although the Appropriation Law gives the Financial Secretary authority to spend a certain sum of money during the course of a year, it is the Financial's Secretary duty to administer the financial affairs of this Government in a manner which is in the best interest of this government. And if at any time during the course of the year, government's financies are in difficulty, naturally we will have a good look at spending as well. Because provisions for expenditure outside of those which are committed under the recurrent budget, can very well be blocked until such time that the financial position improves, for instance, capital work. Before a project is launched government can decide whether the funds are available then or not, and deal with implementation accordingly. In the capital budget on the local side, there is a sum of 1.8 million dollars recommended in 1975. Well, its obvious that that expenditure must spread over the twelve months of the year and all the items cannot be undertaken at the beginning of the year. So there is a safeguard against any weakening of Government's financial position in any given year. But, apart from that, and as I've said before, it has always been the policy to look at what there is in the purse before we think about spending.

Mr. President, yesterday we heard a lot of figures presented of the growth in expenditure from 1971 to 1975. And fortunately we always get one side of the story, and never both sides, because there should have been some mention as well as to the growth in revenue over this period, because one cannot spend what one hasn't got. Now, expenditure in any year is divided into recurrent and capital. There is the estimated provision and there is the actual figure for a given year. In 1971 the recurrent expenditure was two million six hundred and thirty thousand dollars, the capital expenditure was four million six hundred and thirty-eight thousand dollars. Now, Mr. President, from 1971 to the present date the budget has carried a very big capital expenditure, because of the big projects on the programme for implementation and which projects are just being implemented now. They were in the estimates for two, three years before any action was taken. During this time investigations was being carried out of the siting of projects, investigation was being carried out as to the financing of these projects, and it was only recently when most of these were cleared, and so the expenditure continued at the same figure undercapital. But if you take the total expenditure from 1971 to 1975 we will see that the 1972

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: (CONT'D): expenditure total was down to thirteen percent over the 1971 expenditure, the 1973 expenditure was up 31.5 percent over the 1972 expenditure, the 1974 expenditure was up thirty-three percent over the previous year, and 1975 expenditure is up twenty percent over 1974. I think this is contained in the budget address, I stated this quite clearly there. And to find these expenditures you have to search the estimates through, there is one section dealing with recurrent, one section dealing with capital, another section dealing with new services. All these have to be put together, but for convenient purposes I have inserted an extra page in the estimates showing the estimated receipts and expenditure for the new year 1975, and setting out there all the expenditures and all the revenues for the year. So Mr. President, the growth of expenditure over these five years has not been really what the member mentioned.

The policy in government is that the country is growing, its progressing. Services have to be improved and provided, and therefore there is no room whatsoever to reduce the spending of government. I know that there is perhaps the need to control spending in certain areas which government has endeavoured to do, from time to time. We've had advisers in, to go into various departments to reorganize systems and methods to achieve this. Right now, there is an adviser in Public Works endeavouring to improve methods and systems there, and I am sure that in due course one will see much improvement in that department.

As much as I support the increase in expenditure and in the budget, I think we must be careful and not to create too great a growth, especially from the fact that government has committed itself at the present time to refrain from the introduction of any form of direct taxation. The present revenue items of government are producing a fair amount of revenue, and the growth from these various sources is fairly substantial, it ranges between fifteen and eighteen percent per annum. There are occasions when additional revenue is needed to undertake the increased services, and thus the reason for recommending new measures. But, I think caution must be exercised, and that expenditures should not be encouraged to grow very rapidly.

Regarding insurance and the license on insurance companies, we had the benefit of the debate from the member who is qualified in this subject for which we thank him, and I am sure that that member is aware too, that it is not government's wish to introduce any sort of insurance legislation here. Sometime ago, we had a draft law which was being examined and a copy was given to that member so that both him and his insurance principals could have a look at it, and let us have their comments. The comments generally were not favourable, and so the law was withheld for the time being. I don't think the member or any other member need to fear that the government is going to introduce something that will cause all insurance companies to quit the Cayman Islands. We are certainly not using precedents of other such legislation in these islands, what we use in these islands must be adaptable to the Cayman Islands, and must suit the conditions and the atmosphere of these islands, and furthermore, it must be acceptable to members of this Legislative Assembly. As to the fee that will be charged under the proposed legislation, we know that the insurance companies are not bankers, although they do make a lot of money at times. However again, bank license fee when first introduced, was a very small fee. It has grown now to a much larger fee, and I am sure the introduction of insurance license fee will be a reasonable figure as well, and not something to scare people away.

There was some mention, that government should place aside a large sum of money, two hundred thousand dollars, to assist farmers. Well, from long ago there has been a government policy to place funds at the disposal of small farmers who wished to or wished assistance of this nature. Although this was a small sum of money, I am sure that the policy is still there, and it can be expanded if there is need for this. What one must be careful of, is abuse, and that whatever funds are

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: (CONT'D): made available to farmers that it is used for the purpose and to the best advantage.

Mr. President, a mention was also made of the development plan. I would like to say here that the development plan had nothing to do with finances , but on occasion like this, I thought as a matter of courtesy I would mention the development plan since it recently became my subject. Someone asked the question, what was going to happen to George Town? Well, my reply is, that its going to be a rescue operation. Many years ago, a plan for George Town was recommended, I saw it on notice boards around, I think it was assisted by the United Nations But, whatever that plan might have been, there is a little good in everything. As far as I know, it had a layout for George Town which seems to have been reasonable, but the first people to boycott that plan even before it was presented or accepted in Government were, perhaps people who are members of this house as well. They immediately went and constructed form buildings in the path way of proposed roads in the middle of George Town to prevent these developments. So, I will agree that its difficult to decide what will happen to George Town, other than that it will be a rescue operation.

Mr. President, I want to thank the members of Government bench who supported the reply to the debate on the Budget Address. I think the address was quite encouraging, nothing very hostile. it was quite calm and encouraging. And I would hope that when we leave this chamber and go to finance committee, that we will go there with the same pleasantness and atmosphere that we will leave the Assembly with. The details of the estimates are not too complicated, recommendations are not numerous, I know that each member has his or her own view on certain subjects, and of course finance committee is the right place to air those views. I am sure that that meeting will also be pleasant.

In ending Mr. President, again I would like to thank members for their debate on the address, and I would like to thank members also for the complements which they have paid me. I am not too certain Mr. President, whether members would like to move on to finance committee this afternoon or tomorrow morning - tomorrow morning.

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN: Mr. President, as a matter of clarification, I wonder if it would be permissible for the Honourable Financial Secretary to clarify the part that he made about, something about obstructions from certain members of the house in regards to George Town. I didn't quite get the meaning of that sir.

MR. PRESIDENT: If there is no objection -----

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: I take it that he member is talking about the plan for George Town. What I was trying to say Mr. President, is that many years ago before the days of the member if he is afraid that I am referring to him, there was a plan of George Town prepared, I am not too sure how it came about, it was perhaps with the assistance of United Nations, and there were new roads proposed for Central George Town and other improvements and before the government could proceed to study the plan, there were prominent members of the community who rushed in to construct building across the proposed sides of these roads and so there were obstructions to the development which was being proposed for Central George Town. Now, those buildings are still there, and as a result those roads could not be put through unless the buildings were demolished.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: Mr. President, not to speak on the debate or anything, but since we are going to with your permission sir to the finance committee, I wonder if we could arrive at a sort of a time table of starting it, and getting in as many hours during a day as possible by starting 9.00 a.m. in the morning or something another.

MR. PRESIDENT: I think that I must put the question on the second reading of the Appropriation Bill first. I'll then allow the Financial Secretary to move the next motion, which deals with moving into finance committee, and perhaps then we can clarify the time table.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: Right Sir, thank you.

MR. PRESIDENT: The question is, that the Appropriation Bill, 1975 be now read the second time.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: Mr. President, I move that the estimates or the Appropriation Bill, 1975 be referred to the standing finance committee, and that the committee will meet commencing tomorrow morning. I am prepared Mr. President, to sit as long as any member wishes in the committee. Well, there is an indication that the committee should meet at 9 O'clock which is quite acceptable to me.

SECONDED BY HON. D.V. WATLER

MR. JOHN D. JEFFERSON: What I have often found --------

MR. PRESIDENT: One moment please, while I state the question.

MR. JOHN D. JEFFERSON: What I've found with this Mr. President----

MR. PRESIDENT: One moment please, the question is not on the floor of the house yet.

It has been moved that the draft estimates of the revenue and expenditure for 1975, and the Appropriation Bill be referred to the finance committee of this Assembly. The motion has been moved and duly seconded, and is now open for debate.

MR. JOHN D. JEFFERSON: What I was going to say Mr. President, was that what I find too many times when the hour is set at nine O'clock half of the people don't show up. Therefore we don't have a quorum to get business done, and I would hate to see a hard and fast rule in relation to starting. I would hope that from day to day, maybe an hour could be fixed so members would know exactly whats happening tomorrow, and if its possible to say, come in at 9. . . fine, if not that it would be at 10. I am just throwing this out because I know we all have our own commitments, and this is - we've proved in previous committies. I am just throwing that out Mr. President.

MR. CRADDOCK EBANKS: Mr. President, regardless whether we set the hour for 9 ., 10 ., 11 . or 1 O'clock, somebody is not going to show up in time as always. So, it doesn't make any difference to me as far as I am concerned what hour its set for. I was only thinking in terms as we always feel we are getting to the end of the year, everybody got a certain amount of personal obligations to meet, and we must have this taken care of. And the more hours we can put in during one day or each successive day, the quicker we'll get through - that was my only view of the matter.

MR. CLAUDE M. HILL: Mr. President, seeing that seven is a quorum, I am sure that setting the hours from 9. . until 3 . . straight, in my point of looking at it I think that is quite appropriate sir, with seven being a quorum.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Mr. President, I've found from experience that some members will talk the whole day, whether the day has two hours or twenty-four. This is one time when I am willing to go along with whatever the members want, personally 6 a.m. to midnight would be fine with me.

HON. W.W. CONOLLY: Mr. President, I do appreciate that we need to get as many hours as we can in the day. Nevertheless, my suggestion would be from 10 to a convenient time in the afternoon, whether that is 4 p.m., 5 p.m. 5;30 . as the case maybe. But once you've put in the day here, ending at 3 O'clock seems a bit inconvenient, because surely we want to get through with this and I am pretty open, but I would perfer 9;30, 10 O'clock. 9 O'clock is a bit early, I think we should start not sooner than 9;30 . and continue to a convenient time during the afternoon. Whether that is 4 ., 5 ., 5;30 ., 6 . or whatever the case maybe.

MISS ANNIE H. BODDEN: Mr. President, I feel sir that all of us here have a lot of work to do, and its one or two things if we are not willing to put in our time in the Assembly, let us get out of it. I am if I would call it losing time, I would be but I am not losing time, I maybe losing some financial gain, but that doesn't matter. I feel that we must put our best in to this business that we're in, and I would suggest respectfully sir, that we begin at 9 O'clock if you want to stretch it to 9:30 but no later, and continue until 3 p.m. or 3:30 p.m. We should get through then perhaps in one week, but if we have to sit down there and 10 O'clock wait till people come, to 11 O'clock, and then adjourn at 1 . come back 2:30 . we'll never finish it.

HON. V.G. JOHNSON: Mr. President, I think the conduct of the finance committee is set by the committee itself from day to day, and not by this Legislative Assembly. And I would suggest that we meet at 9:30 tomorrow morning, and at that time we can set the venue for the session.

CAPT. A.A. REID: Mr. President, if the two members for Cayman Brac can be here at 9:30 there is no excuse to anybody in Cayman not doing the same thing, and 9:30 will be all right with me until 5 p.m.

MR. PRESIDENT: Well, I think it has been helpful to the chairman to have the views of members expressed about timing, but as he has said in winding up, it is for the committee itself to decide its own procedure and timing.

So, the question is, that the draft estimates of revenue and expenditure for 1975, and the appropriation bill be referred to the finance committee.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED

ADJOURNMENT

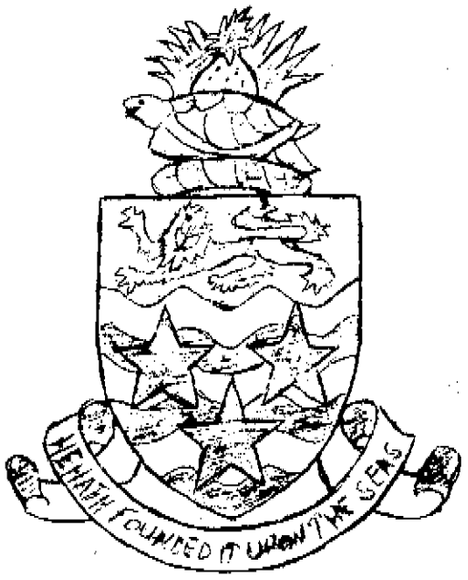
HON. D.V. WATLER: Mr. President and Honourable members, now that we have completed the agenda for the day, I move that the house adjourn to a date to be fix - which date will be after the finance committee has had time to study the appropriation bill.

SECONDED BY HON. G.E. WADDINGTON

MR. PRESIDENT: The question is, that this Assembly do now adjourn Sine die to a date to be decided at conclusion of the finance committee proceedings. If there is no debate I shall put the question.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED

MR. PRESIDENT: Accordingly, I adjourn the Assembly Sine die.



C A Y M A N I S L A N D S

L E G I S L A T I V E A S S E M B L Y

M I N U T E S

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OFFICIAL REPORT

B U D G E T A N D F O U R T H M E E T I N G

O F T H E

1974 S E S S I O N O F T H E

L E G I S L A T I V E A S S E M B L Y

FRIDAY 6th DECEMBER, 1974

PART VII

Friday 6th DECEMBER, 1974

PRESENT WERE:-

His Excellency the Governor, Mr.Thomas Russell, CBE - PRESIDENT

GOVERNMENT BENCH

Hon. D.V.Watler, OBE.,JP	First Official Member
Hon.G.E.Waddington, CBE., QC.	Second Official Member
Hon.V.G.Johnson, OBE	Third Official Member
Hon.A.B.Bush, J.P	Second Electoral District, George Town (Member for Works, Communications and Public Transport).
Hon. Trevor Foster	Third Electoral District, Lesser Islands (Member for Inter-Island Co-ordination and Information).
Hon.B.O.Ebanks	First Electoral District, West Bay (Member for Education, Medical, Health, Social Services and Labour)
Hon. W.W.Conolly, OBE.,JP	Sixth Electoral District, East End (Member for Tourism, Lands, Natural Resources, MRCU, Agriculture and Surveys).

ELECTED MEMBERS

Mr.T.W.Farrington, CBE.,JP	First Electoral District, West Bay
Mr.John D.Jefferson	First Electoral District , West Bay
Miss Annie H.Bodden	Second Electoral District, George Town
Mr.Claude Hill	Second Electoral District, George Town
Capt. A.A.Reid	Third Electoral District, Lesser Islands
Mr. James M.Bodden	Fourth Electoral District, Bodden Town
Mr. G.Haig Bodden	Fourth Electoral District, Bodden Town
Mr.Craddock Ebanks	Fifth Electoral District, North Side

ORDERS OF THE DAY

FRIDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER, 1974

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:-

(a) Wednesday, 9th October, 1974
(b) Thursday, 10th October, 1974
(c) Friday, 11th October, 1974
(d) Monday, 14th October, 1974
(e) Tuesday, 15th October, 1974
(f) Wednesday, 16th October, 1974
(g) Thursday, 17th October, 1974
(h) Friday, 18th October, 1974
(i) Monday, 21st October, 1974

2. REPORT OF COMMITTEE:

Report of the standing Finance Committee on the draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 1975 and the Appropriation Bill, 1975

Presented by the Chairman: Hon. V.G. Johnson, O.B.E., Financial Secretary, who will move the adoption of the Committee's Report.

3. BILLS:

(a) APPROPRIATION BILL, 1975 (THIRD READING)

(b) COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1974 (THIRD READING)

(c) THE HOTELS AID (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1974

(d) THE OIL POLLUTION BILL

(e) THE GAZETTE BILL

4. PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS:

(i) TO BE MOVED BY MR. JAMES M. BODDEN, TO BE SECONDED BY MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONSTITUENCY OF BODDEN TOWN)

WHEREAS due to the increased need for a playing field at the Bodden Town School and as money was allocated in the Budget for the type of expenditure
BE IT RESOLVED that this work be undertaken immediately.

(ii) TO BE MOVED BY MR. JAMES M. BODDEN TO BE SECONDED BY MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONSTITUENCY OF BODDEN TOWN)

WHEREAS due to changing economic factors in the world at large, consideration should be given by the Cayman Islands Government to review the present Maritime Laws governing the registration of ships. Such consideration to be along the line of changing the law where necessary to make it attractive for foreign registration and to the setting up of a merchant marine academy in the Cayman Islands to train and examine men to fill positions in this industry. Change of laws where necessary to allow examination for licensed officers and the issuance of such licences

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House set up a Committee of five Members of this House with one Member, being the Attorney-General, to preside as Chairman to study, prepare and draft a Bill and report back to this Honourable House at its next meeting, so that the necessary relevant laws can be presented to the House at the earliest opportunity during the beginning of the next session in 1975
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in view of the prorogation of the House at the end of December, 1974 that the Committee so appointed be given powers to function until a report has been made to the House in 1975.

(iii) TO BE MOVED BY MR. G. HAIG BODDEN TO BE SECONDED BY MR. JAMES M. BODDEN (CONSTITUENCY OF BODDEN TOWN)

WHEREAS due to the fact that the population of the Eastern Districts is increasing, it requires increased medical services to cope with it
BE IT RESOLVED that Medical Clinic at Bodden Town be staffed with a duty Nurse in residence there, and that this be done within the next ensuing thirty day period.

(iv) TO BE MOVED BY MR. JAMES M. BODDEN, TO BE SECONDED BY MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONSTITUENCY OF BODDEN TOWN)

WHEREAS due to the fact that certain films are being shown in the various Cinemas of the Island which are considered as not reflecting the moral and social standard of this community, and as at present there appears to be a law on the statute books incapable of coping with this problem
BE IT RESOLVED that a Committee be set up to considere this problem and to treat it with urgency, consisting of the Attorney-General as Chairman and three Members of the Legislative Assembly with powers to co-opt the services of up to four persons from the general public, such persons to have no vote and to report back to the Legislative Assembly its findings and suggestion for shange.

(v) TO BE MOVED BY MR. JAMES M. BODDEN, TO BE SECONDED BY MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONSTITUENCY OF BODDEN TOWN)

WHEREAS the balance sheet of Cayman Airways Limited has been tabled by the Honourable Third Official Member
BE IT RESOLVED that discussion ensue concerning the information contained therein as some pertinent facts appear to be contrary to information previously received.

Friday, 6th December, 1974

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FRIDAY, 6th DECEMBER , 1974

10 a.m.

MR. PRESIDENT: Please be seated.
The sitting is resumed.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Meeting Wednesday, 9th October, 1974
Meeting Thursday,10th October, 1974
Meeting Friday, 11th October, 1974
Meeting Monday, 14th October, 1974
Meeting Tuesday, 15th October, 1974
Meeting Wednesday, 16th October, 1974
Meeting Thursday, 17th October, 1974
Meeting Friday, 18th October, 1974
Meeting Monday, 21st October, 1974

MOVED BY HON. D. V. WATLER

SECONDED BY HON. G. E. WADDINGTON

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: MINUTES CONFIRMED

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

The report of the Standing Finance Committee on the Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 1975 and on the Appropriation Bill, 1975 were laid on the table by the Honourable V.G.Johnson, OBE.,JP., Chairman and Financial Secretary.

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

HON. V.G.JOHNSON: Mr.President and Honourable Members, the Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 1975 and the Appropriation Bill for 1975 were referred to the Standing Finance Committee which committee met for 5 times commencing on the 20th of November, 1974.

The Report has just been tabled setting outin detail the various aspects of and results from the examination of these documents and the end result of it all was that the revenue provision were increased by a sum of $800,000 and this increased the total provision of funds for distribution in 1975 from revenue of $8,734,055 to a new sum of $9,534,055. This new figure added to the estimated surplus revenue balance at the end of this year $1,748,073 would give a total sum available for distribution of $11,282,128.

The increase in revenue here, Mr.President, was due to the two bills which were approved by this Legislative Assembly earlier increasing the licence fees of Banks and the registration and incorporation and annual fees of companies.

The other part of the Estimates was examined, that is the Expenditure and there were no amendment of figures under the recurrent heads and so the total sum of recurrent expenditure of $8,650,700 remain the same.

The next part of expenditure which was examined was Capital Expenditure which is divided into three sections the portion financed from Local Revenue that from Development Aid and the other portion from Loan Funds. The last two were passed without changes.

The portion fiaanced from Local Revenue was amended and reduced by $60,000. The amendment was under the provision recommended for the MRCU programme in 1975 which included two Hy-macs. The Committee felt that because the budget was still under a deficit of over $100,000 that expenditures should be reduced in some area and they thought that by reducing the provision for two Hy-Macs to one that this would be the most acceptable as far as the Committee was

HON.V.G.JOHNSON (CONTINUING) concerned. However, I must say, Mr. President, that the Committee did not altogether deny MRCU of their 1975 programme - it was stated and you will find it in the report of the Committee that during 1975, provided funds are available, and provided that a strong case can be put forward for this second machine, that Finance Committee would be prepared to examine the application.

The next section of expenditure which was examined, the last section , New Services and New Services was increased by a sum of $450,000. This, Mr.President, was to take care of the salaries review increase of approximately 10% awarded to Members of the Civil Service and others who fall under this category. This increased New Services from $407,293 to $857,293.

Mr.President, the effect of all these amendments on the Financial position of the year 1975 was that the deficit presented in the Financial Statement on the Draft Estimates of $458,655 was reduced to $48,655, accordingly, the Appropriation Bill was amended and the amendments were under Item 21, Development (a) Local, the sum of $1,822,790 replaced the sum of $1,882,790. The New Services provision of $407,293 was replaced by a larger figure in the sum of $ 857,293, which gave a total sum under the Appropriation Bill of $13,758,999.

Mr.President, the Minutes on the Report of the Committee has been laid on the Table of this Honourable House and Members would have, in fact, been acquainted with their contents and so I have nothing further to report on the meeting of the Finance Committee.

SECONDED BY HON. D. V. WATLER:

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: REPORT ADOPTED.

THE APPROPRIATION LAW, 1975 THIRD READING

CLERK: THE APPROPRIATION LAW, 1975 THIRD READING.

MOVED BY HON. D. G. JOHNSON

SECONDED BY HON. D. V. WATLER

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: THE BILL WAS GIVEN A THIRD READING AND PASSED

THE HOTELS AID (AMENDMENT) LAW, 1974

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

CLERK: THE HOTELS AID (AMENDMENT) LAW , 1974 INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

MOVED BY HON. W. W. CONOLLY,OBE.JP

SECONDED BY HON. D.V.WATLER, OBE. J.P.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: BILL INTRODUCED AND GIVEN A FIRST READING

SECOND READING

CLERK: THE HOTELS AID (AMENDMENT) LAW, 1975 SECOND READING

HON.W.W.CONOLLY: Mr.President, I move the Second Reading of a bill entitled the Hotels Aid (Amendment) Law, 1974.

Mr.President and Members, this is an amendment to extend the Hotels Aid Law to the end of 1975. It is considered that there can be instances where that this assistance would indeed assist the industry and it is desirable to continue this for another year.

HON.W.W.CONOLLY (CONTINUING) Mr.President and Members, it may be that during 1975 and in fact there is now under review certain discussions on this particular bill and it may be that further amendments to this particular law may be advocated in 1975. Nevertheless, in order to continue this law and keep it on the statute books it is necessary to make this amendment. As Members know this particular law has been extended from year to year and depending on the circumstances it is reviewed on the merits or demerits of the economic situation for a period of time.

I would therefore ask Members to consider this amendment in a favourable way.

SECONDED BY HON. D. V. WATLER

MR.PRESIDENT: The question is that the bill entitled the Hotels Aid (Amendment) Law, 1974 be now read a second time. The motion is now open for debate.

MISS ANNIE H.BODDEN: Mr.President and Members of this House, I rise to support this bill. We must not get the idea just because we are now what we call flourishing, that there was not a time when this original bill was put before the House and accepted that it did a lot of good for our Islands. It encouraged the building of larger and better Hotels in this Island.

As I recall, the first so-called hotel was an ordinary dwelling house and that was as good as we could get in those days. Nevertheless, as business has increased we find that we had to provide accommodation for visitors, and I am very sure that the introduction of this law has encouraged the industry of hotel building and at this stage,I feel that we should continue it.

I agree that we loose some revenue but what we loose on one hand we gain on the other and I would strongly recommend to the Members here that we do not do anything to deter or stop this bill being put to the house and duly accepted. Thank you., Sir.

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN: Mr.President, I oppose the continuation of this law. I took the same stand at the end of 1973 and also at the end of 1972. The reason for this is that the little concession given under this law is now no longer an incentive for people to build. And if the position should be reversed the loss of this concession would not be a deterrent.

The Member introducing the bill has told us that some amendments may come forward in 1975 to this particular law. He did not specify what these amendments are likely to be: he did not convince me that these amendments are likely to be of any significance. I heard the same story last year after I had opposed the continuation of this law and I would like the permission of the House to read just two short sentences from page 7 of the Hansards for the 11th of December, 1973 dealing with this particular law. These are the words of the Member who introduced the bill today and he said - "I believe I mentioned to the Member sometime ago that there is under consideration, and serious consideration, a further amendment to this law in 1974 whereby we can offer some real inducement to investors or would-be investors in respect particularly of the Lesser Islands" and the second sentence is - "If we can make this amendment today, have the law on the statute book in 1974 I can assure you that you will have the opportunity early in 1974 of debating proposals coming from Government in respect of further inducement for other areas of these Islands".

Perhaps this same song had been sung on earlier occasions, but I was not here to listen to it, so when I hear today that we must renew this law for one further year and that during next year there will be amendments to the law, I have to take that with a

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONTINUING) grain of salt because in 1973 we were given, what I call, very strong language saying that some amendments would be put forward in early 1974 to rectify, perhaps, the defects in this law which we are asked to continue today.

Furthermore, an amendment to this law is contrary to the tone of the budget debate which was dealt with earlier in this sitting of the House, and I read from page six of the Budget debate, here again I will read only one sentence or two sentences - "The Department of Tourism has reason to believe that traffic in certain sections of the tourist industry will be curtailed in the coming season. There are indications, too, that proposals by local hoteliers to increase tourist accommodation facilities are being postponed and that small hotels especially are faced with financial problems."

We are told in the budget debate that it is likely that traffic will be curtailed in the coming season - we are also told that hoteliers are likely to postpone putting up further hotels. So why are we asked today to renew a law to encourage people to carry out something which we are told in the budget speech they are not likely to do. This amendment today is contrary to the essence of the budget speech. Although I will not quote the exact words from the budget speech I think we were told this year the hotel business will enjoy a little better than 50% occupancy as against a stagnant figure of 40 something per cent over the last few years. To my mind this shows clearly that we do not need this law. We have heard in this chamber from the experts that a hotel needs a 60% occupancy to be a viable business. The hotels that we have now are only enjoying a little bit better than a 50 per cent occupancy and the reason for this must be that we have one of two things - we either have two many hotels or we have too few tourists. If the present hotels are not able to enjoy a 60% occupancy which would make it a viable business why should we have a concession to encourage the building of more hotels? It seems to me that the market must be glutted with hotels.

The concession which we give to hotels under this law is indeed small and can have no significant effect upon the erection of a new hotel. With the price of land on the West Bay beach and the price of labour it is possible that a big hotel like the Holiday Inn would run into a total cost of four to five million dollars, but how much of that cost is really import duties? If you examine it closely you will probably find that one fifth of the cost, of the total cost, would go for the land alone. Out of the remaining 80 per cent you would probably have more than half of that going for labour, in fact I think the building figures today are 60 percent the cost of building a house is labour, the other forty material. This excludes the land, of course.

I think under this law we now charge an import duty of seven and a half per cent to the hotels on the West Bay beach so that what we are really waiving is not 20% ad valorem duty but twelve and a half per cent, so that when you consider the totl cost of the erection of a hotel on the West Bay beach , you can see that a seven and a half per cent(which we now charge, or a twelve and a half per cent which we now waive) is really an insignificant part of the CIF value of the materials that go into the building of a hotel. All of this is saying that if we scrap this law you wouldn't have any big difference in the number of new hotels, because the incentive is not large enough to bring in investors. On the other hand the concession which they would loose would not be large enough to deter a would-be investor.

So we are not giving them any incentive - what we are doing then really is saving them money, at the expense of the revenue, revenue which we need this year because we have a budget with a deficit, in fact, it was such a large deficit in the intitial draft of the Estimates that we had to use all of the ingenuity available

MR.G.HAIG BODDEN (CONTINUING) to the Financial Secretary to increase our revenue this year by nearly one million dollars.But we are here letting ago some revenue which we could well use.

I would not be against letting go this revenue if the revenue did anything for us, but we are letting it go to people who do not need it - we are letting it go and it is not buying anything for us.

No figures have been put forward to support the amendment to this bill. The Member did not see fit to tell us how much revenue is lost to Government each year because of this law - he did not see fit to tell us how many hotels took advantage of this concession this year or over the last five years. I believe that under the law when a hotel is built not only are the materials admitted for the building with some concession,but for a number of years the hotel can import certain items under this same concession, but no figures are available to us and it is my contention that the absence of these statistics shows that the statistics would not help the case. Perhaps in winding up the member might be able to enlighten us in this very dark area.

I cannot support this bill. It is one of the few, perhaps the only one of what I call the yearly renewable laws. Why are we acting in this manner? Every year we spend money to deal with this bill. Last year it took a full day's sitting, I believe, to get this amendment. Why don't we just put in the law and instead of saying that we change the figure from 1974 to 1975 - why don't we just change the law and say "this concession will be granted until such time as the ASSEMBLY wants to consider it again" rather than coming here year after year, for donkey years, changing 1971 to 1972 and 1972 to 1973 and 1973 to 1974 and 1974 to 1975 and I imagine we will be here in December next year again trying to change 1975 to 1976. Why don't we quit behaving like a baby and put into it what we should put in? Put it in so that the concession goes on for ever and ever or put in something that we don't have to come back year after year, because this same little sweet promise of making an amendment during the coming year has been with us for some time and if the promise means no more than the promise which we heard last year we'll be here again in December being asked to change the figure 1975 to 1976.

IT IS TIME that we get rid of this law.It is costing us money to renew it year after year. It is really not worth it. I will add this in favour, although the Member did not stress this. There are certain areas of this Island that can take advantage of the concession under this law - we have the district of North Side and East End, perhaps even Bodden Town and there is Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, and this concession might be useful as these areas are underdeveloped, but certainly with the profit that can come from the West Bay beach, if the hotels are kept to a minimum where the hotels can make some money there is no need for this concession to continue for the entire Island. If this amendment had been brought forward to give concession to the Lesser Islands (if I may use their official name) and to the Eastern Districts I could support this amendment but when we bring it forward to renew this law in the same fashion that we have done from time in memorial I cannot go along with it.

Last year there were several members that had the same view about this continuation of this law and undoubtedly they feel the same way and even those members who supported this bill last year must certainly know that the situation has changed as far as tourism is concerned. There was a time when many people believed that tourism was, along with its sister tax haven facilities, would be the only sources of revenue we would need, but that whole picture has changed, because of world economic condition, which are beyond our control and in the budget address this year we hear about diversification of the economy, in fact, certain worth-while suggestions are set forward in that speech, which, if they are implemented, would give us the safety

MR. G. HAIG BODDEN (CONTINUING) we need in our local economy, so the time has now come to really look at this bill. This was a good bill when it was started - I know that - I am quite aware of it. When this law was first introduced it was ideal - we had no hotels then and the Island was unknown in the tourist world and we needed such a law. And I must say that I congratulate those legislators and I am sorry that I was not a part to the formation of this bill. But like everything else the bill has now outlived its usefulness - it has now become antiquated - it no longer serves the purpose for which the law was established and we should not go on thinking as the legislators did in the years of yore that this is today when it was started.

I have support for some other legislation coming in this sitting and I will deal with that in the proper fashion, because I support some of the other laws, but here we have a situation where, as reasonable people, we should examine the case before us on its merits. It is much easier to amend this law by changing one figure in it than it is to re-write the law and do away with the concession that is given particularly to the West Bay Beach it is much easier and it is made so much easier than we throw in a sweet promise of future amendments, but like good reasonable people we must suit the action to our words and, Mr.President, I must definitely oppose the continuation of this law, in fact I would like to say that in my opinion it has gone on too long.

MR.CLAUDE HILL: Mr.President, Members, I rise to support this bill, seeing that it seeks to extend the operations of the Hotels Aid Law for a further year. Quite true it could be that we have a drop in our tourist industry next year owing to the recession in the United States, inflation, but on the same hand if we do not continue to give the encouragement to hoteliers by having this law on our statute books, inthe coming year we will find ourselves in difficulties because when this law was brought to this House it was on a five-year basis I'm subject to correction but now we have been carrying on from year to year with a continuation so as not to let it drop off to a complete full-stop. This is done, as I said, on a yearly basis as an encouragement to hoteliers and I feel that it is our duty here to let this law continue by just saying that what we have is from one year to the other by passing this law and allowing the hoteliers to continue for another year, and I don't see why we should argue over this matter in the light of stopping the hoteliers from their operations and encouraging hotels on developing. Thank you, Sir.

HON.V.G.JOHNSON: Mr.President, Honourable Members, tourism is a very prominent part of the economy and reference was made by the preacher of page 6 of the budget address where comment was made on the Department of Tourism.

Mr.President, in the budget address I gave warning, sounding on various aspects of the economy and I did so on the knowledge of the weakening of world-economic conditions. Here in this budget session we have budgeted for an enormous sum of revenue and I am sure that this Honourable House is aware that a bulk of this revenue depends on the traffic which is generated by the tourist industry.

The warning which was given in the budget address on page 6 was that there was danger in the tourist industry. Hotel developers had seen fit to shelve proposals for increase in hotel accommodation. The Department had seen where there would be problems in certain areas of the tourist traffic.

Mr.President, I don't mind mentioning that I had a confidential letter from perhaps one of the leading operators who described an awful picture of their operations and was hoping that in the immediate future there would be some relief otherwise the future of that operation was marked with much uncertainty.

HON.V.G.JOHNSON (CONTINUING) Hoteliers operate here because the Government offers an incentive, regardless of how small and insignificant the incentive may be. Other countries of the Caribbean especially Caribbean area have been very concerned about tourism in recent time. I am sure we are all aware of this -- they have gone over-board in providing all sorts of attractions to tourism in their country. The fact is I think the Cayman Islands, among very few Caribbean countries, can boast of an increase in traffic over the last year.

The concession that is given under the law which we now seek to renew for another year means a great deal to hotel developers. What puzzled me was that in a few years ago when the concession was amended to impose a small duty on certain areas of the Island that they did not question this. In other countries they receive concession.

I think, Mr.President, that as fragile as our economy is at present if we attempt in any manner whatsoever of removing even the slightest or smallest concession to these developers that it will have a great amount of ill-effect on this area of the economy. Perhaps, the only part of the Bodden Town Members' comments against this bill that I would agree on was when he said why didn't we fix the concession rather than renewing it each year. I have always wondered that myself, Mr.President, because I am sure it is much simplier for us to fix the concession there and when the Government feels that some adjustment or amendment or the removal of the concession should be made that we come forward to the Legislative Assembly and propose accordingly.

But I would, at this stage, Mr.President, again impress on members the importance of not attempting to remove this concession. I think it is important and if we expect tourism to continue and to grow then we must encourage it. A developer expects that his invested capital should be repaid within approxiamtely 10 years. This is only possible, Mr.President, if his occupancy rate climbs to the break-even point and I think Members are aware that it is not 40%, it is not 50%, but it is something in the vecinity of 64-65%. This has not been realised in these Islands as yet, and therefore we must be careful how we tread on these grounds - it is dangerous and so I would ask members to consider this bill to amend the Hotels Aid Law.

HON.TREVOR FOSTER: Mr.President, Honourable Members, I am not about to take this debate out to an extent because this is one of the shortest laws I believe we have had here for a long, changing the figure 4 to 5, but I would just like to point out a few facts. As far as an incentive is concerned, Mr.President, on large investments, although some members might think that the reduction of twelve and a half per cent on the cost of materials does not amount to much. No doubt it will surprise us all if, when one of the large hotels has gone through its figures to find out what its savings were.

Mr.President, it might be said that if a company as big as to afford that type of hotel that saving wouldnt matter to them - I am afraid, Sir, that the savings, no matter how small they are, matter more to a big man than they do to a small nearly and he is looking for every incentive and saving that is possible. Members should be aware that even one of the large hotels here this year had planned for additional construction but in reviewing the matter the financial crisis that we are now enjoying, should you say, their decision was to also delay their development. So the twelve and a half per cent savings which is on the West Bay beach, I do think if this matter is looked into deeply it is quite an incentive. However, particularly the outer districts and Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, I must say that I still support this, although as up to date it has not been an incentive to bring about a hotel, but it has been

HON. TREVOR FOSTER(CONTINUING) helpful to some of the development in the line of cottages. On the other hand that savings amount to a little more, which is seventeen and a half per cent. It may be that the proposer of this amendment will realise that it can be of great help to his own district.

Mr.President, I support this amendment and I feel that all members should because development in this phase particularly needs incentives and if not to this amount, I would certainly agree in the future it might need more. So, Mr.President, I support this bill in its entirety.

MR. JAMES M.BODDEN: Mr.President, Fellow Members, I too recognise the importance to our economy of the hotels and the touris business. to deny that would be fool-hardy , but Mr.President, I find it impossible to go along with this amendment in the manner in which it is proposed to do. I believe that there is time and the time has come for us to take an objective look and to see if we can't come up with something better than what is being presented to us.

In speaking this way, Mr.President, I speak as a member who has been nominated or re-elected from the HOuse to whatever you want to call it sit on this Board and although I sit there as a Member representing this House, representing the people of these Islands, I feel I would be derelict in my duty if I did not point out some of the things in my estimation I consider to be wrong.

I am sure that every member of this House is quite aware of the type of business that I am in and I deal with a lot of people who speak about building hotels, condonimiums, so forth and so on, so you would even say that in fighting this I would be hurting my business. But I must not look at it that way, Mr. President and I think it is time that all of us, in every field of activity that we come in here to debate, look on it as not how it is affecting the particular business but how it affecting the Islands as a whole.

Now, Mr.President, I fail to see the argument that canbe put up on the Government side in favour of keeping this law when on the other hand I am certain that every member of this House has, from time to time , heard of the manner in which applications for building such as this that go before the Planning Board are treated. Mr.President, time and time again these applications go in and the applicants are told there is no reason to have another apartment house, there is no reason to have another hotel, or if there is a reason the bathroom is probably located wrong. So, Mr.President, with that attitude being displayed.in the authority that more or less has the guiding hand on this, I cannot see why we should, on the other hand then try to promote it by continuing the waiver of duty. I quite agree with some of the members who spoke awhile ago in saying that this may have played an important part in our growth - may be it did - may be it was the incentive that was needed to get foreign capital attracted to this Island, but I humbly submit that times have changed in this respect in regards to this law, as well as it has changed with just about everything else in our community, and it is time that we look on this objectively and realistically in 1975 and not looking back on 1968.

I cannot believe, Mr.President, that the waiver of this duty would mean such a detriment to the future building of hotels in this Island. The waiver of duty is such a small part in the construction of a hotel, Mr.President, that I am certain the money is much better in Government's coffers than it is in somebody's private pocket. Should a person come in here tomorrow to build a hotel(I'm not going to touch on the land side of it), but lets say that he decides to build a hotel that will cost one million dollals. Mr.President, out of that milllion dollar he has probably got architectural drawings and so-forth that are going to run a little or close to $100,000, 8% being the standard fee. Then you have other expenses, so

MR. JAMES M. BODDEN (CONTINUING) it means that you are looking, Mr. President, at roughly nine hundred thousand dollars that is going into the actual building of that hotel. The figures for building in Cayman are usually in the neighbourhood of sixty per cent for labout, forty per cent for material. I have seen it, Mr.President, go as high as sixty-five per cent for labour thirty-five per cent material. Now, if we take even forty per cent of nine hundred thousand dollars, we're looking at three hundred and sixty-thousand dollars' worth of material. If we take the waiver of duty at twelve and a half per cent we are looking at a saving of about forty-four thousand dollars. That is in the erection of a hotel, which,with out building standards being what they are, and our costs what they are, a hotel room in this Island is projectedas costing twenty-five thousand dollars. This is not meaning, Mr.President, that the actual room is costing that but you have to take into consideration all of your public areas and so forth. So the duty that is saved on a hotel that will cost one million dollars could not build more than a room and a half of the hotel, and Mr.President, I putit to this House that at five per cent occupancy tax on this room and a half how many years is that room going to have to be occupied until the Government is going to get the good back that it would have gotten on the revenue from the duty at the beginning. It will take much longer than any of us will ever live to be in this House.

If we were to project that a bit further, Mr. President, into the other areas of the Islands, where we are only paying a two and a half per cent duty, we would be looking at a saving of probably sixty thousand dollars and regardless of what some members of this House may think when you are dealing with a man that is going to put up a hotel, that is going to cost him one million dollars, and the land probably two hundred thousand dollars, sixty thousand dollars to him doesn't mean anything, and I think I have dealt with more of them than any one else in this House, being in the business that I am in.(I don't know how you figure but I don't get it that way).

Another thing, Mr.President, is that in the submission of applications (I am talking about hotels) we often hear so much about the labour problem. We hear that we have enough hotel space now: we hear of the occupancy rates being 53%. Now, Mr.President, with an occupancy rate of 53% at the present time I fail to see where this waiver of duty is going to be such an incentive for a man to come in here to build another hotel. Its not good economics, and if this had played such an important part on the building of hotels, I think we would have had much more than we have now.

Mr President, a big objection that I have to this is, in my opinion, this law is being used on a favourtism basis and as a tax loop-hole. I feel, Mr.President, as a member who sits on that Board that the local people who have made applications before this Board, have not been treated fairly and if for no other reason than that, Mr.President, I would object to this going into law again.

Mr.President, a local person has to pay import duty on everything he brings into this Island. If you want to bring in your casket, the duty must be paid on, so you had better have that money. Now if we are going to shoulder the burden of keeping this Government afloat, and there is no doubt about it, Mr.President, our largest revenue earner is still the Customs Department, then if that is so, Mr.President, anyone else coming in here to invest and hopefully to make money and hopefully to see his property and his investment appreciate, he must also share some of the responsibility with us.

In the hotels, we find, Mr.President, very few local employees, unless they are relegated to the lower departments and may be I could support this thing, Mr.President, if we were going to hear that some of the people who have a little bit of ambition would be assisted to get some of the top positions in the hotel industry. But we hear nothing about that, Mr.President, we do not hear our Government spear-heading the effort to do it and neither do we hear

MR. JAMES M.BODDEN (CONTINUING) of the hoteliers themselves doing very much about it. There is an isolated case, once in a while, I will agree.

Another objection I have against this, Mr. President is this,the waiver of duty has been used in the past to apply against condominiums. It was decided by the Board that this would not continue. Unfortunately, it has. Sitting on that Board, Mr.President, we have already decided since I was a member that certain applications that came before the Board dealing with apartments and condominiums would not be considered.

MR.PRESIDENT: I think the Honourable Member should be careful not to talk about matters which are interior province of the Board....

MR. JAMES M.BODDEN: Mr.President, I humbly submit to your ruling, but I must say that this is not just the internal workings of the Board - this is a matter that has affected quite a bit of the industry and a matter on which hundreds of people in this Island today are aware, Sir.

I only wish to point out to this House, Mr. President, that for some reason or the other this waiver of duty is being applied in areas that it should not be. If you wish to build a home in this Island, you must import your material and you must pay your duty. The people come in here and they group together in a unit and they decide to build a condominium - they gloss it over, Sir, by saying we are going to rent for a couple of days of the year, may be, and we find they receive a waiver of duty. Now, Mr.President, you have stopped me awhile ago, and may be I was wrong but I will submit to this House that there is a case that has happened recently into this Board which I consider there must have been some dereliction of duty and if I cannot pursue it in the open House I will pursue it otherwise, because as a Member of that Board, in writing to find out why the decision was changed, I have not even had the courtesy of a reply, and if it means, Mr.President, taking that move with the Colonial Office in London, I will know why it was done.

One member spoke, Mr.President, about the economic condition that afflict the Hotels - may be this is true Quite a few businesses in this Island have been affected, not just in this Island but off-shore also, but Mr.President, one of the things I think that afflicts the Hotel industry in this Island more than anything else is they have not paid attention to their management. They have continued to increase rates. We find, Mr.President, that a drink of wine in a hotel will cost $1.50, the cheapest wine you can get - the bottle costs about $1.50, so the hotel-keeper gets about $20 back for his $1.50 investment. We find a simple hamsandwich with about 10¢ of ham on it and 2¢ of bread costs $3.00. Mr.President, these are some of the reasons why the hotels in this Island are suffering economically because they have increased their rates until they have gotten it out of the line of the average person being able to use it, and I hear this complaint, Mr.President, every day in my office from visitors from abroad who will come in here and say "I could go any other place in the world, in the fanciest of hotels and stay as cheap as I do here in some of these what we call cheaper type hotels". So, Mr.President, I must again argue and say that I cannot see where this waiver of duty is going to upset any apple-cart in regards to tourism or investment in this Island. I think what it will do is give us a chance to may be at the end of next year balance our budget. I could support this thing, wholeheartedly Mr.President, if there had been a move here to abolish this completely from the seven mile beach and to extend it to other areas of the Island and to the Lesser Islands, but Mr.President, we must realise that land on seven mile beach in some cases now is $1200 a front foot

MR. JAMES M.BODDEN (CONTINUING) and when a man is paying $1200 a front foot for property to build a hotel on or a condominium he is no longer worried about the little bit of import duty that he is saving - that is a very minimal part of the over-all cost. But, Mr.Prsident, I submit it to this House I hope that the members will look on it objectively, and that they will see that they should not blindly support everything that is thrown at them without some more information. Thank you.

MR.JOHN D. JEFFERSON: Mr.President, we have before us today a bill to amend the H tels Aid Law, .I rise to support the amendment I think that it is very short and concise and I feel that at this stage of the game it will not be wise thing for us to abolish this incentive.

I wholeheartedly feel that anything that can be done at this stage, especially until things stabilise should be done to encourage the hotel industry.

Mr.President, as you no doubt are aware the hotel industry is a very big part of myself - I've spent a number of years in that industry and certainly it means a lot to me personally. These Islands have benefitted financially from tourism - there can be no question in anybody's mind to that. Withthe financial crisis in the world today, I think that what we have to do is to make sure that nobody rocks the boat. I would even welcome greater incentive at this stage, esp. ..ly in other parts of the Island, and the smaller Islands (I refuse to say the Lesser - I say the smaller sister Islands). I believe that every effort must be made, Mr. President, to induce hoteliers to look after the sister Islands. We realise that we have been going through quite a financial boom while the other Islands have stayed stagnant. Fortunately today we can say there has been a trend to move upward in the other Islands, to which brings me a great deal of happiness to know that the people - I saw from the paper last week, I believe, are beginning to go back home to the Drac and Little Cayman.

The Lesser Islands have potential and transportation no doubt is one of the greatest hinderances but I am sure that we look forward to an increase and to improvement, great improvement even in that area.

I do not agree that the bill has outlived its usefulness. I think that it is something that we must continue to encourage for some time yet. I think the day will no doubt come if we continue to exercise responsibility then we will be able to say "Look we have sufficient hotels on the Island and our tourist industry is large enough for the Island, and we feel that we do not want to induce anybody else." But until that time comes I think that we must do everything possible to encourage it and yet at the same time I would also like to say that I believe that regardless of what anybody says, because no body has been able to present to me a successful case, I believe it would be very advantageous for the hotels in these Islands to get together and to augment or start a training programme which will enable local Caymanians to be able to fill the role played by many people brought in from the outside, which I can tell you is a very expensive operation.

It would be to their advantage in savings, it would be a continuity too,the people that come here to see Caymanians, to talk with them, to see the way they act, the way they live and it would be a considerable saving if a concerted effort were to be made by the hotels together. Now don't tell me that any concerted effort has been made because I will deny and prove that there has never been any real programme put together in a co-operative basis. I am not talking about one person, I am talking about something done together with all of them which would make the programme very inexpensive.

MR. JOHN D. JEFFERSON (CONTINUING) There has been the note of diversification of our economy, certainly this is a very badly needed thing but even with diversification I think that every opportunity, every avenue must be explored to help to bolster tourism in these Islands as a whole.

I speak, Mr.President, as a member who supports tourism - I support the fact that it has played a vital part as the Financial Secretary said, a part of the economy of these Islands. Fortunately we have enjoyed in the Cayman Islands an increase from year to year whereas in many other Caribbean Islands, if there hasn't been a stand-still it has been the other way around.

I think of the incentive that is at present being placed to hotels, I see it as and I think it ought to be read as well meaning of this Government to do everything it can to make it as easy as possible for them to be able to get in and get started and I would hope that they will also look at the other side where I said it has proven to be a very expensive operation where persons have to be constantly brought in and certainly if it was done on a co-operative basis I am sure there could be a tremendous amount of saving every year that they would be able to save instead of having to spend, and therefore the day might come when nobody in these islands that run hotels will be able to say that the hotel industry is not a real paying thing.

So I rise in support of this amendment. I thank you very much, Mr.President.

CAPT. A.A.REID: Mr.President and Honourable Members, I support the bill wholeheartedly. You have listened this morning to a lot of rhetoric on this subject. At one time I thought I was listening to a sermon. I would remind the members of this House that any law we pass here affecting the hotel issue, even though we consider this Island in the throes of richness and going ahead too fast, the other two Islands are not, and unless they are prepared to write two laws in the books , one for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman and another for the one that suits them here, I would advise them not to trifle with it.

We need everything that we can get in Little Cayman and Cayman Brac and I think, Sir, that a businessman can be likened to a good fisherman. A good fisherman when he goes fishing to catch a special fish, he takes the bait that that fish likes best; if he is going for red snapper, he takes shrimp. There's no better bait to offer a would-be prospective builder, or a hotelier or for an apartment house in these Islands than to give him a rebate on his duty and any interference with that should be to lessen it. Nearly every sentence that the two Honourable Members for Bodden Town made had two negatives. It reminded me of the North American slang "I ain't going to do nothing about it", which means that he must be going to do something, because if you argue that there's no money in it for them to save, well then there is no money in it for us to loose, so where's the argument? And if it is so infinitesimal that it wouldn't be worth themsaving it, then it is so infinitesimal that its nothing for us to worry about. The whole argument they put up is unsound. They must have read Mein Kamp, where Hitler said "If you tell yourself something often enough you'd believe it yourself, if you tell a big enough lie everybody will believe you and you will believe that yourself". (MEMBERS - LAUGHTER)

I see no grounds for argument on this bill and I reiterate be careful of any bill you plan on drafting for this House if it affects or if it will hurt Cayman Brac and Little Cayman because I shall not stand for it.

We have a lot to do up there to get some prosperity - granted its a lot better than it was and I am very glad of that and we dont want to up-set the apple-cart now. What I would be in favour of is even offering an incentive, the same

CAPT. A.A.REID: (CONTINUING) incentive to a man whose going to build a home on Little Cayman for himself, who comes here only for three months of the year, because it is tantamount to what a hotel would be doing . Its a home for him for three months - its not his home, he is not coming there to live and I would recommend that if someone would bring it forward that we give them an incentive to come there and build houses. I thank you , Sir.

MR.PRESIDENT If there are no further speakers, I will ask the Honourable Mover to wind up the debate.

HON.W.W.CONOLLY: Mr.President, I was very brief in my beginning and I had no idea that an amendment to this bill would have given members the opportunity to delve into merits and demerits of the tourist industry. However, I am very happy that members brought out certain points.

The Honourable Member from Bodden Town said that in December last year I stood in this chamber and gave an assurance - he is quire correct in saying so. In December last year I gave the assurance that during the course of 1974 I would be recommending further amendments to this bill in aid of inducement to the bill. When I said that I had particularly in my mind developments in Cayman Brac and LIttle Cayman and Mr.President, I did not sit down on my promise. Early in January I went to the United States and I contacted a firm of consultants on this matter. The consultants who have some two thousand five hundred or three thousand clients world-wide agreed to do a survey of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. It cost me nothing for this interview and I asked them to put up their proposals to me what would be involved the cost and what-not. Mr.President, I got the preliminary permission from them some time in April or thereabout. But, Mr.President and Members, as you are aware at the same time an application was made to this Government for an oil transfer station and possibly a refinery on Little Cayman. If these had materialised definitely a planned programme on tourism would have been changed. I am not suggesting that you cannot have tourism with it but definitely there would have been some changes.

I was advised that we should hold things to see whether this was going to materialise or not, which I thought was sound advice and that is the reason why in 1974 I did not come back to this House asking an amendment of this bill to provide some inducement for tourism development in Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. I still have this proposal open for the survey - I dont' know what the survey will realise, I don't know what they will suggest but if nothing is done, and that is why I used the remark this year that it may in 1975, I may, because once this application for this oil refinery and bunkering is still before the Government, then the development of tourism will have to go in accordance with the more, I would, slow pace.

Mr.President and Members, the Member said that it cost a lot to get this bill through last year, nearly one day's sitting - I believe he said that and I believe his remarks were deliberate this year so that next year he can said I cost a whole day's pay to have this bill go through. Mr.President, the Honourable Member disagreed with extending the bill for one year yet in the end he agree that it should be extended for five years or indefinitely. So I don't know whether he was support or he was opposing.

Mr.President and Members, some member said that sixty thousand or ninety thousand dollars is no money to an investor - the First Member from Bodden Town made those remarks but I am sure he is an expert in this field, in his business and I'm sure, whether he admits it or not that any time he quotes a developer a figure and the difference is $60,000 that developer is going to jump at him.

HON. W.W.CONOLLY (CONTINUING) One question, one point has been raised in respect to condominium. Mr.President, I would like to remind members and particularly the Honourable Member from Bodden Town who is a member of the Hotels Aid Committee or Board that under section 21 of the Strata Titles Registration Law, which was passed in this House on December the eighteenth last year, precludes condominiums from any benefits under this law. Mr.President, I am also Chairman of this Board to which was referred and as far as I am aware we had no new applications this year and I think we had one meeting.

It is true that an application was made some two years ago, materials were brought into this country two years ago and for some reason or the other no fault of the applicant, their application was there, this particular matter was not solved until this year. There has been no irregularity as far as I am concerned, the Board is a democratic Board, and despite what any individual member feels the majority of that Board is a decision. Whether I feel the decision was right or whether the Member feels it was right, once it was done under legislation, and once it was done by the majority's decision, that is what we have to abide with.

Mr. President, much has been said about tourism, much, I would say half- hearted support about the importance of tourism. Mr.President, let me say this that the reason why we have taken this law year by year is because we review the economic situation, the economic world condition year by year. I am not saying that if next year the economic situation in this Island, and in the world, warrants us to repeal this law or to let it die, the recommendation will be so, but as far as I am aware today the economic situation in the world is so now that I would think even greater concessions should be given.

Mr.President, a lot of emphasis has been placed on the West Bay beach - there is not much trouble in encouraging somebody to build on the West Bay beach, but the law was designed to encourage people to build in other areas, i.e. the eastern districts of Grand Cayman and the two smaller Islands. This was what was in my mind and I haverecommended to keep this bill alive and when I say that may be during 1975 you may be asked to consider other amendments, I was not thinking then of whether we were going to change the figure 4 and make it 5, my mind was running into what other incentives we could offer people to bring them here. Let me say this, Mr.President and members, only this year the major hotel in this Island attempted to do an expansion, an expansion that is very much needed and on account of just a couple of per cents on money it was shelved. This brings me back to the point of occupancy. Members, I am sure, are not too aware of how the occupancy is derived at - you can have more people and yet you can have a less occupancy. Occupancy is based on the number of bed-nights available which takes into account the the length of stay. And there is no doubt - its a fact - and this is a fact throughout the whole Caribbean - that the stay of a tourist is short. People are staying shorter times - they are moving more and naturally, even though we have more people, our occupancy shows to be down. And another point might be taken into consideration, and this is very important. Take the season which is before us now - from the 15th of December on and you will find today that if we had doubled the rooms we probably could fill that. Yet, in the summer and in the fall,you take here this year in September and October with four of the main properties closed, our occupancy was well down . We have a seasonal business and when you have a seasonal business definitely it has to be watched very carefully, in other words, it is just like what people say on the street - when you can make the money you had better make the money. When you can get a job you had better take

HON. W.W.CONOLLY (CONTINUING) that job because there may be some months that you don't make it.

This is the reason why, and this is the reason that hotels coming into this place need an injection, an inducement of something. Surely, apart from the direct revenue we anticipate this year in direct revenue from tourism approxiamtely $170,000 in accommodaton tax, which is a direct tax, plus 55,000 tourists at $2 per head in Travel Tax, that is another $110,000, so we see that directly from tourism we get nearly $300,000 in cash, immediately from them, but according to the survey that was done for us beyond this it is anticipated that each tourist coming to the Cayman Islands, leaves approximately $220. This is a very conservative figure and if we multiply 55,000 persons by $220 each you will see that indirectly, in hotel costs and food and taxi fares , in rent-a-cars, in souvenirs and what-not that this country will receive, this year I am talking about in 1974, over eleven million dollars from this source.

Mr.President and Members, this is a field that we should be very careful with, we should try in every instance to encourage this development. Surely, it would take a life-time for the Government to re-coup this fifty or sixty thousand dollars waive of duty on one room, but you do it in-directly;when you have a room you have a person who spends here, there and everywhere and we find today that for the money spent and Mr.President, I can assure you that the money that is spent to attract a tourist to this country is in keeping with what is spent elsewhere, less, in a lot of cases.

As I said, Mr.President, I regret that this debate has used up so much time, but I think it is good that we have cleared the air on certain points. If I might, just before I close, mention the comments of a member in respect to training, there is no doubt in my mind that the Government pays quite a lot of emphasis on training, but it is one thing again we must bear in mind, we cannot train people if they don't come forth. There has been now, this year, a scholarship fund provided by an institution here and as far as I know no scholarships have been awarded, the money is there but the persons have to come forth. On the Government scholarship programme, surely tourism would be included and as I said I feel it should be one of the fields that more Caymanians should go in because it is our largest industry, but of course, let me say this, it is well for us here to appropriate money, it is well for us to have this in mind, but if the people don't come forth. I have had some very astonishing circumstances and incidences where Caymanians instead of showing a sense of responsibility, have taken the other route. I have a case in point where a young Caymanian, a brilliant person, a person that could become a manager, there is no doubt it, the ability is there, doesn't show up for work two or three nights - doesn't telephone to let the office know, well I am sick, or I can't get there, or this, business does not operate this way - Caymanians will have to show a sense of responsibility if they are going to achieve what we would hope they achieve and what we would want them to achieve.

Mr.President, I am sure this bill will be supported and as I said, I look forward in the coming year to be able to present a plan if the economics can stand it to induce development of this industry to other areas of the Islands and in particular, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

Thank you, Mr.President.

QUESTION PUT: AYES AND NOES.

MR.PRESIDENT: THE AYES HAVE IT.

BILL GIVEN A SECOND READING.

COMMITTEE THEREON

MOVED BY HON. W. W. CONOLLY

SECONDED BY HON. D. V. WATLER

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: HOUSE IN COMMITTEE

CLERK: CLAUSE 1: SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: CLAUSE 1 PASSED

CLERK: CLAUSE 2: AMENDMENT OF SECTION 13 OF CAP.66

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: CLAUSE 2 PASSED

CLERK: A LAW TO AMEND THE HOTELS AID LAW (CAP.66)

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: TITLE PASSED.

HOUSE RESUMED

REPORT THEREON

BY HON. W. W. CONOLLY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 54

MOVED BY HON. W. W. CONOLLY

SECONDED BY HON. D. V. WATLER

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: STANDING ORDER 54 SUSPENDED.

THIRD READING

CLERK: THE HOTELS AID (AMENDMENT) LAW, 1974 THIRD READING

MOVED BY HON. W. W. CONOLLY

SECONDED BY HON. D. V. WATLER

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: BILL GIVEN A THIRD READING AND PASSED.

THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (OIL POLLUTION) BILL

HON.G.E.WADDINGTON: Mr.President, and Honourable Members of this House, Members will see from the Memorandum of Objects and Reasons to the bill cited as the Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution) Law that the objects of this bill was to extend to these Islands the provisions of the Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, 1969. Now that Convention, Mr.President was adopted at a Conference held in Brussels in November, 1969 under the auspices of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation. The general effect of this Convention was to provide for strict liability on the owner of a ship for any pollution damage caused by oil which has escaped or been discharged from the ship, subject to certain limitations of liability. That Convention was signed by Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and in due course implemented by legislation in the United Kingdom in the form of the Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution)Act of 1971.

Now, as the Cayman Islands are near to oil shipping routes and are thus exposed to pollution, it was considered advisable that we should participate in this Convention and there were

HON.G.E.WADDINGTON (CONTINUING) two ways in which this could be done, firstly, by the extension of the Merchant Shipping(Oil Pollution) act, 1971 of the United Kingdom to the Cayman Islands by an Order in Council or by our enacting our own legislation in similar terms to the Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution) Act, 1971. In March of this year, Mr. President, the Government decided that the Convention should be extended to the Cayman Islands by Order in Council, however, in September, a telegram was received from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office requesting us to enact our own legislation and hence this bill was prepared. Subsequently, however, very shortly after receiving that telegram another telegram was received correcting the previous telegram in which it had been erroneously requested that we should prepare our own legislation and confirming that the Convention would be extended by Order in Council in accordance with our previous request.

It is now, therefore, unnecessary, Mr. President and Members to introduce this bill and at this time I would accordingly move, under Standing Order 61 that the Bill be withdrawn.

Seconded by Hon. D.V.Watler.

MR.PRESIDENT: The point before the Assembly is that the Oil Pollution Bill , 1974 be withdrawn, this requires leave of the House, but the motion is open for debate if anybody wishes to comment on the Honourable Attorney-General's statement.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: BILL WITHDRAWN

AT 12.30 P.M. THE HOUSE SUSPENDED

THE HOUSE RESUMED AT 2.30 P.M.

MR.PRESIDENT: Proceedings are resumed.

THE FOLLOWING PORTION OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMELY WERE TELEVISED BY MR. DOREN MILLER, WHO WAS PREPARING A DOCUMENTARY FILM ON THE CAYMAN ISLANDS FOR THE FORTHCOMING 1975 CAYMAN FESTIVAL.

THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE LAW
INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

CLERK: THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE LAW - INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING.

MOVED BY HON. D. V. WATLER

SECONDED BY HON. G. E. WADDINGTON

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: BILL INTRODUCED AND GIVEN A FIRST READING

SECOND READING

CLERK: THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE LAW - SECOND READING.

HON. D. V. WATLER: Mr.President, I move the Second Reading of a Billentitled The Official Gazette Law.

As these Islands develop it is incumbent on us to update our laws to bring them in line with modern practices and procedures. Our present interpretation Law defines Gazette as a Government Notice. Government Notices are issued at the Governor's Office and are displayed on the Notice Boards in the various district, but many times due to weather conditions and other good reasons members of the public are not aware of some of these notices that are published. This Bill seeks to provide for an official Gazette that will be printed in such a manner that will form a permanent record and that the people will be able to

HON.D.V.WATLER: (CONTINUING) bind in loose leaf form or otherwise and keep for future reference. These Gazettes will also be on sale to members of the public. I therefore commend this bill to the favourable consideration of this Honourable House.

SECONDED BY HON. G. E. WADDINGTON.

QUESTION PROPOSED

MR.G.HAIG BODDEN: Mr.President, for this bill I will depart from my natural role in the opposition. I support this bill. For many months now I have advocated a system which would replace the antiquated method of publishing our bills on a public notice board. This Bill is what I call an ideal piece of legislation. I have read it from beginning to end and I have not found a single line to disagree with. I especially likethe part of this bill that says it will be, speaking about the Gazette, it will be available to the public.

We have reached an age when people are anxious for information. Whether we like it or not this Island is now in the television age. Whether we want to believe it or not we are making history. It is quite coincident that the introduction of this bill should come at a time when the Festival is nearing and when a documentary film is being made of these Islands.

I once advocated the use of the newspaper but I must say that Government has outsmarted me and is now putting forward their own publication which can do a much better job than our newspapers.

I am an enemy of the press because I have criticised the press on so many occasions for the bias way in which they have dealt with important issues. This Gazette, being a Government publication, will guarantee that Government matters, matters important to the public, will be put forward in a straightforward impartial manner.

This Gazette will do a marvellous job in passing on information to the public who is now ready to receive it. I can see this Gaszette being a blessing to the business community. The business community is affected by any change in any law and a lot of business men do not have the time to go out and search the public notice Boards. The draughtsman has done a marvellous job in presenting this bill and I whole-heartedly endorse it. Thank you.

MISS ANNIE H.BODDEN: Mr.President and Members of this House I support this bill in every detail. I have long felt since the public generally do not seem to be interested in coming to our Legislative Assemblies to hear what is going on, and only wait until after it is over to criticise us, I feel that the time is now ripe when facts, as put forward in this House, either rejected or adopted, should come to the notice of the public.

These little notice boards are very inadequate. I notice particularly one at, I think, at Gun Bay I'm sure it is not over a foot and a half long and to the extreme one foot wide. Now that is not adequate for the public to know whatis going on. Notices are put one on tope of the other and the wind can blow them away, or rain destroy what is written on it and I feel it is high time that we have something of this nature.

I feel, Sir, that it will also be a means whereby each and every legislator will be properly covered in matters which they debate of major prominence.

MISS ANNIE H.BODDEN (CONTINUED) I must say that this Caymanian Compass is the most biased paper that we have ever had in publication.

My constituency has approached me and said "Miss Annie, what has happened to you, we never see that you say one word in the Assembly , and before we could always look that you would at least take part in the debate, but according to the papers you must be turned dumb". Now I say that I resent that very much, I take my part to the best of my ability, I will not ramble on foolishly but I feel that when I say something I have as much right to have some coverage in this Caymanian Compass as those who have families to put in every word they say. Now I feel, Sir, with this publication that each and every one of us will be able to have our names printed, something of what we say, even if it costs us to pay to have a letter or whatever we may call it, a speech or whatever it is put in the paper. Sometime we may even have our very pictures to show the world that we are not as dumb as some people think we are.

I heartily support this bill, Sir, it is long over-due and I feel that not one member in this Chamber should raise one word of objection to such a bill. Thank you, Sir.

MR. JOHN D. JEFFERSON: Mr.President, Members of this Honourable House, I rise in support of a bill to establish an Official Gazette for the Cayman Islands.

It does my heart good, Mr.President, to hear the opposition/I say will depart from my normal role and go on to say that the bill is in every way a good piece of legislation.

I rise in support of this. I believe that every day we move closer and closer or narrow the gap in which people of these Islands are almost forced to know what goes on. I, Mr.President, have been very distressed in this very same session of the House to have dealt with over $13,000,000 in these Islands and to my knowledge, and I stand to be corrected, not to have even seen one Department Head that stayed for at least one session, one full session of this House. Now if the Department Heads of this Government are not interested any more than that in regards to what goes on or the feelings of members in this House then what can we expect from people on the outside. I believe that until we move to the stage where we have our own Radio station, the public is not going to be fully educated and to the workings of Government and what really goes on. Nevertheless, this piece of legislation before us this afternoon seeks to set or, as I said, narrow the gap where people almost are forced to know truly what is going on. We notice the notices being placed on the bulletin boards throughout the various districts that are fortunate enough to still have some. It frightens you, Mr.President to think of the public as a whole today when we see the destruction of public property. I think that as we look and see notices, placed sometimes on a board not more than fifteen minutes and somebody is tearing them down. Well, at least this Gazette will not only be on the bulletin Board but it will be available in the hands of the public and to this I am very glad.

I find statement made in regards to this in the fact that the press has not played its part being biased, well, the first member that made such a statement must be making it to catch more headlines because certainly he has caught all the headlines as far as this Assembly is concerned and the Lady Member from Town has every reason to voice an objection because as far as I am concerned the press has been doing a very unbiased job lately, and doing an injustice as far as I am concerned to all the members of this House. I think I took exception to statements previously published in our paper. You wonder what its doing

MR. JOHN D. JEFFERSON (CONTINUING) anyway, its playing politics or are we trying to set the facts straight before the people?

I have no axe to grind with anybody, all I owe this country is good-will and an opportunity to try to lead it towards the things that have this country great.

I rise in support of this bill, very short, very concise, very much to the point and certainly I support it in its entirety. I'm glad, as I've said that at last we are closing the gap and I look forward to the day when our radio station will be forcing people to know what the facts are in this country. Thank you very much.

MR.CLAUDE HILL: Mr.President and Honourable Members, I rise in support of this bill, seeing what the bill seeks and the necessity, for the keeping and preservation of records, is very important I would say and I feel that the time has come in the life of the Cayman Islands when such as a Gazette is needed. Thank you, Sir.

CAPT.A.A.REID: Mr.President, Honourable Members, I support this bill in its entirety. I am not going into any long preamble of why the pros and cons of it, why I support it. The mere fact that you support it is sufficient to say that you agree with all the points. Thank you.

MR.T.W.FARRINGTON: Mr.President, I too rise in support of this. I think it is long over-due and without any further ado I will sit down and say that I support this bill, this publication of the Cayman Gazette.

HON. D.V.WATLER: Mr.President, Honourable Members, it is indeed a great pleasure to be able to introduce this bill and to ask for the Second Reading of it and having the full support of the entire House.

Members will realise, as I said before that the Government Notices at present are our Gazette but Members will know also that when we had the recent fire, burn at the Administrative block, we lost some of those. Those are the official gazette and those were what would be tendered in evidence in court and it is good to be able to have a proper gazette that you can put together in loose leaf form, or a book form and keep, andYou will notice in section 7 that it not only will contain Government Notices but any private notices that are subscribed to be done so too. Thank you very much, Lady and Gentlemen.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: BILL GIVEN A SECOND READING.

THE TELEVISING OF A PART OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SITTING ENDED AT THIS POINT

COMMITTEE THEREON

MOVED BY HON. D. V. WATLER

SECONDED BY HON. G. E. WADDINGTON.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: HOUSE IN COMMITTEE

CLERK:CLAUSE1: SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: CLAUSE 1 PASSED

CLERK: CLAUSE 2: INTERPRETATION

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: CLAUSE 2 PASSED

CLERK: CLAUSE 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GAZETTE

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: CLAUSE 3 PASSED

CLERK: CLAUSE 4: APPLICATION TO OTHER LAWS.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: CLAUSE 4 PASSED

CLERK. CLAUSE 5: publications,etc.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: CLAUSE 5 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 6: FORM OF THE GAZETTE

QUESTION PUT:

HON.D.V.WATLER: Mr.Chairman, in sub-section(6) of the clause 6 makes reference to section 6. I think that is section 7. I think that is a typographical error.

MR.PRESIDENT: The question is that clause 6 as amended do stand part of the bill.

agreed; clause 6 as amended PASSED

CLERK: CLAUSE 7: SUPPLEMENTS:

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: CLAUSE 7 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 8: EFFECT OF PUBLICATION

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: CLAUSE 8 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 9: CIRCULATION

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: CLAUSE 9 PASSED

CLERK: CLAUSE 10. PROTECTION OF THE WORD "GAZETTE"

QUESTION PUT: AGREED. CLAUSE 10 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 11: OFFENCES

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: CLAUSE 11 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 12: REGULATIONS

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: CLAUSE 12 PASSED.

CLERK: CLAUSE 13: GENERAL PENALTY

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: CLAUSE 13 PASSED

CLERK: CLAUSE 14; SAVINGS

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: CLAUSE 14 PASSED.

CLERK: A LAW TO ESTABLISH AN OFFICIAL GAZETTE FOR THE CAYMAN ISLANDS.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: TITLE PASSED.

HOUSE RESUMED

REPORT THEREON

BY HON. D. V. WATLER

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 54

MOVED BY HON. D. V. WATLER

SECONDED BY HON. G. E. WADDINGTON

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: STANDING ORDER 54 SUSPENDED.

THIRD READING

CLERK: THE GAZETTE LAW. THIRD READING

MOVED BY HON. D. V. WATLER

SECONDED BY HON.G.E.WADDINGTON

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: BILL GIVEN A THIRD READING AND PASSED

MR. JAMES M.BODDEN (CONTINUING) We do have, I would say, one objection this and that is that in order to make this an effective thing we would have to get approval from Her Majesty's Government to sort of create another flag which would be used on these ships. That is so that it can be very distinctive and it cannot be said that direct control is administered through the British Government or through the British Shipping Law. And I am certain that Her Majesty's Government knowing the importance that it would be attributed to this, for this territory, would not be against such a thing and it could only be used, lets say on the ships. I am certain that by bringing this into the open and speaking on this particular subject that we will be accused of wanting a radical constitutional change - that is not the fact because we would still, in every respect, continue locally to use the present Union Jack as we know it.

Another difficulty that is encountered under the law, present law, is in regards to the certification of the Masters and the Officers, but I think that certain sections of this law have really never applied to the Cayman Islands, that is a point that I am not certain of, because I am not a legally-minded man, but I am certain that it will bear me out. I have read these laws on several occasions to try to prepare myself for this presentation today.

Along with this, once we were to make these changes, there is no reason why we could not buildon it further by making or instituting, I would say, a Merchant Marine Academy in this Island where we could train future officers. At the present time it is a drain to an extent on the economy because our people go abroad, they serve on the ships and then they have to get off and stay in New York, London or some other place six or eight weeks, which means an expenditure of quite a bit of money while they take their courses in order to certify them as a Master, a Mate, or Engineer or whatever it may be. But should we set this up in this Island we would then be in a position to where we would be completely administering the over-all law.

I would say, again, that there would be no reason for us in considering this to deviate in any sense from the safety standards, particularly the safety at sea convention which we would have to join and we should join. I do not think that under the present law that this was ever extended to the Cayman Islands in the British 1894 Law. The shipping industry is really one of the oldest industries known to man and with our unique tax structure, company structure, it could easily be applied in its entirety to this Island.

Registration of mortgages and transfers could be done abroad as in the case of Liberia, probably with Honourary Consuls that could be appointed, but it would not be necessary for the ships to come here. In setting this up we would have to set it up on a scale to be competitive with Liberia and Panama. I venture to say that at the present time this brings Liberia approximately sixty million dollars a year in direct annual revenue, not counting the fringe benefits that accrue to them - Panama gets about thirteen million and if we didn't get any more even than Panama it would really help to balance our budget, but we have to move fast about this because right in our own back yard we have places like the Bahamas, which we know has become independent and they do not have or any longer would they have to get approval from the British Government in order to implement such a law - they also happen to have similar tax laws, similar companies laws to us and they could supersede us in this field if they were to come out and do such a thing.

Bermuda has been playing with it for a long time but I do not believe that they have the complete comprehensive law that is needed to really make this a drawing-card. I feel that the British Government would give us every support because this would be helping to sure up our economic

MR. JAMES M.BODDEN (CONTINUING)position. The British Government has also thought of themselves as we all know, they have entered the Common Market. I am not saying that the Common Market is going to hurt this Island in any respect but I draw it as a parallel to show you that they do what they think is right for their economy and we should try to do what we think is right for ours.

Now, Mr.President, with the creation of this in the Island it could be of tremendous good to a lot of local businesses. I will mention the insurance business and I am sure people will say that it will affect my colleage here, but I will remind them that he is in the Life Insurance business and not the general insurance business. It would tend to create more jobs and jobs which you would have direct control over. It would certainly enhance the banking community and with this additional money there is a chance that a lot of this would rub off into many spheres of the local economy and help everybody. Not just help a few but help everyone. We would naturally have to set up a Board which would be composed of Inspectors, but we do not have to worry where we will get most of them from because our men are already trained as Masters and Chief Engineers.

We may ask why will this be good and why will it attract the registration of foreign ships and if we do do it it will help the U.S. tax payer who owns the ships because should we fully adopt this law it is possible then that this Island would come under in the American view of being a less developed area, which would mean that the investor would enjoy many tax advantages in his country. It would enable them to make a relatively small investment in purchasing the ship - it would obtain substantial debt-financing - it would eliminate his interest equalisation tax - he would have no U.S.tax on his operating profit - he could invest his profits in passive-time deposits in these Islands and pay no tax. This again, would help to strengthen our local financial position a lot. Come time to sell the boat he can sell that boat, once it is registered in this Island and owned by a company in this island and would not be paying a great amount of capital gain tax, so these are the features that the people abroad are looking after and these are the benefits that they hope to derive from it and while they are deriving these benefits , we will be deriving the benefits of enhancing our overall Maritime structure, creating more jobs, bringing in a lot of money for the country and bringing it in in a field that we do not have to train anyone for it. We would not have to be bringing in a lot of people from the outside to do this.

Mr.President, I would say, in closing that the people of every country in the world have had to interpret their own destiny in the light of their own traditions - I feel that the sea is our tradition and I feel that now is the time for us to face this boldly and do something about and not let some other country get ahead of us. Thank you.

SECONDED BY MR. G. HAIG BODDEN

QUESTION PROPOSED

HON. V. G. JOHNSON: Mr.President, Honourable Members,seeing that this was a subject of the Budget address, I thought I would take the lead from the Government Beach to speak on this motion.

I believe that the motion is a very good motion because it is seeking to do what in fact Government had set out from a good many years ago to investigate and until now has achieved no success.

HON.V.G.JOHNSON (CONTINUING) Mr.President, the first time that I heard any mention of the Cayman Islands becoming a flag of convenience of registry was back in 1960. I was not even in charge of the Treasury then - my friend Mr.Watler was, however, we listened to the discussion carefully and that continued over the years until in 1970 a Committee was set up by a firm of Lawyers and a report was prepared and a copy was submitted to Government. In fact, it was a report by the Chamber of Commerce. The report was sent to London for comments. The reason for this is because the Cayman Islands operate under the British Merchant Shipping Act and therefore we must take all directions in shipping from the British Government. At that time the British Government made it quite clear to this Government that it was opposed to the principle of flags of convenience on the grounds that it was totally against the principles of the 1958 Convention on the high seas.

Article 5 of the 1958 Convention on the High Seas requires that there shall be a genuine link between ownership and country of registration and while London had no objection to genuine new registries, that is registries that would not be classified as flag of convenience and this was because it was explicitly advocated under the Convention on the High Seas. This Government was requested to be very careful in proposing any recommendation unless it was prepared to conform with the 1958 Convention.

The 1958 Convention further requires ships on international voyages leaving ports in convention countries to have certain valid certificates. There are perhaps four certificates - one is the international tonnage measurement the other is the safety of life at sea, the other the load line certificate - those are the three main certificates which are required under the convention, and these certificates, Mr. President must be issued by the country of registry. We are aware that the Cayman Islands is not a signatory to the 1958 Convention and this is the crux of the matter. However, in recent times this Government has again renewed its effort to investigate this matter, in fact we understand that there are certain commonwealth countries that are operating ports of registry constituted under the 1958 Convention and this is being investigated. It appeared to Government that this is a matter which must be dealt with for yet some time at Governmental level between this Government and the British Government because there are many hurdles to clear and these are perhaps based on the 1958 international Convention to which the United Kingdom Government is a signatory and it is a matter of how the Cayman Islands can become a direct signatory to that Convention.This is certainly going to take a lot of investigation and persuasion at that for the British Government. I think members will have to look at this matter as being something fairly technical and not a subject which can be dealt with hurriedly by setting up a committee, preparing a draft law and submitting it to this Honourable House for consideration. Much more needs to be done before we get to that stage and unfortunately I could not agree at this stage for the setting up of a committee since the matter is now being dealt with by Government. However, I can give this Honourable House the assurance that Government is pursuing this matter with much diligence and that members will be kept informed of developments.

I know that, Mr.President, there is to be a visit shortly by an official of the British Government and perhaps you will, no doubt, be discussing this subject at that time and this is apart from the investigation which is now currently being undertaken. Again, I would say to this Honourable House that I, too, am very interested in the revenue aspect of

HON.V.G.JOHNSON (CONTINUING) this system. It does earn quite a sizable revenue for other countries. It perhaps could earn the Cayman Islands a good bit of revenue.

Back in 1970 when the report was made by the Chamber of Commerce, this Government has a token of its interest in the matter went forward to amend the Tax Collection Law dealing with annual tonnage tax to provide an incentive to ship-owners to register their vessels in the Cayman Islands and to indicate that the cost would be comparable to Liberia, Panama and other areas operating flag of convenience registration. So there is no doubt at all about the interest of this Government - there is much interest in this, but as this present time I think members should understand that this is a subject which should remain the responsibility of Government for some time yet. Thank you, Mr.President.

MISS ANNIE H.BODDEN: Mr.President and Members of this House, in dealing with this motion I will agree that it has some good points but this is no new subject. For the last six or seven years the Law Society, the Council of the Law Society has gone into this matter very seriously and though the lawyers, those interested in tax haven,etc. have gone to considerable trouble, I would say, to investigate this matter and they have come up with the same dead-lock that perhaps the Government has. Now, I feel that if we could ever have such a thing as the registration of these foreign ships, it would naturally means a lot of income for us but there are powers above us who dictate such proceedings, and while I agree with it up to a point that if it is possible we should do something about it, but I know personally that investigations in this direction have been going on for several years and I don't think, up to this date, any satisfactory conclusion has ever been reached.

Now Caymanians are born seamen, I will agree and those who have the ambition can get their licence - we read in the papers quite often about little boys going to sea at the age of seventeen, as wipers in the engine room and some might even go as a steward or a cabin-boy and in the matter of four or five years they have trained themselves, plus the advantage they have of being on ships, but they have been able to go to New York or whichever port they have to go to take an examination, and they have successfully passed. But they were people who had the ambition, uneducated up to a point, but with ambition and so I feel that those of this generation who have the ambition can follow suit like some of the old---timers.

I had an uncle when he was 21 years of age I am very sure he didn't have a college education, his father was an orphan, and at the age of 21 years he had an American license to go master of any ship or any ocean - that was 84 years ago, so that tradition has been handed down that Caymanians are seamen, but as I know shipping, I am not very versed in the subject, Your Excellency, but I had a lot of dealings in my day with these things and I know when a ship was built here and they wanted to have that ship passed it had to go and be classed in Jamaica under the Marine Board, who gave the load line,etc.etc. Also sea Captains had to be licensed by the Marine Board in Jamaica before they could successfully take a ship, that is an insured ship or quite a large ship. Ordinarily here, if they were going to the Mosquito Cays they didn't require that but to operate a ship out of Jamaica they had to be licensed with the Marine Board. Capt. Reid here I am sure knows all about this and he will be able to deal with it if necessary, but

MISS ANNIE H.BODDEN(CONTINUING) I know that these things have to be done. As I recall that examination of the certificate was good for one year and that at the end of each year it had to be renewed.

Now on the matter of this setting up of this Marchant Marine Academy. To my way of thinking, I could be wrong that would entail quite an expenditure and it might be like an old sea-captain, Capt. Thompson - there was a Caymanian boy who said "Captain, I want to learn navigation ", He said "You come up to my house and bring brain, you damn fool, I've got the rest of it". Well, I feel, Sir, that if they have the brain they can find ways and means to get an education whereby they will be able to get these certificates as engineers, sea captains,etc.

Now while I agree that it is a good proposition, if it could be worked out. As the matter has been explained that it is now a subject which Government is dealing with, I feel we should leave it in the hands of Government to see what can be done.

With regard to this Marine Academy, Merchant Marine Academy, I fail to see, Sir, where the funds would come from at this stage to procure and have such an Academy set up in our midst. Thank you very much, Sir.

CAPT. A.A.REID: Mr.President, Honourable Members of this House, I support this motion and I believe that you could get around it by requesting the companies to register their companies in the Island and naturally if they are based here their ships could be registered here legally and nobody could object to it. Now they don't have to have their main office here because this could be their office, this is where their ships are registered they could have an office here - a small office. But they could also have offices in New York and London where shipping takes place, where shipping is done, with take the Baltic House, for instance, it deals with every shipping company in Europe. But with our means of communication now even that wouldn't have to be - a company could operate from here, charter ships of any size to any part of the world successfully because we are capable now of communications all over the world, but for a company to be located say in Greece or New York and just have the ships registered here it would be naturally considered a flag of convenience and that is the snag, and I don't think it would go through.

Now about an Academy - you don't have to have a Merchant Marine Academy. I went to school in Mobile and I went there for about three months, to a navigation school and got through with my license all right. I hold a Canadian Mate's license, Chief Mate's license unlimited, and all I have for master's is a Jamaican License, but I have been out of Plymouth with that same license and I know of another Caymanians who took a ship to London from Montreal and when he got there the owners were quite upset over it, they thought they'd have to send a new crew or get a crew in England,but the Board of Trade said "None of our business, you're on a Caymanian ship, you have a Jamaican license, good enough for Cayman it is good enough for us", and from there he took the ship to Danzee, this was about 6 or 8 years ago and from there he went to a port in Egypt. So had no problem, as far as that was concerned, but if the Academy requires only about 2 good navigators to teach navigation and an examiner and it could be arranged to set up an examination here, if not they could take it before a certified officer or two certified officers and sent to London the same as GCE are taken and sent away or what used to be Senior Cambridge

CAPT. A.A.REID (CONTINUING) examinations which were taken in schools in Jamaica and sent to England for their certificates I see no reason why it couldn't be done providing we can get around the idea of becoming a flag of convenience - as long as that stigma is there I don't think Great Britain would agree to it, in spite of the fact that there is a slight difference in the flag , we have the pineapple, etc. and the Cayman emblem in the corner of the flag, but that doesn't really matter, it is still a British flag.

I hope it could go through and there is one big company here mixed up overseas, with big agencies and the manager is a lawyer and he told me a few nights ago that he would gladly assist in doing anything and he felt sure that his company, which charters a big fleet of ships all over the world, would assist in anything that they could do. He thinks that it would be a very good thing and I can't see Great Britain blocking it if we go about it the right way but I am not a lawyer, I am a layman and I am sure the lawyers and the Attorney-General could work that out. Thank you, Sir.

MR. JOHN D. JEFFERSON: Mr.President, Honourable Members, the motion before us this afternoon I am sure is a motion to which all of us in this House wish and would do everything possible to make this a reality.

Certainly, this is not been the first time we've heard about this particular project, certainly it has been on the drawing board for a long time and personally I myself wonder what makes things take so long to come about..

I rise in sympathy with the motion, certainly realising that the Financial Secretary said in his address that this Government was certainly interested in the possibility and I would hope that everything, every avenue could be explored with the endeavour to try to make this become a reality.

Indeed, if it was possible it would be a very prestigious thing for us and could be derived for a certain amount of revenue for these Islands. I will not, I don't want to be saying too much about our fragile economy because I don't regard it as too fragile tourism is very competitive, I know, there are a lot of countries that are competing but, on the other hand, I think we have a good programme. Certainly if we were able to, and I hope that we will be, able to achieve this another mile-stone in our history, but I am sure that it entails a lot of technical work and I am sure that as the Lady Member spoke said that a lot of thought and work has gone into it already. Nevertheless there is nothing wrong about members bringing forth a motion of this. There are some things we know we couldn't do - we know that the United Kingdom has the last word and things of this nature and I would not be a signatory of having anybody use the flag of convenience but on the other hand, as I said certainly I think there is a great thought behind it and certainly I would hope that Government will continue to explore every avenue to try if possible to make this thing possible.

I realise that there are, no doubt, a lot of hurdles that have to be over-come but on the other hand I believe that with fervour and with patience that we can and will succeed.

There is one part there that I do not really feel that I want to associate myself too much with, and there are various thoughts in this House, everybody is free to state his own views, but certainly as a person who has had to work overseas for something like over 21 years I am proud that it is behind me and I hope it will never be

MR. JOHN D. JEFFERSON (CONTINUING) before me again, when there was nothing else to do , there was nothing for us to do but to go over-seas and support our family and certainly the people that have gone over-seas have done as much to contribute towards this country as anybody having stayed here, but on the other hand I would hope that the days when the people of these Islands, I would hope that the days of seamanship are more or less behind us.

While we can say that we enjoyed what other countries in the Caribbean were not able to enjoy and that is the fact that people in these Islands were able to use the American shipping lanes to be able to find employment, yet on the other hand, certainly there are two ways of looking at this , certainly while other countries never had the opportunity, they had no other alternative but to stay home and to develop their own country and certainly that is one reason why we find ourselves where we are today, a lot of our own brains have been on to other countries, developing other countries.

Nevertheless, for the people that have this ambition to achieve their success in the Merchant Marine I believe that every opportunity should be given to them and I believe that we would stop at nothing, but on the other hand I am hoping that there is something brighter for the people of these Islands than to have to look back to those days.

The fact that Members of this House would, resolve section, due to the fact that it is being pursued by the British Government by our Government with the British Government, I trust that we can sit back and hope and keep prodding something that every opportunity, every effort is being used to be able to try to, as I said, b ring about this as a reality.

I say that I certainly share the thohght hoping that it is possible, and certainly I feel that we shouldn't rest until we know that every avenue has been explored and I believe with the good Government of the United Kingdom which has shown great concern for the people of these Islands, I hope and pray and trust that this will one day be a reality. I leave this with Government and hope that, as I said, every avenue is explored and we do not just sit back and take no for an answer but that we keep working at it until it becomes a reality to us. Thank you very much.

HON.G.E.WADDINGTON: Mr.President, Members of this Honourable House, I would like to say that I agree that it would be a very great advantage to these Islands to be able to have an effective port of registration for the registration of ships, and I would be very happy to serve on any committee that may be set up to study this matter.

The motion, however, speaks about the preparation and drafting of a bill and the presentation of the necessary relevant laws at the next session of this House. Well, Mr.President and Members, this is, of course, an entirely un-realistic view to take of this matter and in view of the very serious and difficult hurdles which have been indicated by the Honourable Financial Secretary it would be quite impossible for that portion of the Resolution, the resolve portion, to be of any practicable effect. And, although I have a great deal of sympathy with the motive behind the mover of the motion ,embers will, un-doubtedly, I think, agree that that portion of the resolution is just not practical.

I agree with the views of the Honourable Financial Secretary that in view of the present state of the study and in view of the steps which have already been taken by Govern-ment, that the matter be left as it is for Government to continue to endeavour to resolve these difficulties with the United Kingdom Government and hopefully when those difficulties have been resolved

HON.G.E.WADDINGTON (CONTINUING) then, as I 've sidd before, I should be very happy to sit as a Chairman on any committee which may then be appointed to consider the drafting of the laws which would be necessary to set up the Cayman Islands as being an effective port of registration for ships.

HON.A.B.BUSH: Mr..President, Members, I think the Financial Secretary explained the Government's position quite well, but I think I should amplify some of what he said. Surely we all know that this would be an excellent source of income if we could have ships registered here in the Cayman Islands, especially the giats which are roaming the seas these days- - many hundreds of thousands of tons.But this is not the first time that this matter was brought up, and it was brought up first of all by Government some years ago and I was here and I remember it quite well, but we had to clear it of course with the British Government and when this was put to the British Government I think we were told that the British Government was not prepared to let the Union Jack be used as a flag of convenience, which really was tantamount to what we wanted at that time.

I can't say that I know very much about the proposition that was made by the Law Society but I do know that this is what we were told when we first thought of it and we thought of it as really a way of earning money and being an attraction for registration of ships here in the Island, especially when we became a tax haven. But I, myself, realised that its much more to registering ships than just saying we can have them registered. Surely we wouldn't want to know that the British standard of registration was lowered, in fact, it wouldn't be permitted in our Island, I am almost sure and we know of other countries that do this but with not very much prestige and I believe to do this in a haphazard way or to ask for it in any haphazard way would be lowering our standards and I wouldn't be for that at all, although it would an excellent way of earning revenue, of increasing the revenue of our Islands, I certainly wouldn't want to see the standard which we have now lowered, in fact the British Government just wouldn't allow it, but I believe myself that members can rest assured that Government will pursue this and if it is at all possible that Government will find this out and do whatever they can about it. Thank you, Mr.President.

MR.JAMES M.BODDEN: Mr.President, Honourable Members, listening to some of the objections that have been placed against this motion, I can quite understand why it has taken so long for something to be done about this, because I believe that most Members seem to be labouring under a complete misconception as to actually what is involved in this, and I am prepared to state here and stand by it that if we do not face up to the problems and do something about them this will become like the Hotels Aid Bill and we will be back here fifty years from now and then somebody will get up and say "We debated it fifty years ago, but we found out through this or that or the other, it will come in due course".

I cannot understand why something as important as this could be for this Island and something that will not entail all the entanglement that is being put on it, can be treated in such a manner. Mr.President, we did not get this idea from the Government side of this House to bring this forward - it can be proven that this motion was tabled in this House over three months ago and circulated to Members, so if there was anyone that got the idea it must have gotten from those papers instead of us getting it from someone else.

Mr.President, a flag of convenience, we've heard a lot about that in this House this evening, a flag of convenience is used to escape from safety standards in most

MR. JAMES M.RODDEN (CONTINUING) countries and higher wages. That is why the term flag of convenience was used and was coined and it was coined primarily in the United States by the Union Leaders who fought very strongly the registering of the American flag ships under the Liberian Flag and it was namely, Sir, from the point of wages and what it did for the economy of the United States. The flag of convenience, if they wish to call it that, is not what we are talking about.

If, having ships registered under the Liberian Flag, the Panamanian flag and some of the other countries, is something that we should hold in low esteem, then Mr.President, we should get on our bended knees and thank God that they were there, because if these flags of conveniences, as they call them, had not been available 25 years ago, 20 years ago, 10 years ago, where would most of our people in our Island today be? They would still be here, Sir, wonder whether a maiden-plum tree is an orchid tree.

Reference was made to the 1958 Convention on the High Seas, which requires a genuine link between ownership and registration. Mr.President, the English Government themselves recognised this when they amended the Shipping Act in 1948, because as I mentioned awhile ago, up until that time you had to be a Commonwealth Subject in order to have a ship registered in your name, but that has been changed. You can still have a genuine link between ownership and registration because we have a legal entity in our country in the form of a company. When that company is formed it takes on a legal body and that is what would be used to registered these ships. The actual owners of the stock involved in the company could be resident in Saudi Arabia, Timbucktoo, wherever it may be, they could even be Russians, but that would be a legal entity which would be the Cayman Islands Company, so we have that link, Mr.President.

We've heard about leaving ports in convention countries with three certificates - international tonnage, the safety-at-sea standards and the load-line certificate. Mr President, I have also been privileged to be at sea for several years and every ship that I have ever sailed on. and ever ship that I have ever seen, be it under the American Flag, the English Flag, or whatever flag it was under, carried these things. This is nothing new, Mr.President. Before you can register a ship, a boat even, under our local laws as they stand now, on the twart-ship beam you must have your number and your tonnage cut into that plate, Sir, so this is nothing new. The 1958 Convention did not make it, besides that , everyship nearly that is afloat, under the Western system carries a certificate in the wheel-house attesting to sea-worthiness. The ships have to go on dry-dock at certain specified periods of time - they have to be thoroughly checked. I'm not trying to get away from that, Mr.President, I recognise safety at sea probably as much as anyone in this room, because I too have had and seen the times at sea when I wondered whether I would ever see land again, and believe me, I was glad in those particular cases to think that I was sailing on a ship that had complied with every safety standard imaginable, so I would be the last one to stand in this chamber and in any respect try to lower the dignity of that, Sir.

We've heard that this matter is being dealt with by Government. Mr.President, that phrase completely escapes my imagination, because the Government Bench, with all due respect to them, Sir, cry out for unity - they cry out for support and when we stand in opposition against anything that they bring, then we are demons from outerspace. Yet, Mr.President, it comes right back into this House and they will tell us you can't do anything about this, or you must not do anything about it, don't interfere with it, because Government is doing something about it.

MR. JAMES M.BODDEN (CONTINUING) Mr.President, I take that as a complete slap and effront, because as far as I am concerned, we the elected people of this House, and three Government Members under our Constitution, constitute the Government -that is the Government, Mr.President, the Government is not four honoured members sitting in exalted position and three other ones representing the Civil Service Branch of Government - if that was so,Mr.President, we would have to have a completely new Constitution and, as one of the Honourable Gentlemen could only find one thing to sort of object to, and that was the changing of the flag, and the loyalty which we profess - Mr.President, I, for one, think I am as loyal as any British Subject, but most of all I am a loyal Caymanian. I would not attempt, in any way, to disgrace the English Government or the English flag or the Cayman flag, but I was certain when I raised the issue , being that is one of the main things that would have to be changed under the existing law, that that is the way some of these people would interpret it, that we were asking for a new flag to get a new Constitution.

Mr.President, I have no aspersions to power - if the Member has them, I do not. I am quite satisfied to sit in this lowly position that I am in - I have more to do now than I can handle.

We've heard mention about the Merchant Marine Academy - Mr.President, that is something in my estimation we should be very proud to have, because that is where our economy has come from today, is from our men who were out on the high seas and made themselves capable to hold high positions. We set up Departments in this Government without apparently giving much thought to it, everytime we turn around there is a new Department being formed that is going to cost us more money. This one, Mr.President, will cost us very little bit of money, because what we would normally use in an Academy to begin to set it up would be one licensed deck-officer, one licesned engineering officer and an over-all Chief inspector who would be the man to supervise the examinations, so weare looking, at the most may be $50,000 yet we spend hundreds of thousands of dollars wondering whether a maiden-plum can mate with an orchid tree.

A Merchant Marine Academy, Mr.President, could be a very important thing for our country to have - it would help qualify our officers - they have to go to New York now and spend six weeks ashore, probably costing them a couple of thousands of dollars in order to sit for a licence. And if we are looking for prestige it is very few places we could find more prestige than to say that our officers who have been noted as officers throughout the years can stand up and hold in their right hand a certificate as a master being issued in the Cayman Islands. I , for one, would be very proud to see it. But we must also even think further than that, Mr.President, because if this Academy was set up some of our young men who would still continue to go sea, and even the coming generation would still want to go to sea, and I am going to submit this to this House today by saying that God have mercy on Cayman the day that quite a few of your young men are not going to sea, the sea has made men out of all of us and the day that our people quit going to sea continually and have no idea of the outside world more than what they get through a tourist, is the day Grad Cayman will go like the Bahamas did, it went because of insolarity, the people knew nothing, further than looking out on the wave tops from a sand beach. A person spoke to them about New York, it was like speaking to me or Capt. Reid/ rather of Jesus. (MEMBERS - LAUGHTER).

Mr President, we've heard about the ships in regards to the safety standards - I would like to point out to this House that today you have giants of ships - a ship three hundred and fifty thousand tons, five hundred thousand tons is a

MR. JAMES M.BODDEN (CONTINUING) row-boat today and these ships are not paid for by cash, these ships are mortgaged the majority of them, although they are owned by National Bulk Carriers and some of the other big companies, they still mortgage them and in order for them to be able to get insurance on these vessels, Mr. President, they have to abide by safety standards that are set, they could not be insured. Who is going to insure a ship worth may be $50 M when she does not have adequate life-saving equipment and fire-fighting equipment aboard.? No one will ensure it so it is no use of injecting something like that int this House. These ships all comply with this, Mr. President and my colleagae and I can assure this House that there was no intention to ever think that we would be belittling the safety standards in bringing such a motion as this to the House. We are only asking that Government act on this before someone else does - act on it that we can take advantage of the millions of tons of shipping that are being registered every year. I am prepared at this stage to make one concession in our motion and that is to ask that the words in regards to the next meeting be struck out but other than that, Mr.President, I am prepared to let this motion go to the floor and be defeated and I am prepared then to come back here when the good old Government on the other side has prepared their report in support of their bill. Thank you, Sir.

QUESTION PUT: AYES AND NOES.

MR.PRESIDENT: I Think the noes have it.

MR.JAMES M.BODDEN: Could we have a division, Sir?

DIVISION

AYES	NOES
Mr.T.W.Farrington	Hon.D.V.Watler
Miss Annie H.Bodden	Hon.G.E.Waddington
Mr.James M.Bodden	Hon.V.G.Johnson
Mr.G.Haig Bodden	Hon. A.B.Bush
Capt.A.A.Reid	Hon.T.Foster
	Hon.B.O.Ebanks
	Hon.W.W.Conolly
	Mr.Claude Hill
5	8

ABSTENSION: MR. JONN JEFFERSON

THE MOTION WAS DEFEATED

MR.PRESIDENT: We have concluded the business of the day's Order of the Day.

MR.CLAUDE HILL: Since we are at the close of the meeting for the year 1974 I would like the opportunity to extend to you and your family best wishes for Christmas and may God's richest blessings be with you and yours for the new year 1975.

MR.T.W.FARRINGTON: I think its customary at the end of the year we should extend greetings to our Governor and his family and I wish to join with the member who has just spoken in wishing for you and your family a very happy, enjoyable Christmas season and now that this is your first time as Governor to be in here in the Cayman Islands, I will go further and say that I hope you may be able to enjoy many more Christmases with us.

HON. B. O.EBANKS: So say we all.

MISS ANNIE H.BODDEN Mr.President, I would like to say this, Sir, that you have brought peace in this Assembly and I hope that peace will continue throughout the coming year, Sir. Thank you, Sir.

MR.JOHN D.JEFFERSON: I just want to go one step further, Mr. President, and that is to say that not only have you brought peace I can't say always in this Assembly (HON.B.O.EBA . Don't rock the boat, now)..... because there is a lot of opposition here sometime, but I want to say that you have ' ht to this territory your attitude, that you have displayed since you have been in this territory has brought to this people a new sense of hope, a new sense of dignity and for you, on behalf of all the people of the Cayman Islands we wish you a warm, sincere and delightful Christmas season. Thank you very much.

MR. G.HAIG BODDEN: Mr.President, I am not given to many words (MEMBERS - LAUGHTER) but I dont want my silence to be mistaken. I am certainly pleased to be a member of this Assembly and on behalf of the First Member from Bodden Town who has worn out his mike I would like to say I wish God's richest blessings for you and your family during the Christmas season.

CAPT.A.A.REID: Mr.President, I too, would like to wish you all the best for Christmas for you and your family and I hope Sir, that you may remain here as long as you did in the Solomon Islands. (MEMBERS - LAUGHTER).

HON. A.B.BUSH: How long was that?

CAPT. A.A.REID: Twenty-six years. (MEMBERS - LAUGHTER) I also want to wish our House on the other side the same thing (MEMBERS - Thank you! Thank you !) best wishes to everyone. (MEMBERS: hear! hear!)

MR.JAMES M.BODDEN: Mr.President, I am trying to get this thing working again. My colleague here really spoke for both of us but I would like to join in by saying that what you have displayed in this House has given me a lot of respect for our country and for our Sovereign in sending a man of your calibre here. If you should change, I will tell you the opposite (MEMBERS - LAUGHTER), but I very much appreciated, on behalf of my constituency, to be able to stand here today and say such a thing and I can assure you that you not only have the respect of the Members of this Assembly but I think that in the short time you have been here you have accomplished doing what probably very few people could have done and that is getting the respect of the majority of the people on the street. And I would like to wish you and your family God's blessings for the holiday season, the same will go to everyone sitting on this side of the House, including the Serjeant-at-Arms and our wonderful Clerk there and to those who sit in God's Kingdom, I also wish them the very best, Sir.

HON.V.G.JOHNSON: Who are those?

HON.W.W.CONOLLY: Adjourn the House.

HON.D.V.WATLER: Mr.President, I suppose I should, on this side of the House, represent the official side and much has been said wishing you all the very best. You are from Scotland and no doubt has been used to white Christmases, you won't find one here but

HON. D. V. WATLER: if you have read the NOrthwester and the supplement you will realise that we have a custom here of spreading the sand in the yard and trying to make believe that it is a white Christmas. And there has been reference to your ability of keeping peace here among the members, both side of the House and on behalf of the Official side I wish for you that that same Prince of Peace who brought peace and harmony will richly bless you and your family at this Christmas time. And I would go on to extend a very best wishes to the other side of the House, happiness and prosperity.

MR.PRESIDENT: Is the motion for the adjournment before the Chair?

HON.D.V.WATLER: Mr.President and Honourable Members, I beg to move that the House stand adjourned sine die.

SECONDED BY: Hon. G.E.Waddington.

MR.PRESIDENT: Before I put the question, I'd like to thank Honourable Members very much for what they have said. I feel very privileged to sit here as President of this Assembly and there can be few presidents who have come to this Assembly with such a knowledge of parliamentary procedure which makes my job really a very easy one and a very satisfying one listening to your debates.

This is perhaps the most important meeting of the year - we have received a mace at this meeting which will long rest on this Table for future generations of legislators perhaps. We have passed a very large budget, we have passed, I think, a very important law, as Members acknowledged in the GAZETTE BILL which I think will give a tremendous assistance not only to Legislators but to the commercial community and Members of the public.

I would say this that I'm touched by your messages - I would say also that a Captain is only as good as his crew and that in the Legislators here, in the Civil Service and the people of the Cayman Islands I think that the country has got an excellent complement with sailing on these Islands of ours. Thank you very much for your message to my family which I much appreciate.

QUESTION PUT: AGREED: AT 4.48 P.M. THE HOUSE ADJOURNED SINE DIE