

THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORT

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE SECOND SESSION (1959—60)
OF THE FIRST LEGISLATURE OF THE WEST INDIES,
CONSTITUTED UNDER THE WEST INDIES
(FEDERATION) ORDER IN COUNCIL, 1957.

7th Sitting

Monday, 30th November, 1959

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Indies.—[*Minister of Labour and
Social Affairs*]

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

Prayers

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the hon. Member for Montserrat (Mr. Bramble) is asking for leave of absence from the 5th December. I take it that it is your wish that he should be granted leave from the 5th to the 10th December.

Assent indicated.

Mr. Speaker: In that case I shall take the necessary steps to have the Alternate Member for Montserrat summoned so that he will be here to take his place.

REPORTS LAID

- (1) Report of the Inter-Governmental Conference on review of the Federal Constitution.—[*The Prime Minister*]
- (2) Report of the Conference on Nursing Administration in The West

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION

Prime Minister's Visit to Unit Territories

Mr. Gibbs (Grenada) asked the Prime Minister to state whether he has visited the smaller Unit Territories of the Federation since his election as Prime Minister of The West Indies.

If the answer is in the negative, will he say what has prevented him from doing so; how soon he intends to visit them; and, as all the small Units are under treasury control, will he state approximately how long during his visit he intends to remain in each Unit in order to familiarise himself with the development programme being carried out by these smaller Units.

The Prime Minister: Mr. Speaker, I think it would be helpful to Members if I read the Question and then answer it. The hon. Member asks: Will the Prime Minister state whether he has visited the smaller Unit Territories of the Federation since his election as Prime Minister of The West Indies?

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[THE PRIME MINISTER]

If the answer is in the negative:

- (a) Will he say what has prevented him from doing so?
- (b) How soon does he intend to visit them, and
- (c) As all the small Units are under treasury control, will he state approximately, how long, during his visit he intends to remain in each Unit in order to familiarise himself with the development programme which is being carried out by these smaller Units?"

My answer is this, and I suppose that the Clerk of the House will have to get from the Reporter a sentence or two that I may put into my typewritten answer. On the initiation of Federation, I considered that, in view of the small amount of Federal revenue, visits should not be made to Unit Territories either by myself or other Federal Ministers except in connection with matters of high policy. I emphatically object to what have been called "familiarisation tours".

I do not see why we should use Federal money in order that someone who has not seen Bermuda or Barbuda should go and see it.

As soon as I realised that Unit Territories were disappointed at my not having visited them, I decided to do so at the very earliest opportunity. My other commitments have made it impossible to plan any such visits before the beginning of 1960. I am, however, endeavouring to see whether a first visit could be arranged before the end of this year.

I do not have to familiarise myself with St. Lucia. I know it just as well as I

know Barbados. That does not mean that I do not want to know their problems.

Hon. Member : What about Jamaica ?

The Prime Minister : Jamaica's problems are insoluble, except by Jamaica.

It is impossible to say with any accuracy how long it may be necessary to stay in any particular place, since circumstances differ in each Territory. I am proposing, and have already taken steps to ask the Administrator in each Unit Territory how long he thinks I should stay in the particular Territory. I do not believe in the principle of the visits because we have not the money to spend, but I will go and stay as long as they feel I should stay. I will go and come back and correct the Opposition.

APPROPRIATION BILL, 1960

(Second Reading)

Order read for resumption of adjourned Debate [26th November, 1959] on the Question [19th November, 1959] "That the Bill be now read a Second time".

Question again proposed.

Mr. Hill (Surrey, Jamaica): Mr. Speaker, when the House adjourned last week, I had been criticising the Federal Government for failing to give a progressive or constructive lead, or any lead at all, to the Unit Governments at the so-called Inter-Governmental Conference.

I was also making the point that all Units should respect one another and give due regard and sympathetic consideration to each other's point of view, each other's taste, at all times and under all circumstances,

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We on this side of the House, who have the honour and privilege of representing Jamaica, feel that in the future of The West Indies Federation is a question of life or death to Jamaicans. For twenty-one years their own self-rule has been their major goal and objective, their self-imposed test of their national integrity. It is not something which should be lightly ignored or cavilled at, because it is that spirit which could reform all the Territories in the Federation, including Barbados.

It would be the guarantee, once there was any agreement at all, that the Federation could move forward at a more rapid pace of nationhood which the Premier of Trinidad has planned.

Now that Jamaica has created internal autonomy, since they have tested the fruits of economic development, they will not, they cannot, and indeed in our view they must not lightly surrender control of any external authority without being certain, reasonably certain that that authority understands the problems and issues, and has the capacity to solve them or to make an attempt to solve them.

The Federal Government, in our view, and the Unit Governments and their Leaders must remember that first marriages are marriages of convenience, often ending in the divorce court. The first five years of Federation should naturally and normally and sensibly be years of caution to ensure and secure confidence.

We say bluntly that if the Prime Minister of the Federal Government or any Unit Territory is misguided enough to misunderstand us, Jamaica will never submit to any shot-gun marriage, and I hope that

no other Territory in this Federation will ever submit to a shot-gun marriage.

The Prime Minister: Who is asking you to?

Mr. Hill: I now pose a question about Federal finances. We understand the anxiety of any treasurer of any organisation, when he cannot lay his hands on, or find sufficient and sizeable funds, or what he may consider to be sufficient funds, for the purpose of his organisation or his functions. But, then, I cannot understand this Government, because the one Unit Leader, the one Premier of a Territory that has dared and ventured to suggest to give an opinion on this subject is the Leader of the West Indian Federal Labour Party, the Premier of Jamaica. He is the Leader of that Party in control of these hon. and gallant Gentlemen.

What does he say, Sir? He issued an official statement this year in which he said that the Government of Jamaica, and the Premier of Jamaica who is the Leader of the West Indian Federal Labour Party, are of the opinion that the Federal Government has sufficient funds for the functions and purposes devised under this limited Constitution. I therefore cannot understand the carping, except the Minister of Finance

Mr. Richards (Minister without Portfolio): What is your opinion?

Mr. Hill: I am going to answer that. The majority on that side of the House are wondering I wait to hear them cheer themselves. I listen for their applause. They never tire of telling how we over here

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are not politically adherent. They are adherent, Mr. Speaker; they are the ones who are founders of this Federation and who therefore are to be given and entrusted with the task of being its nursemaid in the formative years.

But let me point out, Mr. Speaker, that this fixed and limited Budget, was fixed and limited with the concurrence and agreement of Members who are in Ministerial positions on the other side of the House.

How dares the Federal Government or any of its Leaders complain in one breath about the budgetary strait-jacket which was created by the present Government leaders, and in the next breath seek, or pretend to seek to exult about the wisdom and vision of the self-same makers of the Federal budgetary strait-jacket from which the Minister of Finance ventures to suggest his Government suffers?

On the one hand the majority of them are responsible for this budgetary strait-jacket, and today they are complaining that it was a mistake; they are saying they are encompassed—the Minister of Finance suggests that it is a disadvantage. They are the same people who exulted that they are the makers of this same budgetary strait-jacket and have all the wisdom in this Federation, so much so, that they do not even give the Opposition the due consideration to which the Opposition is entitled or the place which our presence here entitles us to have.

I pass over the hon. Minister without Portfolio, and quite rightly without Portfolio, from Antigua, who, for the want of having anything else to say, rose from his

seat the other night and was at pains to tell this House, probably for propagandistic purposes, that Members of the Opposition draw \$106,000 as salaries and allowances not to mention subsistence allowances and yet some of them go back home and criticise the federal principle. My reply is simply this: How dares any Member of that side, including the Prime Minister, criticise Members of the Opposition in relation to salaries and allowances when the majority of the Members sitting on the Benches on this side represent the two Territories that contribute eighty-one per cent of the revenues of this Federation, contributed by Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica—and the Caicos Islands to whom we have granted self-government?

2.50 pm

Now we turn, Mr. Speaker, to the question of planning for economic development, and I am going to do no more than ask the hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance to answer the questions which I am about to ask. I say so with the knowledge that the opportunity will present itself when we would be able to give the answers if they do not take this opportunity to volunteer answers to questions at the proper time in this Debate.

Now, on this question of planning for economic development, there is the fact that the economics of the Federation has not for historical reasons received the attention that is necessary for the achievement and success of nationhood. The reasons, if given, will not be a good reflection on these protagonists of Federation. The early protagonists of Federation were very concerned with political reasons and questions involving Federation, self-govern-

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ment and nationhood. For that and other reasons, the economics of Federation was a neglected subject.

Since the inauguration of this Parliament, Mr. Speaker, if not before, it has been repeatedly pointed out to the Federal Government, not only by Members of the Opposition but also by Members within their own ranks and connected with their own Party and belonging to some of the smaller Unit Territories, that the plan for economic development was, and still is, the first responsibility of the Federal Government in connection with the question of political independence. To those of us who come from an island like Trinidad and Tobago or Jamaica, whose Governments have embarked on industrial development as a deliberate policy in contrast to the hit-and-run, trial-and-error type of policy, a plan for development is not a mere catalogue of projects of one sort or another; neither are works of development to be confused with social welfare projects.

Naturally, we on this side of the House admit they are related subjects, since the health and security of the working people must be the first charge on the revenue of any modern progressive state. But let no one believe that economic development and social welfare progress are mutually interchangeable terms. They are complementary, and, as such, each has its right and proper place in a government which has a list of priorities and understands what planning actually involves.

Now, therefore, the immediate question confronting the West Indian people is whether the Federal Government really knows the comprehensive overall needs of the region or is trying to get at the facts

by investigation, by the use of specialist agencies, specialist services, and by employing the services of experts, or "knowledgeable people", as the Minister of Finance prefers to call experts.

I ask this question not for rhetorical purposes: Has there been an economic survey of The West Indies at planning level? Has one been started? Has one been finished? Is there the intention on the part of the Federal Government to inform this House which must be primarily concerned about this matter? Is there any intention even to leak some of the results of such a survey, if there has been one, to some of the people in whose interest this Government exists? We should be able to say that the Federal Government will know what to do if external finance and other development aid were made available to the Federation on a big scale. Would there be waste through impotence and delay through ignorance and lack of "know how" without any intelligent or systematic use being made of the Federal planning units?

I go further. Is there really a planning unit that would satisfy the requirements of qualified and experienced persons like Professor Arthur Lewis or even the Adviser of the former Standing Federation Committee whose report on the functions, organisation and operation of the planning division has been made available to this Federal Government?

Let me ask again. The Minister seems to treat this thing very lightly, as if it were the private business of the Minister. Is there really a planning unit or division or is the Federal Government paying lip service to development planning.

This hon. House, Mr. Speaker, is entitled to answers to all these questions —

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[MR. HILL]

full answers, without deviation or equivocation or the “nancy” stories to which we have become accustomed to hear from certain Ministers of the Government. To me one of the most disturbing things is the important question of external aid for the Federation.

There has been a lot of talk about our being able to be beneficiaries of assistance from authorised international organisations. Jamaica's point of view expresses doubts and fears about the Federal Government's policy or ability to make sound policies in the development sector. Glib references are made to a strong Federation and with real powers to strengthen it at the centre. References are being made continually to the likelihood, even to the certainty, that the budget of such a government can and will obtain aid from international bodies. But even on that assumption, let me ask this question: Does this Government really know the requirements and the conditions to be fulfilled in order to receive assistance, in one form or another, from the international bodies to which references are made from time to time? We would like to have that answer. I believe that the House is entitled to have that answer; I believe that the people of the region would welcome an answer in the affirmative. Can, or will, the Prime Minister or the Minister of Finance, at the appropriate time in this Debate —

The Prime Minister : Now ! I answer yes.

Mr. Hill : Not from his seat, Sir, but standing at the despatch box.

The Prime Minister says that he heard of other things, but the Premier of Jamaica

had also told him that he had heard of a lot of things which he had said of Jamaica and which he was not going to accept at all. So that you can always bandy words backwards and forwards, but people holding high public offices must answer questions at appropriate times (not from their seats) so that, perhaps, other people can defend them by saying that it was *obiter dicta* —

The Prime Minister : *Obiter dictum !*

Mr. Hill : *Obiter dicta !* It is plural !

The Prime Minister : You said “it” !

Mr. Hill : And just in case the Government really knows what these requirements are, will they take these things into consideration and tell us so that we may be able to assure the people on these matters and clear up these points to the satisfaction of all concerned?

Let me pose yet another question in the hope that the answer will give assurance in many quarters. Will this Government be in a position to prove its case that it has got the necessary facts to support any or all the applications that it may make to any international agency for sizeable security or far-reaching assistance? Because the Premier of Jamaica and the Premier of Trinidad and Tobago will certainly have good cases.

Mr. Richards (Minister without Portfolio): Are you speaking for the Premier of Trinidad and Tobago ?

Mr. Hill : Mr. Speaker, as I said before, we on this side of the House intend to prove our case against the futility and the ineffectiveness of this Federal Government out of the mouths and actions of their

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own colleagues in the Unit Governments and the leaders of the Governments of Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Richards: What about your leader?

Mr. Hill: We do not have to rely on to produce initially one piece of evidence on this side of the House. We are content with the evidence coming from the mouths of the Premiers of Jamaica and of Trinidad and Tobago against this Government.

Mr. Richards: What happened to the others?

Mr. Hill: We prefer to use the evidence of their own friends and colleagues to condemn them rather than to ask this House, or better yet, to rely on any testimony of the Opposition.

Has the Government, Sir,—and this addressed particularly to the Prime Minister—been in a position to satisfy any international agency or body as to any application it may make for external aid? True enough, we must prefer trade to mere aid, but there is skepticism and doubt amounting to anxiety in informed quarters as to whether, with regard to our grave and urgent needs, this Government would be in a position to make out a case that would be acceptable to any of the international agencies which—let it be clearly understood, and this is for the benefit of Ministers who come from the smaller Territories—are not by any means charitable organisations.

I would suggest that the Members who are calling Sir Alexander's name would instead refer to the salutary demonstrations of the Premiers of Jamaica and of Trinidad and Tobago who are their own colleagues

and are supposed to be members of their own Federal Labour Party.

And now we come finally, Sir, to the question of British Guiana. I would like hon. Members of that side to understand that the welfare of the smaller Islands—

Mr. Bousquet (St. Lucia): What small Islands?

Mr. Hill:— is as dear to this Opposition as to any Member sitting on the Government Benches. What is more, Mr. Speaker, without one ounce of Government sponsorship we shall show and prove to these Caribbean Territories that it is from the largest Territory of Jamaica that a lot of this help would come long before this first five years of the Federation expire. It will come to the private investment sector by Members who represent this side of the House. We will prove our sincerity in deeds. We will not rely, like some of the hon. Members on that side of the House, on words. Wait and watch; it is coming.

The Prime Minister: Any for Barbados?

Mr. Hill: None for Barbados; nothing for Barbados except a bare monopoly.

Now, Sir, with regards to the position of British Guiana, there is still a great deal of anxiety, particularly among more than one half of the people of this Federation. For, as we have said, hinted, and pointed out, and instigated last year in the course of the Debates in this House, one of the psychological factors involved in Jamaica's so-called intransigence, is the adherence or non-adherence of British Guiana to Federation. I speak personally as a federalist when I say that British Guiana was in this Federal Club as a foundation member. I say

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also that British Guiana's adherence to the Federation might have been delayed by many of the anxieties and fears which Jamaica might possess now. Therefore, let me repeat my question: What currently are the relationships between the Federal Government and the Government of British Guiana? Have relations between the Federal Government and the Government of British Guiana deteriorated? Have they improved or are they just the same? Have any steps — and here again I speak to the Prime Minister through you, Mr. Speaker — been taken to enhance the confidence between the two forces?

Mr. Richards: What about British Honduras?

Mr. Hill: What, if any, is the Federal Government's opinion or feeling on the question of future relations with the British Guiana Government?

Mr. Richards: And Honduras!

Mr. Hill: We brought resolutions last year on the question of British Honduras, and did the Prime Minister not inveigle his Government's majority to amend those Resolutions and make them meaningless and futile expressions of pious opinion in the archives of his office?

Jamaica has the capacity to attract British Guiana. Trinidad and Jamaica have attracted British Guiana and British Honduras. That is why we have taken the initiative.

Does anyone really believe, Mr. Speaker, that British Guiana can be coerced or whipped into joining this Federation any more than Jamaica? British Guiana is necessary to the progress or success of this Federation.

Mr. Speaker, those are the questions to which I would like to direct the attention of the Members of the Federal Government. The hon. Minister of Finance has pointed out in his diagnosis that they are now in a state conducive to "demoralizing immobilism", and it is out of this coma we have got to repeat these points, in order that they might be awakened to pursue some of the policies which they supported verbally and quite readily, but which it appears they have forgotten since their election to high offices.

3.10 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister is fond of saying that he has heard all kinds of things before — he said it at the Intergovernmental Conference and he impressed nobody but himself. He has said it before and I suppose he will say it again. No wonder that we are in this state "conducive to demoralising immobilism" when the Prime Minister constantly lives in the past and cannot keep pace with the present or the future.

Last year we moved a Resolution from this side in regard to asking the Federal Government to consider what steps were necessary, or to consider taking steps to induce British Guiana and/or British Honduras (to tempt them, if necessary) into this Federation. I can recall that the Government opposed both Resolutions through false pride, without having even a clue as to whether there would ever be a strong, respected and self-respecting Federation.

Mr. Bousquet: Busta is mortally afraid of B. G. coming in!

Mr. Hill: I have asked these questions to bring to the minds of the Members of

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the Federal Government the fact that they have a task beyond merely seeking to build the Federation among the ten Units as at present. I feel that it is our task to keep prodding, to keep reminding, even to keep tempting the Federal Government to bear in mind that beyond the pales, beyond the boundaries of this Federation as at present constructed, lie two Territories whose adherence, in our view, is necessary to Federation and the success of West Indian nationhood. And let me urge the Federal Government to try and repent of its ways and, having frankly admitted that the Federation is in a state "conducive to demoralising immobilism" to make a New Year resolution for 1960, not only to awaken from the slumber and try and do better, but constantly to take the Opposition into their confidence and to accept advice from the Opposition and not to continue to treat us as aliens in a House of which we are an integral part. If we seem to be perhaps, at times, unduly hard, unduly critical of this Federal Government, it is because their "immobilism" angers us; it is because their ineptness causes us anxieties; it is because we are anxious for self-government to become a reality and nationhood achieved by the West Indian people.

Mr. Bramble (Montserrat): Mr. Speaker, we have listened to speeches, we have listened to hon. Members opposite in their attempt to criticise the speech so ably presented by the Minister of Finance. Any reference to hon. Members opposite should exclude the hon. Member for the Eastern Counties. I am glad to remember that when I made my first speech in this House I made reference to the incompatibility of certain chemical substances and their reaction, and I said I could not see how the

hon. Member for the Eastern Counties could have made a comfortable bed-fellow with his then colleagues. I am happy, Mr. Speaker, that within the short space of time since I made my first speech and now, when I am perhaps making my last, what I had predicted has proved to be true, because the hon. Member for the Eastern Counties, even though he sits on that side, is not with his Colleagues any more.

We have listened to speeches of which some could be described as having been issued out of a super-abundance of ignorance; and others could be described as intelligent, wilful, wicked and malicious. Here I would make reference to the hon. Member for St. Vincent who got up and attempted to criticise the Budget Speech by saying that the Federal Government will not give the Unit Governments any money for development. I would have thought that it is generally known that the Unit Governments are the ones who give the Federal Government money. The Federal Government is the custodian for C.D. & W. funds and grant-in-aid, but otherwise the Federal Government gets its money from the Unit Governments — a true democratic way of life that we all love. We have listened to parliamentary infants like the hon. Member for St. Vincent telling us that the Federal Government will not give Unit Governments any money. That sort of electioneering, I do not think, will do this Federation any good.

When it comes to the hon. Member for Surrey, I think that all he has said could be easily replied to by using a verse of Scripture

"woe unto you Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because ye enter not into

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[MR. BRAMBLE]

the Kingdom and yet hinder those that would enter in."

Mr. Speaker, the Budget Speech so ably presented has a slight mistake. I am sure that hon. Members opposite will be quite happy to hear me say that I have discovered a slight mistake in the Budget Speech. The mistake is that the hon. Minister of Finance should have said that the apparently fatal disease from which the Federation is suffering was inflicted by the hon. Members from Jamaica opposite, and more particularly the Member for Surrey and his leader Sir Alexander Bustamante.

Mr. Speaker, in the year 1953 at the London Conference, the Jamaica Labour Party headed by Sir Alexander Bustamante was in power and they accepted the present formula for representation in this Federal House. In 1956, the People's National Party of Jamaica was in power and sent a delegation to London with a Member of the Opposition and the same formula of representation was ratified.

Mr. W. B. Williams (St. Catherine, Jamaica): Not the Colombo Plan.

Mr. Bramble: Now we have to hear all this rigmarole simply because some rabble-rousers went to Jamaica and took advantage of the people of Jamaica and have so disturbed the peace of the Federation. This is no gainsaying, Mr. Speaker, because if you will permit me, I will refer to the statement made by the Deputy Leader of the Jamaica Labour Party at the Annual Conference of his Party in Jamaica — and this is from the "Gleaner" of November 23rd, 1959. He said:

"The stand of the J.L.P. on the whole issue of Federation has been a constant one. Indeed, we can congratulate ourselves that it was our Party and our Leader who declared an unalterable stand in this issue and forced the other Party to adopt our stand and our demand, and that is our stand and our demand which are today the Official attitude of the Island of Jamaica towards the Federation".

Hon. Members (Opposition): What does that mean?

Mr. Bramble: It definitely means the Federal electioneering campaign

Hon. Members: What electioneering campaign? What is he actually saying?

Mr. W. B. Williams: Wrong interpretation.

Mr. Bramble: I may say, Mr. Speaker, I did not make reference to the Member for St. Catherine, you know because his speech, well . . . [*Laughter*]. On the other side of the House, Mr. Speaker, there is a very honest hon. Gentleman

The Prime Minister: Only one?

Mr. Bramble: I know of one. I talked to him and I said to him that it is the Jamaica Labour Party that has created the disturbance in the Federation. He was quite honest in that he asked, "and why Mr. Manley jumped on our band-wagon?"

Hon. Members (Opposition): Answer that. Why he jumped on our band-wagon?

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Mr. Bramble : I will answer that. You see, Mr. Manley saw the band-wagon heading down the slope for destruction, manned by lunatics and carrying the lives of people. He could not yell out and tell them to stop, so he jumped on the wagon hoping to get hold of the wheel at some stage and to rescue the people. *[Laughter]* Mr. Speaker, I am confident that he will bring these people and that wagon to a safe destination.

Mr. Sinanan (Victoria, Trinidad): I hope that Mr. Manley agrees with that explanation.

Mr. Bramble : Mr. Speaker, we have listened to hon. Members of this House taking advantage of the gift of speech and I think we ought to thank you for your indulgence in the amount of repetition you have allowed so that no one can say you have tried to stifle any debate. I have promised not to bore this hon. House nor to bore myself. I know of a very simple Parliamentary Practice which I should follow, that is to say, if you have to repeat what you have said, you should sit down.

3.25 p.m.

Dr. Radix (Grenada): Mr. Speaker, I had absolutely no intention to speak on the Budget as yet. But after having heard certain Members of this House, I have decided to come out and make myself heard.

Hon. Member : Come out like Bramble ?

Dr. Radix : In the first place, Mr. Speaker, I want to welcome back the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Members : Hear, hear !

Dr. Radix : I think we are all very happy to see them here and I want to congratulate the Deputy Prime Minister and the new Deputy Leader of the Opposition for the able manner in which they have carried on during the absence of their leaders. I am sure that hon. Members will agree with me that this House is much the poorer for having lost the old Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I think we are much the poorer for it.

Hon. Members: Hear, Hear.

Mr. Pierre (Port-of-Spain East, Trinidad): Financially ?

Dr. Radix : Now, I come to the Budget Speech. I think the hon. Minister of Finance is to be congratulated for the able manner in which he presented the Budget Speech to this House. I, for one, think he did a remarkable job, and in my opinion, very little criticism could be levelled against his Speech. However, I think certain Ministers and certain Members of the Government Bench did a great discredit to the Government, to the Ministries and the Speech of the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Members : Hear, hear ! Come over here. Quite frank.

Dr. Radix : I will ask, Mr. Speaker, that had I not spoken under Head III, and the Member for San Fernando-Naparima not spoken, what would the goodly Minister of Labour and Social Affairs have had to say in this House, or what would the Member for St. Lucia have said had I not spoken under Head III? But, I think I am always willing to help and to facilitate. I

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gave them some food for thought and I am happy.

3.30 p.m.

I am speaking about the Member for St. Lucia. I think I will deal with that Member immediately. In the first place, I want to tell the hon. Member for St. Lucia that there is no junior Member for Grenada. I have promised to teach him a thing or two and I have started — he cannot refer to either one of the Members for Grenada as the “junior” Member. We are here on the same status.

The Member for St. Lucia told us — he brought up the subject and therefore I will deal with it — that the British Labour Party money was not spent on elections.

Mr. Bousquet : On a point of order. I was merely replying to what the junior Member for Grenada said.

Dr. Radix : He continues to make the same mistake.

Since he dealt with the matter of money from the British Labour Party, I think I should continue to deal with it. He told us that the money was not spent on elections, or to assist in the election of any Member to this House. Are we to take his word for it? What proof is he offering us?

Hon. Member : None.

Dr. Radix : Who is he? Are we to take his word at face value that the money was not spent on elections? May I ask the hon. Member if the money was not spent for elections, on what was it spent?

Mr. Hill : Familiarisation.

Dr. Radix : I have an idea that the money might have been spent for purchasing a pair of mountain chickens from Dominica. That is my idea. Now there was an agreement

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member has dealt with certain monies which disappeared. I think he should leave the matter alone now.

Dr. Radix : Mr. Speaker, I believe that all is not well with this Government. I do not think that the disease is incurable, and I believe that it will have to be attended to before long.

I will continue with the Member for St. Lucia. I am not dealing with the question of money. He asked me whether I was a doctor? Is he interested in consulting me about his avoirdupois? If so, then I want him to know that I am not interested. What I am willing to do is this: I will bring my documents and submit them to the Speaker, to him, or to anyone else for scrutiny, because I know that document can stand scrutiny. What I want him to do is to bring forward the books of the Federal Labour Party because I know they cannot stand scrutiny.

Hon. Members : Order, order.

Dr. Radix : You asked for it. Mr. Speaker, this same Member for St. Lucia who has given so much food for thought has seen fit to defend the Federal Government on the question of telephones. I have become a little suspicious. Why shouldn't one of the Ministers answer that question for himself?

Mr. Bousquet : The hon. junior Member for Grenada must

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Mr. Speaker: Are you referring to his years?

Mr. Bousquet: By his name, Sir, alphabetically. His name begins with "R", and the other with "G".

I wish to say, Sir, that I am entitled to speak because I am here as of right, and cannot be told by a Minister what to say. The junior Member for Grenada cannot do that.

Mr. Speaker: Was that a point of order?

Mr. Bousquet: It was a point, Sir.

The Prime Minister: I am raising a point of order. I suppose everyone will agree that we should know whether this or that Member is a senior or a junior Member. I always understood that where there were two Members, the one who received the most votes was the senior Member. And in a case like that of the Member for St. Vincent (Mr. Cato) where he was elected subsequently to the other Member, he is bound to be the junior Member. Surely there must be a junior and a senior Member.

Mr. Speaker: I find it difficult to rule. Who is the junior Member for Barbados?

The Prime Minister: That point was raised at the S.F.C. It was suggested that when there were more than two Members, we should call each Member by his district.

Dr. Radix: Mr. Speaker, thank you. In any case I will not be the junior Member for Grenada.

Before I was so rudely interrupted, I was speaking about telephones, and I said that I have become a little more suspicious since the Member for St. Lucia has decided to defend the Ministers instead of the Ministers defending themselves.

3.40 p.m.

What I thought the Member for St. Lucia might have done was to defend himself. There was a charge made against him by the Minister without Portfolio from Antigua, and he did not see fit to defend himself on that charge. Yet he saw fit to defend others. The Member for Antigua said certain Members of this House were not justifying their salaries. That is what he said. And I thought if ever a charge like that was made against me at any time I would defend myself.

Mr. Bousquet: Mr. Speaker, I thought the hon. Minister without Portfolio was referring specifically to the Deputy Speaker. We thought that, although not knowing parliamentary procedure, he was entitled to the money he was getting.

Dr. Radix: Mr. Speaker, it is well known I am a very peaceful man. I do not look for trouble. As I said before, I thought the Member for St. Lucia would have defended himself, but instead of defending himself on that charge — now he saw fit to run — he saw fit to defend others.

Now I think I will move to the hon. Minister of Labour and Social Affairs. Mr. Speaker, I am not at all satisfied with the explanation given by the hon. Minister of Labour and Social Affairs with respect to the selection of domestic servants for

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Canada. Since the Federal Government has taken on that responsibility, any other agreement, made prior to that take-over, by the other Units have ceased. That quota was given to the Federal Government with no strings attached. Mr. Speaker, I think I will give the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs an case this afternoon.

I turn now to the Minister of Natural Resources. I am quite sure that every Member will agree with me, if they have read his speech, that he made a miserable speech in this House. But it is not the speech I am going to talk about. I am going to deal with a specific matter. The hon. Minister of Natural Resources said he was engaged in silviculture. I am very happy to know that the Minister is engaged in something. But what disturbs me, Mr. Speaker, is that it is the same Exclusive or Concurrent List we have heard so much about in this House. They could not entertain my Motion because it does not appear on the Exclusive or Concurrent list: health does not appear on the Exclusive or Concurrent List; neither agriculture nor silviculture appears on them. Yet the Minister has told us he is so engaged. I have only mentioned this to show the unreasonableness of this Government. I only asked the question to have the advisability considered. But they have gone further than that. They have engaged themselves in something they are not supposed to do. But something they are supposed to consider they reject. They have absolutely no authority to do this.

Mr. Speaker, things like these can only cause trouble. I brought a Motion before this House which, in my opinion, was a good Motion. I do not want to cause fur-

ther dissension among Members on the Government benches, but I will say this: When I arrived here I discussed the Motion with a Member of the Government bench

The Minister of Communications and Works (Mr. Rose): Mr. Speaker, is the Member authorised to refer to a matter already dealt with by the House?

Mr. Speaker: He is only saying what a Member here told him; that he had a good Motion.

Dr. Radix: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I said before, I do not want to cause further dissension on the Government Benches, but one or two Members on the Government Benches did tell me that the Motion was one of the best ever brought before this House. Their consciences are bothering them now. Mine is clear. I brought a good Motion here and they have not been able to bring a single Motion before this hon. House.

Hon. Members: Name them!

Dr. Radix: In a beehive, Mr. Speaker, there are two types of bees — the drones and the workers.

Mr. Bousquet: What about the queen bee?

Dr. Radix: Fortunately, I can speak for myself, and I would like to say that I am not among the drones. I am not saying that some Members on the Government Benches are drones or anything of the kind —

Mr. Bousquet: Spell "drones",

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Dr. Radix : — but I will continue, Mr. Speaker, to bring before this House, as it is my duty so to do, Motions which I think will benefit this Federation. Whether they be defeated or not, or entertained, as was my Motion for the preservation of places of historical interest in The West Indies and the Motion for scholarships. I am the worker, I will bring in the honey and they can suck it if they want.

Mr. Speaker, on the question of Permanent Secretaries for certain Ministers, I cannot consider "Shoucutoo" asking for a Permanent Secretary for his Ministry. To do what ?

Mr. Bousquet : On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I believe that the deliberations in this House should be in English!

Mr. Speaker : I could not understand the hon. Member when he used the term, but I am quite sure that he made the proper reference at the proper time.

Dr. Radix : On the question of Permanent Secretaries for certain Ministries, I want to make it very clear in this hon. House that I for one oppose any such action for the addition of Permanent Secretaries to the Ministries of Labour and Social Affairs and Natural Resources and Agriculture. These Ministers by their very own confession told us that they had nothing to do in their Ministries and that their Ministries were advisory. They have no executive work to perform, they have big staffs, and they have got their experts to advise them, but they have absolutely no work. Before very long, my Friend the Minister without Portfolio would have all right to ask for a Permanent Secretary also. If Permanent Secretaries are going a-

begging then I think we should give everybody one.

Mr. Speaker, this Government says they have no money for this, that, or the other, but they can always find money to do the most foolish things in this world.

Now to conclude —

Hon. Members : No, no, no !

Dr. Radix : Mr. Speaker, to conclude —

Mr. Sinanan : No !

Dr. Radix : With respect to the Inter-Governmental Conference, I want to say very little. I was not at that Conference.

Mr. Bousquet : Shame !

Dr. Radix : I heard from the statements made by the Premier of Trinidad and Tobago over the radio, that the Conference was a dismal failure. I also heard from the Premier of Jamaica that the Conference was a dismal failure.

Hon. Members (Government Benches) : No, no, no !

Dr. Radix : I was not there, but I heard from our own Ministers in this hon. House. For instance the hon. Minister of Finance in his Budget Speech said there were nine days of painful wrangling. I was not there but I leave it to you to say whether or not the Conference was a success or a failure. I do not know. I for one believe that the Conference was not a success.

The Prime Minister : Nor a failure.

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Dr. Radix : The Prime Minister says — “Nor a failure”. Then it was neither a success nor a failure.

Mr. Joseph (San Fernando-Naparima): It was fluid.

Mr. Cargill (St. Mary, Jamaica): Mr. Speaker, I hardly hope to be able to emulate the brilliance and humour of the hon. and senior “Shoucutoo” from Grenada, but I feel sure that after that remarkable performance I should try to do my best — but I shall be brief as hon. Members on the opposite side will be glad to hear.

I should like to join with other speakers in congratulating the Minister of Finance on his remarkable Budget Speech. I had not known until he got up to speak that he was a poet as well as a gentleman who dressed [Interruption] with the same elegance with which he writes his somewhat purple prose

Mr. Speaker, there were one or two things that puzzled me somewhat because, in his more imaginative passages he tells us, on the one hand, that “we are now coming out into the lofty plains of light where translucent streams of understanding move gently among the green recesses of unity”, but hardly had we reached the green recesses of unity when we come to a formidable peak which must be scaled and I would ask the hon. Minister of Finance to make up his mind whether we have reached a plain or reached a peak. I don't say that entirely idly because when I listened to the speakers from the Government Benches I got the impression that neither they nor the Government knew where they were. It is very difficult in speaking on the budget to criticise the

Government but it is almost impossible to tell from Government speeches what they have done or what they have not done or what is in the hon. Gentlemen and Lady's minds.

I feel that the finances of the Federation are not the only strait-jacket into which the various Ministers find themselves put. I feel that the hon. Prime Minister has put them in another strait-jacket. I get the feeling that the hon. Gentlemen and Lady opposite would have liked to have got up and told this House what they had been doing — given some account of their Ministries — and I get the feeling that they have not been allowed to, and therefore, I feel that the hon. Gentlemen and Lady are frustrated that their best pearls of wisdom are still-born, if I may be allowed to mix a metaphor as the hon. Minister of Finance loves to do [Interruptions] I don't know why the hon. Prime Minister is so indignant. If what I am saying is not true the hon. Prime Minister need not get so het-up about it. There must be a great deal in what I say as a result of the Prime Minister's reactions. One always knows when one hits the nail on the head by watching the Prime Minister. As soon as you hit it on the head you draw a protest from him.

The protest I hear is “give us the tools and we will finish the job”. The hon. Minister of Labour — I don't want to be didactic — (this was stated by Mr. Churchill to the United States of America and not to British industrialists. It was stated during the war and it was addressed to the United States of America) — but what job do they wish to finish?

Many speeches have been made on this and the other side of the House — some in

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criticism of the Government and some not — although I might add that no speech made on this side of the House has been quite as brutally critical of the Government as the speeches from the Government benches. But I would like to speak, Sir, on the aspect of this budget, on one aspect only. That is why I wish to be really brief. The one aspect is the proliferation of Civil Servants. When one looks at this Budget Sir; when one considers what this Federal Government has been doing, one is immediately impressed by the rapid manner in which the Civil Service is being increased in numbers. Armies of men and women employed at enormous expense to do what? I am aware, Sir, that it would not be fair to criticise Ministers because they have not given us a very good description of what they have been doing, but I am bound to say, that even that description which they have given exposes a very extraordinary state of affairs.

The hon. Minister of Labour told us, in the course of a long speech, that she had had a tremendous success in sending 50 extra domestic servants to Canada. As far as I can make out that is all the hon. Minister of Labour has done. She may have done more, but that is all that she has told us about.

The Minister of Labour and Social Affairs (Mrs. Allfrey): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The hon. Member refers to my remarks made as “a speech”. They were replies to questions.

Mr. Cargill: When the hon. Minister replies to questions I take it she speaks, unless she has some other method of communicating her thoughts which is rather more subtle than I understand. I gather

from the hon. Minister that she has carried out a tremendous task in a year and a half of sending fifty extra domestic servants to Canada. I congratulate her, that is a tremendous task. I would like to point out that if you divide the cost of her Ministry in the previous Budget by fifty you will find that each of the ladies have cost The West Indies \$1,800 — they must have been the most expensive ladies in the world — they cost more than Madame Pampadour or Nell Gwynn. If sending fifty charming ladies to Canada is all that she has managed to do, according to her own account, I can only come to the conclusion that that is what it has cost her per lady— [Interruption] I am not aware of what the Canadian Government has spent in addition. I am only saying that it seems to have cost the Minister of Labour that amount to send fifty ladies to Canada.

She also mentioned that The West Indies have become associates of UNESCO and three people have been sent away to rather dubious adventures in Denmark, Africa and London and that, as far as I can make out, is the sum total of what the Minister of Labour has managed to do in the last year. If she has done more I should be delighted to hear about it and so would this House.

The Minister of Communications, in that gigantic brain of his that knows all the answers to all questions of a legal and technical nature, has given us a number of words about Communications, but what it seems to come out to is this: He says, quite rightly, he has arranged priority for communications. I can only imagine that priority has been to permit Ministers of Government to travel abroad. For certain-

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ly, if we are to judge that Ministry by the number of Ministers that fly away, I can say his Ministry has been an enormous success. The Prime Minister practically lives in Canada. He goes there and all he can say are remarks in a rather dubious taste about Trinidad and Jamaica. Certainly, as I have said, the Ministers are travelling with enormous efficiency, but what they do at the other end when they get there, I simply do not know.

Apart from the travelling of Ministers, and apart from the telephones in Ministers' bathrooms, I understand that there is a delay in television; no roads have been built; no airways are encouraged; no light houses have been constructed and the deficit on merchant shipping is \$478,000.00. The only thing working in his department is the Meteorological Services, which were working long before Federation and have not been actively prevented from continuing by Federation.

Hon. Members (Opposition): Hear, hear!

Mr. Cargill: We come now to the Minister of Agriculture. I do not wish to be unkind to the hon. Minister because he is a neighbour of mine in Jamaica, and I would not like him to come across the border with any real hate in his heart, but I am terrified lest the Minister of Agriculture should feel it necessary to help us with our bananas, because I do not think that the long suffering banana industry of Jamaica or elsewhere could survive the help and intervention of the hon. Minister of Natural Resources and Agriculture.

He has talked to us about something which he calls "Sylvia-culture". Who is Sylvia? What is she? He cannot inform the

House exactly who is Sylvia. I understand it has something to do with a lot of trees. I understand too that the hon. Minister is going around planting a few young sapplings which he hopes will grow. He has sent twenty students somewhere. Though where and what they will do there, I don't know.

What seems to be the sum total of what we have heard from Ministers as to what they have done last year? Some of the Members on the Back-benches have risen to their feet and given us some information about them that they could not give for themselves. The Senior Member for Montserrat — the only Member for Montserrat, he is a Junior Member and a Senior Member—obviously felt that this is the last time he would have the opportunity of speaking in this hon. House. I am sure that we are not going to like to lose him, Mr. Speaker. I always think that hon. Members who get up and give this House such information as they have (and very few Members ought to be cherished.

In the making of his swan song he tried to defend Mr. Norman Manley for taking the same attitude towards Federation as Sir Alexander Bustamante. I wonder whether Mr. Manley would thank him for the explanation he gave — the idea of the Chief Minister of Jamaica rushing down the Gadarene slopes behind a band-wagon in the course of destroying itself, seems to me to be a wonderful and dynamic picture. I would like to point out to the Member for Montserrat and the other Members of this House that every time they get up to criticise the attitude of Jamaica towards Federation they are criticising the attitude of their own leader on this question of Federation. We are now one on the issue

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— the Jamaica Government and the Opposition. Be careful that Mr. Manley himself does not tell you that more emphatically than we do.

The Prime Minister : Mr. Manley is chairman of the Party and nothing else.

Mr. Cargill : The Prime Minister seems very nervous about putting Mr. Manley in his proper position, Mr. Speaker. I wonder whether he talks as bravely outside this House as he does inside it.

I have been in great difficulty to find out what this Government have done. I have been unable to put my finger on any performance whatever. What I really think they are able to do is to run a sort of caretaker Government until the powers that be let them know they can go ahead and do something constructive.

That being the case, I think it is quite unnecessary that we should have a total of 462 Civil Servants on the establishment

of the Federal Government. I would like to point out one or two facts about this. In 1958, we had 349; in 1959, it had gone up by 48 to 397; in 1960, the figure stands at 462 — an increase of 65. Now Sir, I would like to examine these figures a little more carefully. Hon. Members opposite will see that this represents an increase of about 14% per year. If we extrapolate that to the future we will see that by 1969 — in ten years — there will be 1,600 Civil Servants. If this rate of increase goes on, by the end of the century there will be 200,000 Civil Servants. Within a short time thereafter the number of Civil Servants will outnumber the population of The West Indies.

Hon. Members (Government Benches):
Oh, oh.

Mr. Sinanan : You are becoming like Dr. Williams.

Mr. Cargill : They are unable to turn or twist one way or another, although I admit the turning and twisting is usually done by the hon. Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister : This is the best after-dinner speech I have ever heard.

Mr. Cargill : Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister.

Make no mistake about it—462 civil servants are now on the establishment. I need not point out that it is larger than the staff of a business of a very considerable size. And what have they done? I am not criticising the individuals, the civil servants; they are very industrious and honest people; but what point is there in crowding them together in a number of Ministries when there is nothing for them to do?

Let us look at a few of the individual Ministries. Take the office of the Prime Minister. In 1958, there were 33 civil servants; in 1959, 39, and now the hon. Prime Minister has 51, or an increase of 25 per cent. The hon. Minister of Finance—I understand the hon. Minister of Finance must have somebody to garden for him and provide him every day with a fresh buttonhole, and press his suits; but the fact of the matter is that in 1958 he had 24 civil servants in his department, in 1959, he had 28, and now he has 34, an increase of 20 per cent.

The hon. Minister of Communications and Works had 13 civil servants in 1958—apparently believing that was an unlucky number he increased it to 18 in 1959, and

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now the hon. Gentleman has 26 stumbling over themselves in the wake of the hon. Minister. An increase of 45 per cent. True enough that is a greater increase than that of the hon. Minister of Finance. I am not surprised, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister of Communications and Works sits there with such a happy grin on his face, since the increase has been 45 per cent; for doing what? For not building roads; for not making the telephones work; for not making it possible to telephone Jamaica when you want to; for not making it possible to go to Jamaica by any other way than by the airline which existed before he came along. He has got 26 civil servants helping him to do nothing.

I do not know, Sir, if Members opposite have ever read a book—assuming they do read—called “Parkinson’s Law”. There are one or two facts in it that might amuse hon. Gentlemen opposite.

The Prime Minister: Have you read more than the first chapter?

Mr. Cargill: If the Prime Minister had read it as assiduously as I have, he would have seen that in 1939, when Great Britain had a large number of Colonies, the entire Civil Service establishment at the Colonial Office was 450; or less than the establishment of the Federal Government today. The entire establishment of the Colonial Office in London, not abroad, was 450 Civil Servants while there are 462 in the Federal Government today.

It is all very well for the hon. Member and the hon. Ladies to sit there cackling away to themselves—that is all they can do—but I think it is a sad thing that the slender funds at the disposal of the Fed-

eration should be wasted in building a department after department for no other purpose than inflating the already inflated egos of Gentlemen like the hon. Minister of Communications and Works.

The Prime Minister: What about the Lady Minister?

Mr. Cargill: I will leave that Lady to you Mr. Prime Minister.

With the permission of the House, I would like to read one paragraph from this admirable book by Professor Parkinson, because I think that hon. Members should take it to heart. It is this:

“The discovery of this formula and of the general principles upon which it is based has, of course, no political value. No attempt has been made to inquire whether departments ought to grow in size. Those who hold that this growth is essential to gain full employment are fully entitled to their opinion. Those who doubt the stability of an economy based upon realising each other’s minutes are equally entitled to theirs. It would probably be premature to attempt at this stage any inquiry into the quantitative ratio that should exist between the administrators and the administered. Granted, however, that a maximum ratio exists, it should soon be possible to ascertain by formula how many years will elapse before that ratio, in any given community, will be reached. The forecasting of such a result will again have no political value. Nor can it be sufficiently emphasized that Parkinson’s Law is a purely scientific discovery, inapplicable except in theory to the politics of the day. It is not the business of the botanist

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to eradicate the weeds. Enough for him if he can tell us just how fast they grow.

What I am concerned about, Mr. Speaker, today, is for Members opposite tell us just how fast they intend to let the weeds in their departments grow? Just how many more civil servants we are going to have? Whether the increase is going to be 14 per cent per annum, and what is the total envisaged by the Minister of Finance?

There is no end to this. It is a matter of great importance and I emphasise it once again. I said when I got up that I intended to speak only on one aspect of this matter. It is the only one aspect of this matter to which I call attention today. Here is the Federal Government with very little money at its disposal and unlikely to get any more until they show themselves somewhat more competent when they show themselves today, and yet for the aggrandisement of their own egos and the building up of their own departments we have more civil servants now than the Colonial Office had in 1939.

I say it is a matter which the entire West Indies should be aware of. Is it the intention of the Government to cure unemployment by simply employing the unemployed and the unemployable in their Ministries? If this is the case, there is some point to it, but if not, I would like to point out to this House and to the West Indies, the hundreds of people who are sitting down and doing nothing. I cannot see how that is benefiting the West Indies in any way whatsoever. Sixteen million dollars is being spent under this Budget. Sixteen million dollars would be

enough to build an oil refinery in any island of the Caribbean.

The Prime Minister: Another oil refinery?

Mr. Cargill: We will build ours in spite of difficulties we have to face.

Sixteen million dollars could set up an enormous number of industries. We are told here of all the industries that are supposed to have been set up. The Federal Government has had no part in their development. Listen to this:

“Economic activity has been kept attuned to the vibrant nature of the West Indian temperament . . .”

How you can attune economic activity to temperament I don't know.

“During the first nine months of this year seventeen products and nine companies with a capital value of \$3,502,080.00 were given approved status under Jamaica's Industrial Incentives and Export Industry encouragement laws. The range of products includes such items as cellulose bags, typewriters . . .” [OFFICIAL REPORT, 19th November, 1959, c. 27.]

The hon. Minister of Finance talks as though he had some hand in this, but he didn't know what had been done until he asked Jamaica what had happened and they sent him a list. He knew nothing about it until it was handed to him by some humble slaves getting the information from Jamaica and writing it down on a piece of paper in order to let it sound good when he comes here.

He talks about eggs. He talks about the remarkable success of West Indian hens

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in laying millions of eggs, as if he had been —

The Minister of Finance talks about a thing called a viable economy. I don't know what a viable economy is—it is impossible to use that word in that context. I wish to point out to him that the only thing in his Budget which is viable or can be viable is an egg—and I hope all the eggs he mentioned in his Budget Speech are viable. Viable means, if I may mention it, Sir, capable of hatching.

The Prime Minister : You don't buy eggs necessarily to hatch them.

Mr. Cargill : If you do not buy them to hatch them, then when you eat them they cease to be viable. If you continue to eat your economic egg your economy also will cease to be viable.

Having made these few remarks — I know we all want to go to tea—I again appeal to the hon. Ministers not to grumble about money not being sufficient but to spend what they have wisely and use it productively and not sit amongst their hundreds of Civil Servants spending money on gardeners they don't use, chauffeurs they don't employ and telephones and bathrooms in their houses which they do not use. I mean they do not use the telephones. I do not suggest that they do not use the bathrooms.

I hope, at least I understand, the Prime Minister is going to give permission to one or two of his Ministers to speak after I sit down. I sincerely hope they give a slightly more constructive account of what they have done in the last year than the Ministers who spoke have given up to now.

4.30 p.m. : *Sitting suspended.*

5.00 p.m. : *Sitting resumed.*

The Minister of Trade and Industry (Dr. LaCorbiniere): Mr. Speaker, Sir My first duty this afternoon is a very pleasant duty and that is to associate myself with all the kind expressions of appreciation that have been levelled at the Minister of Finance for the first-class job he has done in presenting this Budget

My second duty is not so pleasant, in that it involves the stretching to breaking-point of the privileges enjoyed in this House by hon. Members. During the Budget Debate, we listened to some very commendable speeches, some most eloquent, for example *like* that of the Member for the Eastern Counties, others presented with great decorum and elegance, for instance, the speech made by the Member for St. Elizabeth. We have also been treated with a first class parliamentary speech by the Member for St. Mary. ~~Mr. Speaker,~~ Mr. Speaker, we have been afflicted with such terms and references to Members of this hon. House that if permitted to continue would bring disrepute to this hon. House. I refer first of all to the reference to hon. Members of this House in terms such as 'blood-suckers'. Then, another hon. Member referred to the finances of the Federal Government as "loot" and "booty" and complained bitterly of not receiving his fair share.

The right of free speech and the privilege we enjoy in this House must of necessity imply a corresponding responsibility to impose upon ourselves a self-discipline in our thinking and in our expression so that we can build a tradition

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in this House that can be handed down from generation to generation with pride and dignity. I shall not belabour this point any more, Sir.

I now come to some of the points raised by hon. Members in the course of their speeches. I will deal first with the reference made by my hon. Friend, the Member for Surrey, in so far as the Inter-Governmental Conference is concerned. Of course, we all fully appreciate that the hon. Member for Surrey has used all the art and guile of the experienced parliamentarian that he is and so was able to make remarks and make statements that must be contradicted here and now in this hon. House because of the tremendous effect that those statements are having on the outside world and their effect upon the Federation in general, the Unit Territories in particular, and the people of The West Indies as a whole.

The hon. Member for Surrey alleged that the Inter-Governmental Conference was a failure. He further alleged that the Federal Government was responsible for that failure and that the Federal Government had not done sufficient homework. I think those were his exact words.

The hon. Member for Surrey (Mr. Hill) has just remarked that the Minister of Finance had made reference to this failure. The important thing that we would like to know—and, I Sir, would like to know much more about—is whether the hon. Member himself thinks that the conference was a failure, because in so far as he tried to present a case to prove the Inter-Governmental Conference was a failure he has only quoted other people's opinions while he himself is not prepared to advance any evidence but takes evidence

from other people although he attended the Conference.

I wish to say that I am completely unfettered by anybody's thinking or opinion. I owe it to The West Indies to give my own assessment of the results of the Conference. I shall therefore proceed to prove that the Inter-Governmental Conference was neither premature nor a failure.

Hon. Members : Hear, hear!

Dr. LaCorbiniere : First of all the records of this hon. House show clearly that the original Resolution that was presented to this House was for a Conference under Article 118 of the Constitution. During the last Session of the House that Resolution was rescinded and was replaced by another Resolution asking for an Inter-Governmental Conference. That is on the records of this hon. House. I excuse the hon. Member for Surrey, because during the last Session of this House he was indisposed, or fighting elections—I think that is a malady—and so he was not present in the House.

Nevertheless the Conference was not intended to be a plenipotentiary Conference as the hon. Member for Surrey has asserted, but was intended—by a Resolution which was accepted by this House—to be a preliminary and exploratory conference of governments.

The Member for Surrey has based all his criticisms on a wrong appreciation of the nature of the Conference that was called last month. It is in the context of the true nature of this Conference as intended by this hon. House that I shall now speak.

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The Conference was not a plenipotentiary conference, therefore any conference that came to the conclusions that this Inter-Governmental Conference arrived at could not be described as a failure.

Let us examine it. Delegates from all the Territories arrived. They discussed the first item on the agenda which was of a highly controversial nature involving basic and fundamental issues of Federation, the question of representation; and after nine days of discussion along the lines of the representation issue, taking short jabs and excursions into other controversial issues, the Conference decided to send the entire agenda, including the very controversial issue of representation to Committees for consideration and analysis and recommendations.

Now then, can such a Conference be described as a failure? I say no. I say this: and I shall be prepared, Mr. Speaker, with your leave to give way to the hon. Member for Surrey if he disagrees with what I am about to say now so that he will tell us why he disagrees. That Conference brought into sharp focus throughout the entire Caribbean, perhaps for the first time, the vital and fundamental issues and the seriousness of those issues. For the first time the whole Caribbean area, the whole West Indies, began to understand the principles involved and the difficulties involved with certain Territories and their points of view. For the very first time it brought to the area a consciousness of those profound and difficult issues never before experienced since the Federation began.

I will give way to the hon. Member if he says that Conference did not achieve that. Not having heard from my hon. Friend—he is my good friend—

Mr. Speaker: You can't encourage him to break the rules of the House.

Dr. LaCorbinière: I am willing to give way, Sir, if I am asked so to do.

Now Mr. Speaker, that Conference beyond any doubt, did that. The delegate came; they exchanged views on this difficult issue; they set up Committees and went back home and had an opportunity to review and consider and sleep over the difficulties confronting every Territory that attended that Conference. They returned just about a month later in an atmosphere that permitted them to set up their working parties and begin their work immediately. Could you say such a Conference had failed? Never!

Now, Sir, would you say that Conference was premature when we know that the fundamental political issue of representation was bound to be raised, no matter whether that Conference was this year, next year, or the year after, or ten years hence?

And so the mere fact that the Conference was called early and that particular issue came out to the public, came out into the open, so that the area could understand what is happening, so that people could have an opportunity to take back to their various Territories that fundamental political problem and examine it carefully—that Conference could not have been premature, because the sooner it was done, the sooner it could be examined and resolved and the better for the future of our Federation.

Mr. Hill: Will the hon. Minister yield?

Dr. LaCorbinière: No, Sir. When the hon. Member for Surrey was invited

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to speak, he refused to do so. I will not accept it now. He missed his boat. Mr. Speaker, I love to reciprocate but I have nothing to reciprocate to. I would have accepted it in the first instance but not my hon. friend's terms.

Now, Sir, the hon. Member for Surrey is quoting other people's thoughts. I don't know who is his master, but I am speaking according to my own thinking, my own assessment of the entire situation and my duty to this Government, my duty to this hon. House and the people of the West Indies. I am not quoting anybody at all, or their speeches. I am here to challenge anybody who by any expression at all tries to run down this Federation in any way at all, a Federation which belongs to the people of the West Indies.

I invited the hon. Member to tell us what he thinks, rather than tell us what everybody else has said, but the hon. Member does not think. The hon. Member has gone so far as to quote from the "London Times", a paper that is incompetent to discuss West Indian affairs in general, and this issue in particular because the "London Times" has not kept pace with democratic development and progress taking place in this area.

They are not aware that we here in The West Indies and under English political tutelage have been able to develop institutions based upon the highest democratic principles among ourselves, and practising them in this out-post of the Commonwealth. They forget the privilege, the right to come to agreement, the right to disagree, the right to express opinions, the right to hold free discussions and so on is the democratic British principle which we

have accepted. They taught it to us, we accept it.

Sir, the "London Times" which he quoted made a farce of us in a country like Britain where our stock was so high and our good will so genuine in an editorial that was mischievous, to say the least. If we have failed then Britain has failed and I do not agree that we have either failed or are doomed.

I say, Sir, that any West Indian who supports the views the "London Times" as given in that editorial is doing a disservice to his country.

I say any West Indian who supports the view of the London Times, as given in that editorial, is doing a disservice to his country. Mr. Speaker, if I appear to speak with vehemence on this subject it is because I am strongly nationalistic. And I wish to remind the London Times that if they had examined what was happening here over the last few decades they would have realised that our delegates do not appear in a conference with shot guns, or with double-barrelled guns, to shoot it out. We do not do things like that. There is no monopoly in Britain on democratic processes.

Just as they made mischief of this particular issue, and now having seen that our Inter-Governmental Conference was not a failure, and that committees are working, I hope the London Times will be able to correct that mis-information and misrepresentation they have made in Britain so that the English people can take just pride in noting how well the democracy which they have taught us is working in The West Indies.

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Hon. Member : Their correspondent may be in the House.

Dr. LaCorbiniere : Mr. Speaker, I have just heard that the Correspondent of the "London Times" may be in the House. If this report emanated from a Correspondent in Trinidad then, Sir, that Correspondent has betrayed his country.

Sir, I have said the Inter-Governmental Conference was not premature because it brought a consciousness, a knowledge of what we wanted to know and understand. We could not do that with an exchange of letters. It brought out all the things we wanted to know about Jamaica and her problems. It brought out many things the area did not know or fully understand.

Mr. Hill : How do you know now ?

Dr. LaCorbiniere : My hon. Friend from Surrey asks how I know now. During the Inter-Governmental Conference I listened very carefully to what was being said. I was not stooping over a pad just making notes right through without giving attention to what was being said. It is not my fault if I have greater understanding than the Member for Surrey. And I say, Sir, I do not expect that the Conference was either a failure or premature. As it was not a failure then the second allegation, that the Government was responsible for the failure, does not arise.

The third allegation which the hon. Member from Surrey made was that the Federal Government did not do sufficient homework. Mr. Speaker, my hon. Friend from Surrey was on the same Federal delegation as I was, a Member invited by the Prime Minister to join the Federal delegation. We received the same Federal document. The documentation we received,

save and except for one item on the agenda which I referred to as a high-political and fundamental issue, the issue of representation on which the Federal Government did not prepare a paper, was the same. Every single agenda item was adequately covered by memoranda prepared by the Federal Government and giving a full analysis of every single subject, with recommendations, and in a number of cases with alternative suggestions of their resolutions. The Federal Government recommended that most of the items should be referred to Committees.

If the hon. Member from Surrey did not read his documentation it is not my fault. But for him to come here and assert that the Federal Government did not do enough home work is to cast aspersions upon the Federal Government, the Civil Service, and the Federal experts. I say that is wrong. They did their research for many months. They did first class work in providing first class documentation for the Conference.

I have said, Mr. Speaker, that save and except for the agenda item on representation—in fact I am sure the hon. Member from Surrey must himself recognise that the fundamental political issue of representation cannot and should never be directed by the Federal Government. Representation is a matter entirely in the hands of the Unit Governments and the Federal Government can never embark upon direction or analysis or anything that has to do with this fundamental political issue.

Mr. Hill : Even research on the facts ?

Dr. LaCorbiniere : Research on the facts have been done as far back as 1947. All Governments have known the facts

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nce 1947. They were presented in 1953 and 1956. Everybody knows about that.

Mr. Speaker, my hon. Friend from Surrey all the time expects me to be responsible for the lack of knowledge of his friends. How can I? Mr. Speaker, I will continue, having made the point that in my view, and I can defend my own view against anyone, the Inter-Governmental Conference was not a failure. It wasn't premature and as a result committees have been set up and are working.

Now, Sir, I will come to a few questions which have been posed by my friend again, wonderful parliamentarian that he is, bringing all the guile and art of parliamentary practice. That great friend of mine! Mr. Speaker, he is just saying that those whom the Gods love they first destroy.

Mr. Cargill: They first make mad.

Dr. LaCorbiniere: The hon. Member for Surrey — every time I say that it sounds like cricket—made a few more allegations. He said the Federal Government had done no economic planning whatever; the Federal Government wasn't doing any work; the Federal Government had in fact neglected to prepare any kind of economic survey, and had not presented any information to the Opposition.
5.30 p.m.

Now once before in this hon. House, hon. Ministers and myself reminded hon. Members that the Ministries of the Federal Government were at their disposal, but not one of the Members of the Opposition was condescended to pay a visit to any Ministry to ask some of the questions which could very well be asked there.

Mr. Hill: I don't do such things.
Mea culpa—Mea culpa.

Dr. LaCorbiniere: I would not like to go into the things that the hon. Member for Surrey does or does not like to do, but Mr. Speaker, I should like to tell this hon. House that contrary to the impression that the hon. Member for Surrey tried to give this House the Federal Government indeed has had comprehensive surveys of Dominica, Grenada, and one in St. Lucia is scheduled to begin early in the new year.

Over and above the advisory service which have been given to those Territories, several other Territories have requested and received advisory service from the Federal Government's experts. In my hand here I have requests for assistance from various Governments totalling something like \$186 million which have been and are being channelled through the machinery of the Government to the appropriate International and other agencies. I say that because the allegation was also made by the hon. Member that the Federal Government has not been finding, or searching, or was incapable of seeking aid from external agencies—

Mr. Hill: I said nobody knows.

Dr. LaCorbiniere: Mr. Speaker, as one Parliamentarian to another, I think I am entitled to speak about the way in which I am convinced the hon. Member for Surrey impressed me while he was speaking. I do not know exactly what he intended to say but it is the impression that I got from his speech that I am replying to. Now, Mr. Speaker, I am telling him here that if he had made the necessary enquiries he would have known, but I

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could not come here and read out a list which contains requests totalling \$186 million worth of assistance currently being channelled through the machinery of the Federal Government just for the hon. Member when he could have examined it in detail in the appropriate Ministry.

The information that was requested was: to what extent the Federal Government is endeavouring to obtain assistance from external sources?

Mr. Hill: I said — putting itself in a position.

Dr. LaCorbiniere: The Federal Government is not only putting itself in a position, it is already channelling through machinery of the Government those applications and still receiving a great deal more of them. I have already dealt with the fact that economic surveys have been done in at least two of the Territories and one is to be started soon.

Hon. Member: Tourism?

Dr. LaCorbiniere: Not only tourism. General economic surveys have been done in Grenada and Dominica and one in St. Lucia will be started early in the new year. The team has already been named and it is now only a matter of days.

I mention that, Sir, in reply to the questions asked, and I also wish to say that in this House most of the Members of both sides and particularly of the Opposition benches have constantly repeated the hope that the Federal Government would concentrate on the economic developments of the smaller Units of the Federation, therefore I am pointing out that the first surveys that were carried out by the Federal Government were in the smaller Territories.

Mr. Hill: Two of the smaller Territories!

Dr. LaCorbiniere: Further than this, Sir, I would like to say that the number of advisory services in every field—the field of Agriculture, Medicine, Touris and others, that have been used by the smaller Territories—is something that has been recorded on the several pages that I have in my hand but I shall not go into all of them. However, Mr. Speaker I think it would be worth-while to enumerate some of the things done because almost every single Member of this hon. House has been asking that something be done for the smaller Territories. Now these are some of the activities of the economic Planning Division:

1. At the request of the Grenada Government, preparation of a five year plan has been completed and presented to the Government of Grenada;

Dr. Duhaney (Clarendon, Jamaica).
Discrimination against Grenada!

Dr. LaCorbiniere: Yes, discrimination against Grenada. It has been said that nothing is being done for Grenada.

2. At the request of the Dominica Government, organization of an economic team to prepare a five year development plan. Report to the Government of Dominica is now being finalised.
3. At the request of the Government of St. Lucia a survey team will visit the Territory next January to help them plan their 1960—64 development programme.

All the teams that visit these smaller Territories for purposes of aiding in their

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preparation of economic development plans have on them, experts in agriculture, economic planning, electricity and various other things.

At the request of the St. Kitts Government the study of the development for the Southern Peninsula of St. Kitts has been undertaken. At the request of the Barbados Government advice on the cost of living index and other economic problems, including the possible establishment of a Barbados Development Board has been undertaken.

Mr. W. B. Williams : What about the beer factory ?

The Minister of Finance (Mr. Bradshaw) : What about Red Stripe ?

Dr. LaCorbiniere : It was only in June of 1958 that the Federal Government requested Territorial Governments to produce comprehensive statements of their annual development requirements. This information was received and was used as a basis for approaches to external agencies for assistance to which I have already made reference.

Mr. Hill : What was the result ?

Dr. LaCorbiniere : The question has been asked : what was the result ? Such important applications need to be examined and take time. People don't say yes to 186 million dollars worth of applications just because they are asked for assistance. I have explained to the hon. Member for Surrey that they are now going through the machinery of Government to agencies and they are gradually coming back. Those that have so far come back have been successful.

Mr. Bryan (Eastern Counties, Trinidad) : Hula-hoop Government !

Mr. Hill : How about Mr. Manley ?

Dr. LaCorbiniere : Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that there is at least one Territorial Premier that is a nightmare to some Members of the Opposition. They can't say one or two sentences without saying "Mr. Manley". I have spoken here on many occasions and have not referred to Mr. Manley or Mr. X, Y, or Z. Something is wrong. I don't understand them.

During the course of the Budget Debate, one or two casual references were made to my Ministry but I myself realise that the Budget Debate is traditionally a time when the Executive branch of Government comes under close scrutiny. That is why we welcome the manner, Mr. Speaker, in which you allow tremendous latitude to speakers so that they may elicit some information, seeing that they are not prepared to visit their own Ministries. And so, Mr. Speaker, I will spend a few moments giving a very short review of some of the matters concerning my Ministry which were raised in the course of the debate.

A Minister is expected ever so often to give an account of his stewardship, and in our system of parliamentary democracy the budget session is traditionally the time when the activities of the executive branch of the Government machinery come under close scrutiny. In keeping with tradition, therefore, I propose to compress into the space of the next few minutes an outline of the work done by the Ministry of Trade and Industry during the past year, and to sketch broadly the programme for the year ahead.

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Any review of economic conditions in the West Indies is to a very large extent a review of external trade and of the position of a relatively few primary agricultural commodities in world markets. For despite the progress made in recent years in developing secondary industries, and despite the fact also that petroleum, bauxite and alumina now account for more than half the total value of our exports, it remains true that agriculture is still the economic foundation of The West Indies. The past year has been marked by events which threaten the stability and survival of nearly all our main agricultural exports. One of the effects of dollar liberalization, for example, is to remove the incidental protection which our citrus and bananas have enjoyed in the United Kingdom. But it is the considered view of experts that our citrus could not at this moment withstand the full blast of American competition if American fruit were given unrestricted entry into the United Kingdom. The same is true, in varying degrees, for bananas, pineapples and some other commodities.

The external trade of The West Indies takes place within the inter-linked framework of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the Canada-W.I. Trade Agreement, and the system of Commonwealth Preferences. One of the problems inherent in this situation is that of making changes in the present structure of tariffs without affecting one or the other of these agreements. Because we are dependent on our exports, we must not only be always on the look out for new markets but we have to watch political and economic developments overseas to see how they affect our trading interests. For this reason the

Government is following with interest the plans for the formation of the European Free Trade Area. The main purpose of this trading association of 7 countries—the OEEC—U.K., Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Austria, Switzerland and Portugal—is to form a bridge with the Common Market countries to a liberal trading area embracing all the OEEC countries—General Organisation for the European Economic Committee. The developments in the European Common Market, too, are being followed closely. As you know, one of the special issues arising out of this economic grouping derives from the association of the dependent overseas territories to it thereby creating a large preferential market for their exports. This is a matter of concern to us since it implies that the W.I. will not share fully in a rapidly growing market. Hence on behalf of our member Territories of GATT the Government has been taking part in the deliberations of the Contracting Parties on this and other issues. No quick solution can be expected: the problems are too complex and difficult and the negotiations must necessarily be long and arduous.

I turn now to a brief review of our more important agricultural commodities.

Honourable Members will recall that a new International Sugar Agreement came into effect on the 1st January of this year. It will also, no doubt, be remembered that at the negotiations leading to the new agreement which took place in Geneva in 1958 The West Indies was represented by Sir Archibald Cuke and Sir Robert Kirkwood. I am now extremely happy to be able to report that, largely as a result of the highly efficient advocacy of our representatives, The West Indies and British Guiana are to receive additional

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port quotas amounting to 28,766 tons in 1960 and again in 1961. The annual negotiations under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement are now in progress in London and the results of the deliberations therefore not be known for some weeks. But I am keeping in close touch with developments through our Commissioner in London, who, as in previous years, is joining in the discussions on behalf of the Government of The West Indies.

The three-year Citrus Agreement between the Governments of Dominica, Jamaica, Trinidad and the United Kingdom ended on 30th June, 1958. It had been intended to send a West Indies delegation to London later in the year to negotiate a new agreement with H.M.G., and in preparation for these talks a thorough investigation of the state of the citrus industry in The West Indies had been carried out in 1958. This involved detailed costing and allied surveys, an investigation of the research needs of the industry and an inquiry into the marketing arrangements for West Indies citrus in the United Kingdom. Some of this work had been in progress since 1956, for example, the marketing survey, which had been undertaken at the request of the British Caribbean Citrus Association, and the costing surveys. The results of all these investigations had to be studied by the respective Governments as well as by the citrus industry, the resulting views coordinated, and a common plan of action and agreed objectives for a new scheme worked out. All this had of course to be done in advance of any delegation going to London to negotiate a new scheme.

In the meantime other factors had arisen which made it imperative for us—i.e., the

Federal and Territorial Governments—to re-assess the old Citrus Agreement and to consider whether a similar agreement would be adequate to the present needs of the industry and the changed situation which confronted us. The old Citrus Agreement was designed to bring into existence in each territory a price stabilization fund to cushion the effect of fluctuating prices. The fund was to be built up by growers' contributions. But if it became necessary to pay out monies before the fund had been built up, these payments were to be made by the governments concerned with the assistance of interest-free Colonial Development and Welfare loans. Fortunately, the need for such assistance did not in fact arise.

It was clear that a new scheme would need to go further and take account of the threat from American fruit resulting from the liberalization policy to which H.M.G. is committed. It would have to take account also of the consequential need to cushion the likely impact until the West Indian industry could become competitive. In these circumstances it was not until July this year that a Citrus Mission, comprising territorial and industry representatives and led by myself as Federal Minister of Trade and Industry, could go to London to negotiate with the Secretary of State.

These negotiations were long and difficult. But after ten weeks, agreement was finally reached on the outlines of a five-year plan for the citrus industry. This includes a Development Plan designed to raise the yields of the industry by greater use of fertilizers and improvement of management and husbandry techniques; a Research Scheme, and a Price Guarantee Scheme. Agreement was also reached

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on arrangements for the continued purchase by the United Kingdom Ministry of Food of citrus concentrate from the West Indies. The implementation of the Research Scheme to cost approximately £94,000 will rest upon decisions still to be made by the Colonial Agricultural Research Council by Government and by the industry. The Development Plan is to be financed by local C.D. & W. allocations with matching contributions from territorial governments.

On the whole, the mission was more successful than had at one time been thought likely. Nevertheless, it would be dangerous to assume that all is well. The threat from U.S. fruit remains real. The use of quantitative restrictions by H.M.G. will not continue for ever; and geography and time are against us in the effort to make the industry competitive at the earliest possible time. Yet it has to be done; and the Research Scheme and the Development Plan have been conceived in recognition of the importance of improved agricultural techniques in what threatens to become a struggle for the survival of the fittest.

The banana industry has been the subject of searching inquiry in St. Vincent, Dominica and Jamaica during the past year. The report of the Jamaica Commission of Inquiry into the Banana Industry is still being awaited.

Banana prices over the year have been low compared with previous years, and there is clearly a need for coordination of production and marketing arrangements and policies between the producing territories of The West Indies. This need is, of course, recognised both by the Federal and Territorial Governments as well as by

the industry itself. It is heartening to note that producers in Jamaica and the Windward Islands recently got together in London with representatives of producers in the Cameroons and their respective marketing agents to review the market of bananas in the U.K. Perhaps the most important result issuing from their talks was the decision to embark on a joint advertising programme aimed at increasing the demand for bananas.

As with citrus, the liberalization of trade poses for bananas, problems to which suitable and urgent solutions must be found. It is for this reason, more than any other, why the results of the searching inquiry now being conducted into the industry in Jamaica will be awaited with such interest.

Cotton is perhaps the commodity which has fared worst in the past year. In a statement to this House during the last session, I informed hon. Members that as a result of depressed conditions in Lancashire textile industry and a slump in the world cotton market, cotton producers in the Leeward Islands and St. Vincent faced uncertainty as to whether they would be able to dispose of next year's cotton crop. Even if they did, there seemed to be grave doubts as to whether they could sell at prices which would be even barely remunerative. The situation has not changed much, and the Federal Government in consultation with United Governments, is at the moment considering a proposal to reorganise the marketing arrangements by establishing a non-profit-making marketing board through which all Sea Island cotton grown in The West Indies will be sold. Discussions with territorial governments are in progress, and the

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financial implications of the proposal are being examined. As to the immediate problem of next season's crop, individual Governments will purchase the crop through arrangements which have operated hitherto. But this is being done on the understanding that the funds employed by Governments in holding unsold stocks of cotton would be ultimately recoverable from the marketing organisation which is now under consideration.

Meanwhile the search for new markets for raw cotton and the end products of Sea Island cotton continues.

A new Rice Agreement with the Government of British Guiana, in which the Federal Government has replaced individual territorial Governments as a single contracting party acting on behalf of all, came into effect on 1st October, 1959, and will run to the end of 1962. This agreement, like the one before it, secures for The West Indies a regular supply of rice at prices known in advance and provides for British Guiana a guaranteed market in the Federation. Unlike earlier agreements, however, the new Agreement clearly states that it is to be considered in the wider context of the desirability of increasing to the fullest possible extent, trade between the Federation of The West Indies and British Guiana, and of the desirability of concluding further trade agreements on such commodities as may be proposed and agreed to by governments.

Next January my Ministry will be convening an Oils and Fats Conference, the main purpose of which will be to examine the current needs of the Oils and Fats Industry and to formulate proposals for the development, expansion, and, if neces-

sary, protection of the industry. A new factor that will bear upon the deliberations is the shortage of copra which The West Indies has been experiencing for some time. This shortage is the result of drought and disease coupled with increased demand. Thus agricultural as distinct from purely trading problems are involved. But the main difficulty arises from the fact that, if the requirements of the Federation for processed products are to be fully satisfied, and if manufacturing is to be encouraged as a means of diversifying the economy, the national production of copra will have to be followed up by an extensive and intensive programme for the development of the coconut growing industry of the entire area and in the meantime be supplemented by rising imports of copra or substitutes from outside the Federation. And there are dangers in the latter. The problem, therefore, will be how to reconcile these opposing factors and devise a programme and a policy which will be in the best interests of the West Indies.

I made reference in passing to the question of dollar liberalization. Early in June the United Kingdom Government, in accordance with its policy of removing restrictions on trade as far as practical, announced further measures designed to eliminate discrimination of dollar imports. In most Territories there has been almost complete liberalization, and control of imports from dollar and OEEC sources has been abolished except for a comparatively small number of items. As a consequence of these developments in the freeing of dollar imports, the Trade Liberalization Plan between the British Caribbean Territories and Canada and the United States, which has been in operation since 1951, will be wound up at the end of this

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year. This plan has served a most useful purpose in providing access to The West Indies for Canadian and American goods during the years of acute dollar shortage. But with the improvement in the Sterling Area's balance of payments the Plan is no longer necessary. The Governments concerned will consult together about licensing arrangements for the few products previously covered by the Plan which are not yet liberalised, and assurances have been given to the Governments of Canada and the U.S.A. that access generally to West Indian markets for Canadian and U.S. exports of these products will be on terms no less favourable than in the past.

I come now to a subject very much in the minds of all of us—Customs Union. The report of the Commission on Trade and Tariffs, commonly referred to as the Croft Report, was published last November. At the beginning of this year the Federal Government appointed a committee of Officials to consider the proposals contained in the report and to formulate and make recommendations to the Council of State on all matters dealt with therein. The committee was specifically directed to take into account such representations as might be received from Territorial Governments. At the same time it was suggested to Territorial Governments that they too might wish to set up similar committees to consider the report; and the opportunity was taken of stressing to them that the report was intended to be used, in the first place, as a basis for discussion and negotiation and that no arbitrary action of any kind was contemplated by the Federal Government.

On the basis of an interim report of its Committee of Officials, the Federal Gov-

ernment was able to formulate and put before the Inter-Governmental Conference on the Revision of the Federal Constitution concrete proposals for an early start on implementing the Croft Report. Unfortunately, it was not possible, for reasons which you know, for this to be considered at the time. However, from the Federal Government's actions you will see that there has been no dragging of feet in this matter. But it cannot be too strongly stressed that there are serious practical problems that have to be faced. We have done a considerable volume of work on many of the technical and administrative aspects of customs union; and more work of this nature is in progress. There are, besides, political problems which are not to be underrated. For it is hardly to be expected that a territory, large or small, which has for more than 300 years existed as a separate community organised for law, developing a corporate personality, outlook and attitude all its own, can readily or easily be fitted into a new social, political or economic mould. The process of integrating the West Indian economy, which it is the objective of customs union to achieve, must be carefully planned in all its phases.

The matter is being further considered by one of the standing committees set up by the Inter-Governmental Conference. I am of the opinion that from the deliberations of that committee will flow decisions on which it will be possible to take positive action with regard to the timing and implementation of customs union.

As a trading nation we are not only concerned with finding markets for our exports. We are also interested in how cheaply and easily goods can be shipped abroad or imported as compared with

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other countries with which we must compete. In other words, freight rates is a matter of vital importance. The trading community has long complained of the frequent and seemingly arbitrary increases in freight rates between the Caribbean Area and European and North American ports. Until last year, all attempts to provide for consultation between West Indian interests and the shipping conferences had been wholly unsuccessful. In November, 1958, however, my Ministry was able after lengthy correspondence and investigations to organise at Federal Headquarters a conference between representatives of the West India Trans-Atlantic Steamship Lines and territorial representatives and British Guiana. Not too much perhaps was to be expected from a conference which sought to persuade the shipping lines to reduce their freight rates to The West Indies. Nevertheless, it was possible to secure a qualified undertaking from the representatives of the Conference Lines to review the structure of freight rates to the area, with particular reference to the differential between the rates to Barbados, Trinidad and British Guiana, and those to the Leeward and Windward Islands. Arrangements for future negotiation and consultation were also concluded and the Federal Ministry of Trade and Industry is now recognised as the body through which the Conference Lines will consult West Indian interests whenever changes in freight rates are contemplated. As a result of the undertakings given, there has since been an overall modest reduction in the level of freight rates to the Leeward and Windward Islands. My Ministry will continue to watch keenly the movement of freight rates within the coming year, and will exert effort to ensure that the interests of

The West Indies in this matter are safeguarded.

Closely allied to trade and freight rates is the subject of industrial development. The Government's hand in the industrial development of the area up to now has understandably been indirect, and mainly concerned with the passing on of necessary information and the collation of material. Throughout the year we have dealt with many enquiries about the establishment of industries in The West Indies. Many of these have come from firms of international repute who were also interested in the timetable for the establishment of customs union in order that the economies of large-scale production and wider market could be adequately exploited. This, too, was one of the most insistent queries put to the Trade Mission during their visit to the U.K. in July. I wish to stress, however, that despite the limitations of the situation within which we work, no opportunity for encouragement of investors has been lost, and indeed many have been made.

It is still not uncommon to hear the occasional reference to the inconsistency of quality of some West Indian products. This reflects a state of affairs which can no longer be taken for granted. If our products are to continue to sell abroad—if, indeed, the growing range of West Indian manufactures are to be locally acceptable and hold their own against imported articles, adequate industrial, health and performance standards are obligatory. This is recognized by the Federal and territorial Governments as well as by the industrial and commercial sectors of the nation. Hon. Members will have read the report of the Technical Director of the British Standards Institution on a Stand-

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ards Organization for The West Indies, which was released in November last year. On the basis of its recommendations financial provision was made in the 1959 Estimates for the appointment of a Director of Standards and a nucleus staff for a Standards Division within the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

I would like to pay, Mr. Speaker, public tribute to the British Standards Institution which so generously made the services of their Technical Director available to this Government to investigate the standard needs of The West Indies and to assist us in recruiting a Director of Standards. I am advised that a suitable candidate for the post has now been found and that he is expected to assume duty shortly.

I now come to the highly important field of tourism. Last April, the Federal Government convened a conference on the Development of the Tourist Industry in The West Indies which was attended by representatives from the Federal Government and from the Territorial Governments. The Conference recommended, among other things :—

- (a) There should be greater machinery for coordination in the development of the industry in the Federation.
- (b) There should be greater collection and dissemination of appropriate information from the centre—i.e. the Federal Government.
- (c) There should be greater efficiency in the collection of statistics on travel and tourism in the Federation.
- (d) Though there should be no Federal interference in Territorial tourist promotion, yet possibilities of area-

wide promotion should receive expert investigation at Federal level.

- (e) There should be central collection, coordination and circulation of Territorial incentives for investment in tourist plant.

A Federal Advisory Committee on Tourism consisting of persons knowledgeable in the industry has been established with a view to securing planning at regional level. An official of the Federal Government is Chairman, with three persons representing the Federal Government and one each for the Territorial Governments. An officer of the Federal Ministry of Trade and Industry will also serve as Federal Liaison Officer for Tourism and will take care of the central collection and dissemination of information as well as serving the Advisory Committee as Secretary.

Consideration is being given to the problem of efficient collection of tourist statistics, and it is hoped to have a uniform system in operation in the near future. The question of tourist promotion will be put to the Federal Advisory Committee, while steps are being taken to implement the other recommendations of the Conference.

On 20th April at Bridgetown, Barbados, I had the honour to address the 1959 Convention of the Mid-west and South-west Chapters of the American Society of Travel Agents. The meeting was attended by about 150 travel agents and their wives, as well as by representatives of Tourist Boards in the other Territories of the Federation. The Convention was of importance to The West Indies for it afforded a large number of Americans directly engaged in the travel business an opportunity to get first hand information

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of tourist attractions and conditions in the area. The Barbados Tourist Board is to be congratulated for having invited that section ASTA, to hold its 1959 convention in Barbados, and other Territories of the Federation to be represented at the meeting and also the Federal Minister responsible for tourism to open the meeting.

At my invitation, the Honourable Abe Issa, Chairman of the Jamaica Tourist Board, and also President of the Caribbean Tourist Association, made a tour of most of the Federated Territories in the Eastern Caribbean with a view to advising me on the prospects for tourism in this area. Mr. Issa's report on the survey has been published and widely distributed in the United Kingdom, United States, Canada and The West Indies. This report should prove to be of a great value in regard to tourist development in the Eastern Caribbean and I should like to record my own as well as the Federal Government's gratitude to Mr. Issa.

Whenever possible we have given technical advice on tourist development to Territorial Governments, e.g. in planning the development of the Morne Rouge area in Grenada and the Reduit area in St. Lucia. As regards St. Lucia, in March I represented the Federal Government at official discussions between the Minister of Trade and Development of that Territory and some Canadian financiers on the question of a large scale project at Reduit. The area, as you know, was recently released by the United States Authorities.

I should like to conclude by mentioning a few of our trade promotion activities during the year.

First, in January, we had the pleasure of welcoming a Trade and Economic Mission of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce which visited Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad. The purpose of the Mission was to assist in developing closer relations between the business communities of Canada and The West Indies, and to enable members of the Mission to examine at first hand the problems involved in developing and expanding trade between the two countries. The mission held informal discussions with representatives of the Federal Government on the 22nd of January.

The West Indies gained great publicity when the area was chosen by the organisers of the 1959 Ideal Home Exhibition as the central and focal theme of this show, which has now become an annual event in the U.K. As in previous years, the West Indies had its own stand at the Exhibition and this was visited by a very large number of persons.

The Federal Ministry of Trade and Industry has compiled a West Indies Trade Directory containing information such as a summary of concessions available to investors under territorial incentive legislation, a list of manufacturers and exporters, existing controls, if any, on imports and exports, local trade fairs and exhibitions, existing banking facilities, and the boards, associations and other persons or bodies concerned with trade, industry and tourism in the Federation. It is hoped that this will soon be published. It is intended as only an interim measure to be followed by a more comprehensive directory some time in the future.

At the invitation of the Federation of British Industries, a West Indies Trade

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Mission headed by the Minister of Trade and Industry visited the United Kingdom in July. Most of the Territories and British Guiana were represented on the Mission. We met with goodwill everywhere, and there is no doubt that the Mission succeeded in stimulating commercial interest and establishing The West Indies as a fertile field for investment.

Mr. Speaker, a great deal has been said about what the Federal Government is doing to attract British Guiana into the Federation. It is unfortunate that this question recurs in this Parliament almost every time Parliament meets. The Federal Government believes that you cannot bulldoze anybody to do anything.

Mr. Hill : Except Jamaica.

Dr. LaCorbinière : We have no intention of bulldozing anyone into doing anything. British Guiana has attended every Federal Conference from 1947 onwards. British Guiana decided of her own free will that she will not enter Federation at this time. Nevertheless, the Federal Government has continued to consider British Guiana as a friendly neighbour. We continue in all regional associations with British Guiana. We have associations with British Guiana in pre-Federal and in new regional schemes and new regional undertakings that have been formed since the Federation. We have included British Guiana in a number of such associations—the Regional Council of Agriculture includes British Guiana; the Regional Medical Council includes British Guiana. It is a good thing and we know that we have done all we possibly can to share regional schemes with British Guiana—of course she contributes to some of them, for in-

stance The University College of the West Indies.

The Council of Senior Medical Officers included British Guiana. They exchange information. The Standing Medical Research Council is shared by British Guiana. The Nursing Council is shared by British Guiana. The Federal Chest Physician is about to visit British Guiana, I understand. At no time do we receive a request from British Guiana for advisory services that we do not hasten to place them at their disposal. Our Marketing Adviser and our Agricultural Economist have both visited British Guiana. There is nothing of a regional character that we do that we keep British Guiana out of or at least don't invite her to participate. British Guiana was with the Federal Government on the Trade Mission. Whenever and wherever opportunity presents itself to show the goodwill and neighbourly disposition of the Federal Government to British Guiana we take it immediately.

Mr. Hill : We welcome this information.

6.30 p.m. : Sitting suspended.

8.05 p.m. : Sitting resumed.

Dr. LaCorbinière : Mr. Speaker, I first wish to apologise for being a few moments late. I can assure you, Sir, that it was not intended as any disrespect to this hon. House.

When we took the adjournment earlier on, Mr. Speaker, I had just completed a very brief review of some of the activities of the Federal Government, particularly with regard to Trade and Industry and allied subjects. I should now move on to

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one or two general points made in the course of the Debate on the Budget.

Now, Mr. Speaker, reference was repeatedly made by my good Friend, the hon. Member for Grenada, in fact by both the Senior and Junior Members for Grenada, to finances of the Labour Party—

Mr. Hill: Which Labour Party?

Dr. LaCorbiniere: An allegation was made that the money provided by the British Labour Party to The West Indies Federal Labour Party had been utilised in supporting election campaigns for Party Members in Dominica. As Treasurer of The West Indies Federal Labour Party, I wish to say that this statement is not correct. I wish to say that the team that went to Dominica was sent by the St. Lucia Labour Party who paid all their expenses. I want to make it quite clear that The West Indies Federal Labour Party did not pay the expenses of the team from St. Lucia that went to Dominica during the Federal elections, and that I am sure that no monies have been mis-used, and even if the money had been spent it would not have been mis-used because it is the executive of The West Indies Federal Labour Party, and that executive alone, that can decide at any time how any monies should be used. So that I do not see any reason why this point should arise in a Debate such as this.

So I don't see why all this should arise in this debate. It only leaves me to conclude that the hon. Member is a bit obsessed with money, particularly as he has referred to his not having received sufficient shares of the loot and booty... [*Laughter*]... when

referring to the finances of the Federal Government.

During the course of the debate we heard a number of suggestions from Opposition Members, even from the Members from Jamaica, concerning what the Federal Government should do. I have dealt in my speech with some of the things, showing that in fact we had done those constructive things within the constitutional responsibility of the Federal Government. A number of speakers have hinted that Ministers and Members on the Government benches always refer to their responsibility within the framework of the Constitution. That is very important, because when I heard an hon. Member in this House saying "Constitution what? You can do this and you can do that", I said to myself: perish the thought and the day that this hon. House would reject the idea of constitutional responsibility and the constitutional approach to functions of the Federal Government. If some of the things that have been recommended and suggested had been attempted at all without specific invitation from Unit Territories so to do we would, I assure this hon. House, engage the attention of the Federal Supreme Court for many, many months.

Mr. Hill: Hypothetical!

Dr. LaCorbiniere: Mr. Speaker, I am not speaking from a hypothetical point of view. I have made it my duty, long before I thought of coming for Federal honours, because of my interest in Federation, to study very closely what has happened in many of the Federations, and I wish that my hon. Friends would read a book called "The History of Nine Men" (Federal Supreme Court of the United

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States) and they would know the battles royal that have taken place between State Governments and the Federal Government in the last 200 years and then they would begin to understand what is meant by a constitutional appreciation of the responsibility of a central Federal Government. Only then would they appreciate that. And I know that I am standing on very firm constitutional ground when I reject categorically any suggestion that the Federal Government should do things that are unconstitutional.

Mr. Hill: Who suggested any such thing?

Mr. Richards: You did.

Dr. LaCorbinière: Mr. Speaker, if my hon. and very close Friend the Member for Surrey insists on going to sleep every time a Member says something wrong it isn't my fault. It is on record that the Member for Grenada said "constitution what". I have not accused him (Mr. Hill) of it. I made it quite clear that a number of suggestions that were impracticable were made by the Opposition and I specifically pin-pointed the hon. Member for Grenada for saying "constitution what".

Dr. Radix: On a point of correction, Mr. Speaker. When I said "constitution what", I only meant that the Constitution had nothing to do with the issue that we were discussing.

Dr. LaCorbinière: Mr. Speaker, I recall very vividly the hon. Member for Grenada saying that the subject he was discussing was neither on the Concurrent nor the Exclusive List. In my understanding such residual matters remain the complete responsibility of the Unit Territories.

Therefore, when he says "constitution what" it means that in full support of the conception that he had in his mind at the time, that because it was not on the Concurrent or Exclusive List that the Federal Government should step in and do whatever they wanted to do. I listened very carefully.

Dr. Radix: On a point of correction, Sir, I wish to make this correction at this time because I said that the matter was not on the Concurrent nor the Exclusive List — the question of health was not on the Lists — and as silviculture was not either and they were embarking on silviculture if they could have ignored the Constitution on one issue they could have ignored the Constitution on the other. I make that clear so that the hon. Minister who seems to be confusing himself will not continue to confuse himself.

Dr. LaCorbinière: Mr. Speaker, when I quoted the hon. Member I had not reached the point where the hon. Member for Grenada had made the reference of today. Today was not the day when he said "constitution what". He did not say that today. I will come later on to what he said today. I was referring to his previous speech and I accept the correction that he did not say "Concurrent or Exclusive List", he said "Exclusive or Conclusive List". However, I am not aware of those lists myself. I accept that correction. But Mr. Speaker, the point at issue is this: that the suggestion made at that time yesterday was the question of whether a comprehensive health scheme could be implemented by the Federal Government. Today in his address the hon. Member for Grenada referred to silviculture but forgetting that silviculture is an arm of

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agriculture. Nobody has queried the question of an advisory medical service at all. We were discussing a comprehensive health scheme for the area and it is on that point that previous speakers took him to task, and I would say that I was only referring to the point at which he said "constitution what". He didn't say that today, and it was on that point that I was challenging him, that it was not good practice for us to come along and say that we can completely ignore the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker: I don't think you are right in saying that the Motion asked anybody to ignore the Constitution. The hon. Member's Motion was for this House to express an opinion on whether it thought it desirable that there should be such a scheme. It didn't say that the Federal Government should put the scheme into execution.

Dr. LaCorbiniere: Mr. Speaker, I have not mentioned the word Resolution or Motion. I was discussing fully and comprehensively the text of the hon. Member's Speech not the Resolution. It was in the text of his speech that he made the reference and it is the text of the speech I am criticising because in it he gave the impression that this could be done by the Federal Government. He further said the Federal Government was wasting money in every direction and could do the things he said they should do. This is an expression which had been used by other Members of this hon. House.

Members referred to the Constitution but we must remember at all times that the financial provision of the Constitution was made as a declared policy of the Standing Federation Committee and in the light of

what that Committee thought at that time was the responsibility of the Federal Government. So, when Members suggest matters far and away beyond the responsibility of the Federal Government, I would have to draw to their attention the fact that these matters are first outside of the Constitutional responsibility of the Federal Government and might in fact if pursued end up in the Federal Supreme Court.

Mr. Hill: Nonsense.

Dr. LaCorbiniere: The history of the United States tells us different.

We must recognize, and it has been rightly pointed out, that if hon. Members feel that the Federal Government must extend itself into other fields, then they must support the amendments to the Constitution that will give it power so to do and the financial means to support that power.

So, Mr. Speaker, having cleared that other point, I wish to say that I shall not labour the House very much longer but, I hope after hearing the various Ministers, the House is satisfied that a great deal has been done and a great deal is being done by the Federal Government.

Mr. Hill: Such as flying all about?

Dr. LaCorbiniere: But, Sir, I am not so naive as to suggest that there are not difficulties ahead. We know that we carry forward into the new year of 1960 many a question still unanswered and many a problem still unresolved but we face the future with confident hope that we shall succeed in our march for solutions to the most intractable of these problems.

Mr. Gibbs: Mr. Speaker, I have been sitting here quietly listening to the various

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speeches. Some of them were very digestible, others very indigestible and a few so indigestible that I really could not enjoy a cup of tea offered to me this afternoon. I shall ask Dr. Radix to prescribe something for me that will put my stomach in a better mood for tomorrow.

I shall try, Mr. Speaker, in my modest way to say something which I feel I should say in respect of the able way that the Minister of Finance presented the Budget to this House. Many of us have no knowledge whatever of presenting or preparing a Budget even for an association. I have, in my humble way, been a Minister of Communications and Works for a short period in the local Legislature of Grenada.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gibbs: I can tell you the onerous duty which devolves upon the Ministers in presenting a Budget, especially with the very limited amount of money allocated to the various services under their control. That being so, I think the Minister of Finance should be highly commended because the finances at his disposal have been dished out so very nicely that I think any Member coming here to offer destructive criticisms should not in conscience be here at all.

Mr. Joseph: You mean Radix?

Mr. Gibbs: I do not believe that we are considering Federation as seriously as we should. This Federation, in my view, is like a child just 20 months old. It is therefore unreasonable for any reasonable being to believe that that child, within that age, could be so developed as to be able to deal with any matter in its entirety.

I think that in spite of the destructive criticisms I have been hearing, we should all put our resources together and work for the good of the Federation.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gibbs: In my years, Mr. Speaker, I can remember many, many years ago

Hon. Members: How many?

Mr. Gibbs: A lot. We had some able men who were the architects of Federation in the persons of Donovan, Marryshow and Renwick of Grenada; Cipriani of Trinidad; and Rawle of Jamaica — all architects of the Federation

Mr. Joseph: What about the Prime Minister?

8.30 p.m.

Mr. Gibbs: They have given us the blue print and left behind other persons to lay the foundation like Sir Alexander Bustamante, Rojas, Manley, Gairy

Hon. Members (Opposition Benches): Gairy?

Mr. Gibbs: Gairy was in Jamaica. He played a small part.

These men laid the foundation. Those I mentioned at first were the architects; those I have just mentioned laid the foundation, and we are the ones entrusted to put the superstructure. What structure are we laying down? From what I have seen we are only trying to build and to break down.

Hon. Member: Shame, Radix!

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Mr. Gibbs: Federation is consideration “No. 1” in our vital calculations. We are actually pooling our resources, one for all and all for one. If we should do this we could look forward to the fact that generations yet unborn would praise us for the structure well laid down for them.

Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief. I have always been brief; what I have to say I always say in a nutshell.

The Member for Surrey is a very able speaker, but alas! in my opinion, the essence of his speeches has always been lost by too many repetitions.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gibbs: He repeats himself so often that the essence of his speech is actually lost.

The hon. Member for Portland, I think, tried to make a protest against certain remarks, whether favourable or unfavourable, that were alleged to have been made by the Prime Minister. But I will not try to defend the Prime Minister as I know that he is capable of defending himself. I will leave the matter for him to handle as I know he is able to do so very efficiently.

Let us all be up and doing; let us see to it that every day we come here something is attempted and something is done. This should be our motto. This should be the means whereby we can do something for the Federation.

Mr. Speaker, my last word. I am putting this as a test. I would like the Federation to prove itself, to prove its worth and that in the future certain allocations—not at this time, because we are not able to do that; but in the future when the

Federation is on its legs—would be earmarked for the development of the smaller Territories. Furthermore, when the time comes the Federal Ministers should visit the Territories, find out what is most necessary and so institute development schemes, apart from those which the Territories themselves are undertaking. When that development comes about the names of certain Members here will be earmarked for certain projects. In Grenada, for instance, there will be a “Ward Street”. There will be houses built in villages and probably there will be a Park and that will be “Ward Park”. Generations yet unborn will know that there was a person called Ward. Children will ask the meaning of the word “Ward” and those in the know will be able to tell of the work that had been done for the Federation.

I think, Mr. Speaker, I have said enough. My last word is—if I am wrong, correct me. I remember the name of Charles the Second. When Charles the Second performed some act it was said—

“Vive, vive le roi Charles Second.

Vive, vive le Gouvernement de la Federation.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Wakeland.

Mr. Wakeland (Cornwall, Jamaica): Mr. Speaker, I also join in congratulating the hon. Minister of Finance for the scholarly manner in which he presented the Budget. It was regrettable, however, to learn that the Federal Government was not enjoying the best of health. It is probably due to malnutrition, quite likely financial and economic malnutrition brought about by the very meagre maintenance order made by the supposed father of the Federation who has now

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threatened to secede if he be called upon to increase his financial contribution to the Federation.

Mr. Bradshaw: The Federation is not illegitimate.

Mr. Wakeland: I said the supposed father.

Mr. Speaker, legs were mentioned by the last speaker who said that the Federal Government had started on some kind of legs. I feel it started on the wrong leg. Whether it was suffering from corns or bunions or arthritis or pain is not quite clear; but it seems at least to have wandered in the forest or stumbled in a whirlpool. Whether it was armed with a life-jacket I am not so certain. But fortunately, it was extricated, and I suppose by artificial respiration it will survive.

Mr. Speaker, Federation was not put on the market in the proper way. The packaging was bad. Its salesmen were inefficient. The label was suspicious. The word suspicious was mentioned several times in the debate. When I say the "salesmen", I include every Member of this hon. House. As I observe, it is only a few Members in this hon. House and the Governor-General who are really and truly selling Federation.

It is time that we in this Federal Parliament started booking our passages from the moon and come down to earth and do something practical. It will be our only means of selling Federation in the true sense of the word.

Mr. Speaker, we are bound with a patchwork Federation. If you look at a

map of the Caribbean you can come to no other conclusion. With the ten islands scattered all over the Caribbean you can come to no other conclusion but that this description is correct. We all know what a patchwork is. It is comprised of different fabrics, of different sizes, of different textures and of different materials altogether. We in The West Indies are typical with our different races and different sizes of islands coming together to form one patchwork.

Patchworks can be very useful. We know a patchwork is a very useful article if it is handled in the proper manner and the best care is taken of it. It can be beautiful too. I would say those people who actually termed us a patchwork Federation did not really know what they were saying. I agree with that definition.

All over The West Indies, where I have travelled in the past, and in my own constituency, which comprises 5 parishes with an area nearly as large as Trinidad and Tobago combined, and with a population about the same, as I go around trying to sell Federation to the masses, these questions are put to me most forcibly: What is the Federal Government doing? What about the Federal Capital? What benefits are we going to get out of Federation? It is time enough that we see results. We are getting fed-up of it. We are getting suspicious because we are not getting anything out of it.

Mr. Speaker, again I draw an illustration. Years ago, right in the city of Kingston, I listened to an eminent

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missionary who in the course of an address mentioned through illustration that when he left The West Indies and went to Africa he took some pumpkin seeds with him and planted them in his garden. When they grew the whole vicinity of his mission came to him and condemned him for sowing an evil weed among them and claimed it would destroy them. They would not attend his church. Fortunately, that garden was well manured, and the pumpkin did not take very long to bear fruit. But it was only then he could convince them it was not an evil weed. It is only when this Federal Government bears fruit which the masses can see and enjoy will they be convinced it has not come to destroy them.

In Jamaica it is being said that my leader is anti-Federation. I can remember the Conference in Montego Bay in 1947. I sat and listened to my leader's opinion and he has not changed his opinion up to today. His argument was that Federation was a good thing but a poor nation must have money; an adequate amount to start with, otherwise we would not be able to succeed. He mentioned to the masses that Federation was something good. He mentioned the sum of £50,000,000. It was mentioned by one of the delegates that £100,000,000 would be needed. As the Premier of Trinidad says, you need about £250,000,000. Convert that to dollars if you like.

It is left for this Federal Government to show its merit and convince the people of the world that we are serious and mean to do something. You need foresight. We have a capital site in The West Indies and throughout the length and breadth

of the world we are recognised as a nation today. If we put a good case to the World Bank, a good proposition, as soon as they realise that we want to build a capital it will be favourably considered.

Mr. Bradshaw: Who told you that?

Mr. Wakeland: Nobody. I never discussed it with anybody. These are my views. I am entitled to have my views.

8.50 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, during the Debate this afternoon, one hon. Member on the Government side—I believe it was the Member from Montserrat—said that we on this side of the House were babies. We admit that we might be babies in certain respects but I would like to remind him of this quotation: "Whatever is hidden from the wise and prudent is revealed to babies and sucklings."

Hon. Members (Government Benches): Ah hah! Now we know!

Mr. Wakeland: I can go on for the balance of the night. I go now to the Minister of Natural Resources and Agriculture. He informs us that the function of his Ministry is to provide technical assistance. Right in Jamaica the small farmers were encouraged to go in for poultry rearing on a large scale without the necessary scientific guidance. They did so at a tremendous loss. If the Minister wishes to see me *in camera* I would be glad to tell him what is happening there. For instance, they have produced so many eggs that a certain time of the year eggs were piled up in cold storage—about 280,000, and there was no market to be found for them. They were sold at a loss to the consumer.

Mr. Bradshaw: The consumer's loss?

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Mr. Wakeland: I will correct that, Sir. To the producers, not the consumers. I would not attempt to touch the subject of prime beef, because you could always christen any beef and call it prime beef; and while the majority of the small farmers have got to sell beef in controlled markets the favoured few can sell prime beef on any market, and they are getting high prices for it.

Mr. Rose: They should not entertain those capitalists in that country.

Mr. Wakeland: They are not only local capitalists but also foreign capitalists. There was once a time when throughout The West Indies we were being plagued by the word "absenteeism", but I say now that in the developed areas you have more "absenteeism" than you had in those days. But let us not harp on that; let us go back to what I was saying.

The hon. Minister of Trade and Industry gave a comprehensive review of matters under his Portfolio, but it was unfortunate that although he mentioned bananas and other things which I would not touch upon—because right now there is a Commission of Inquiry working on the sugar industry and the banana industry in Jamaica, and if they were in such a favourable position we would not have had that Commission of Inquiry. So I would not say anything about those industries. But the citrus industry needs going into. Most of us in The West Indies would remember that the citrus delegation went to England and secured a contract with a Price Support Scheme for The West Indies. Although that scheme was highly commended by our leader at the time as one of the finest

marketing arrangements ever made, or could ever be made, that Price Support Scheme could only be understood by a Philadelphian lawyer.

Mr. Bradshaw: What sort of animal is that?

Mr. Wakeland: As I was saying, Mr. Speaker, that scheme provided for a minimum price, but although at the time citrus growers were getting a bonus for their fruits, the bonus disappeared and we were called upon to contribute and assess our citrus—the citrus of The West Indies. The prices did not actually go below that minimum price, and when the agreement expired, as you were told by the hon. Minister of Trade and Industry, the farmers had contributed as much as £90,000 to that scheme; and although they were producing citrus at a cost greater than the price they were getting for it, they never got any subsistence from that scheme, and £90,000 is still in the coffers of the British Government.

Hon. Member: We have recent information.

Mr. Wakeland: I am glad to hear that he has recent information. That shows that I know what I am talking about. I am happy to know that he will use his good office to see that the Citrus Growers' Association and the growers themselves benefit from that money that was put into the coffers of the British Government.

In the meantime a lot of citrus farmers are going out of business. They cannot afford to carry on. And let me hope, Mr. Speaker, that this Government would not sacrifice agriculture on the altar of trade and industry and tourism. All these in-

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dustries go hand in hand; they are interdependent; but let me say, Mr. Speaker, that agriculture is the backbone of The West Indies.

Honey, honey! But honey! I heard one hon. Member trying to interrupt during the Minister of Trade and Industry's speech. He was trying to get him to say something about honey. Not a thing was said about honey by the Minister of Trade and Industry. I don't know if the Minister doesn't like honey; he must be one of the few people in the world who don't like it. He talked about pimento. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Trade and Industry is trying to pull me out. Also in the coffers of our Unit Government are over a million and a half pounds—I am not talking in dollars, Jamaica is pounds—from the farmers who sell pimento.

I hate to mention the word "ginger", because it has become a sore point in Jamaica. There is nothing in the world in agriculture that fluctuates in price like ginger. The right word for it is "fluid". It is too fluid.

Mr. Speaker, I am not going to keep this House much longer. I was very glad that the Minister of Trade and Industry mentioned the good work that the Chairman of the Tourist Board in Jamaica, the Hon. Abe Issa, did for the Federal Government. I join in congratulating him for the excellent work he has done on a most comprehensive report—one of the best reports that could have been presented to a Government. I heard from the lips of one honest hon. Member on the Government side, during the course of this debate, that the Federal Government had

no plans. I would suggest that if the Federal Government decides to prepare a plan then the report from the Chairman of the Tourist Board would form valuable material in the preparation of that plan.

Mr. Speaker, I remember the hon. Minister of Finance saying that the Federal Government is now engaged in climbing to the top of a peak and that it intends to plunge over. May the guardian angels guide its feet and prevent it from dashing its feet against any stones.

9.05 p.m.

ST. VINCENT FIRE DISASTER

Motion moved, and Question proposed:
"That this House do not adjourn"

—[*Mr. Bradshaw*]

Mr. L. J. Adams (St. Vincent): Mr. Speaker, as a result of a fire that took place in the Unit Territory of St. Vincent on Wednesday, 11th November, 1959, I would like to ask the Federal Government to take immediate steps to give some financial assistance to the Government of that Territory, as a result of the loss sustained. On that eventful evening, the St. Vincent Cotton Ginnery was destroyed by fire

Mr. Bradshaw: Who set the fire?

Mr. L. J. Adams: and for the information of this hon. House I would like to say that a fair percentage of our economy was obtained from that business. Apart from the ginning of the Sea Island Cotton, we produced at the Government Cotton Ginnery a certain amount of coconut oil, animal food and other oils from the cotton seed; but at this time it does

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seem to me that it would be quite fitting, quite apart from financial aid for the rebuilding of the Government Cotton Ginners, for steps to be taken to obtain some assistance for the Government of St. Vincent so as to have its Sea Island Cotton ginned in one of the other Territories in the Leeward Islands. I understand that in Montserrat the job can be performed, and perhaps it would be to the interest of The West Indies as a whole, apart from St. Vincent as a Unit, that the Federal Government should give yeoman assistance to that Territory (St. Vincent) by making available their two ships, or other boats, to transport the cotton from St. Vincent to Montserrat. All this, apart from the other finances that would be necessary in the production of West Indian Sea Island Cotton.

Mr. Speaker, I need not impress this hon. House that we in St. Vincent are now at a loss, because, as I said a while ago, a big percentage of our revenue was obtained from that business.

Mr. Cato: Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to be in the position to associate myself with the appeal made by my Colleague from St. Vincent. I am also happy to be able to assure him that certain negotiations are already in process, and a few days ago I was in a position to communicate with the Administrator of St. Vincent on one aspect of the problem which confronts us in St. Vincent. Fortunately for us, owing to the peculiar position of the Cotton Industry, the crop this year is not a very large one and we have been given the assurance by Colleagues on this side of the House that

our sister Territories of Antigua and Montserrat would be very happy to cooperate in relieving the situation in so far as the crop is concerned. There is the additional problem, as has been mentioned by my Colleague, of the immediate replacement of machinery and equipment, and here I know that the Minister of Finance has the matter under active consideration and is awaiting further approaches from the St. Vincent Government.

In the meantime, of course, we have the problem that the people of St. Vincent are going to be put to certain hardships by being deprived of their oil and of certain animal fats. In this respect, I think that the sister Territory of Trinidad would be able to give some assistance; indeed, I think they have already begun to do so and some relief is expected from that quarter.

I feel very happy that I would be able to give the people of St. Vincent and the St. Vincent Grenadines who have been affected by this disaster, the assurance that the Federal Government would do everything in its power to alleviate the suffering which has been caused by this disaster.

Mr. Bradshaw rose—

Mr. Hill: Mr. Speaker, the Opposition wishes to associate itself with the question raised by the two Members for St. Vincent. I wish the Prime Minister would not use such language in the House.

The Prime Minister: The House cannot hear me.

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Mr. Hill: I cannot help hearing it. I am not deaf.

There can be no question about it that, in a brittle economy such as St. Vincent's, the destruction of an industry which forms such a vital part of the economy must leave an almost indelible scar on the country. We are more than shocked, Mr. Speaker, that in spite of the assurances given, very bold assurances, by the Junior Member for St. Vincent — that the Federal Government will do all in its power to come to the assistance of the Government and people of St. Vincent — we have yet to see one Minister rise in his place in this House and say one word that would corroborate the assurances purported to be given to the Junior Member for St. Vincent.

I am not one of those who believe, Mr. Speaker, that the Federal Government can right away devise some means. Certainly we know the Federal Government and its calibre and would be pleasantly surprised if at a moment's notice—[*Interruptions*].

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members should not speak so loud as to interrupt a speaker.

Mr. Hill: We have been in sufficiently close association with the Federal Government for the last two years to know that they could not be expected at a moment's notice to devise some means of helping the St. Vincent Government. At least, we had hoped that the Prime Minister, whose love for small islands transcends everything including Barbados, would have given the assurance to this House that the matter would be

considered sympathetically. Today, when the question of familiarisation tours came up, the Prime Minister assured this House that he knew certain Territories quite as well as he knows Barbados. I am sure that he knows St. Vincent sufficiently to know that any help would be acceptable, that that help is needed and will be greatly appreciated. I hope that the assurance so glibly, so speedily and so ineffectively given by the Junior Member for St. Vincent will not fall on deaf ears but will receive the consideration for which the Opposition, and indeed, I feel, all Members of the House, except the Members of the Council-of-State, stand solidly behind St. Vincent.

Mr. Cargill: Mr. Speaker, as none of the Ministers on the Government Benches have found the time to come to their feet, I would like to ask a question:

I understand that the Governor-General sent a message, either a cable or message of some kind, to St. Vincent after the fire, promising all the help that was within the Federal Government's power to give. I would like to ask the hon. Minister concerned whether that is true. If it is, and indeed the message was sent, on what authority, and after what consultations such a message was sent; and if it was sent, why was such a message sent?

The Prime Minister: We have a Motion for adjournment and you asking questions.

Hon. Members: Answer!

The Prime Minister: You are going to force me to answer? How old do you think I am?

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Mr. W. B. Williams : Mr. Speaker, it is customary in times of distress—I have got to mention Jamaica—the Government there would make it its duty to go to the aid of the suffering people.

My reason for standing to support the Members from St. Vincent is that that Colony is grant-aided.

Hon. Member : We have no Colonies now !

Mr. W. B. Williams : All right. I am not interested in that; I am interested in aid. I think it is the obligation of this Government to go to the assistance of the people whose economy rests on agricultural resources. I think they have already been suffering greatly in that Territory because of the bad market for Sea Island Cotton. Aid is especially required as this is the month of December when everybody likes to enjoy a Christmas and reconcile with their families over the year.

I strongly support the Members and hope that Ministers on the Ministerial Bench will give consideration to the people of that island who have worked so hard in building up their Territory, because in this very House we have been told that the farmers of St. Vincent are second to none in the Leeward and Windward Islands. I would implore the Ministers of this Government to do everything humanly possible to assist these people in the dark hours that lie ahead.

I think that Members on both sides of the House as well as Members on the Government Benches—I think the Ministers should do something to help the people of that island—expect to hear of

something being done before we leave here.

Mr. Bousquet : I beg to move that the question be now put.

Mr. Afflick (Portland, Jamaica) : Mr. Speaker, this hon. House is full of surprises

Mr. Speaker : There is no Motion before the House except the Motion for the adjournment. On that Motion a matter has been proposed—a Member has brought forward a matter for discussion. If I felt that matter had been sufficiently discussed, I would put the Motion. I don't think it has been sufficiently discussed.

Mr. Afflick : Mr. Speaker, I am very surprised to see that a certain amount of disaster has occurred in a small Unit of the Federation. Although this Motion has been brought by a Member of the Opposition—one of the Members for St. Vincent—seconded by the other Member for St. Vincent, and it is stated here that the Governor-General is supposed to have sent a message of sympathy, we find Members of the Government sitting in callous contemplation, disregarding the people of the Unit who are in need of early and definite assistance.

I am supporting the plea. I would ask the Ministers to soften their hard hearts—if they have any—and give financial consideration, which I gather is absolutely necessary at this stage—give some sympathy to the whole Unit, to the farmers of these small Units. If not, we might as well say: "Exit the Federation now".

Mr. Speaker : There seems to be some misunderstanding on this question

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and I think it would be proper to read Rule 10, subsection (2):

“Upon any Motion that this House do now adjourn a debate may take place, in which any matter for which the Council-of-State is responsible may be raised by any Member who has obtained the right to raise a matter on the Motion for the adjournment of the House that day. If time permits the Speaker may allow any other Member, who has given him prior notice of his wish so to do, to speak on the subject raised, and the Minister who is responsible for the matter raised shall reply. Thereafter, if time permits, any other Member who has obtained the right may similarly raise a matter subject to the same conditions. In any such debate any Minister may speak more than once in reply to Members raising matters.”

Mr. Sinanan : Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that I have had to rise in the course of this discussion. I am particularly grateful to you for the reference to the Rule, because that is precisely what I was about to point out to my hon. Friend, the Deputy Prime Minister. A moment ago, I called out to him and said that this seemed to be a matter of paramount importance and surely the Minister responsible must make some statement to this House. It may be that he is not in possession of all the facts to state whether or not the position has been exaggerated. It may be that the Federal Government is about to do something in order to ameliorate the condition.

As I understand the procedure of this House — and I believe I understand it — when a Member, particularly one in the Federal Government, has pointed out a problem in a particular Unit, it is expected that the Minister concerned would sympathise and would get up and make some expression even if he has to speak in an unknown language. The Ministers cannot just sit rigidly in their seats and ignore completely the appeal of the Member of the Opposition and a Member who is a supporter of the Government.

I know absolutely nothing about the matter but my hon. Friend on my left has explained to me that there was a very big fire which has destroyed buildings and machines worth quite a sum of money. That is a matter that must receive the attention of the Federal Government even if the Government say that they are in collaboration with other Governments. I do not think that such an appeal should go unanswered and that the rule should be flagrantly ignored. I believe that the word “shall” mentioned in the particular Standing Order must mean “must”.

Mr. Gibbs *rose*—

Mr. Speaker : I would like to point out one thing. I heard a remark from the floor to the effect that it is not a matter which concerns the Federal Government. But certainly out of courtesy to the House the Prime Minister or the Minister of Finance could get up and say something. Some people don't seem to think that this House should be treated with respect.

The Prime Minister : I knew nothing about this until two minutes ago. I did not know anything until this was put

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[THE PRIME MINISTER]

into my hand, say, five minutes ago, ten minutes ago.

Mr. Sinanan: Three days' notice was given.

The Prime Minister: I am not going to speak on behalf of the Council-of-State when I was not here. Sit down and learn the alphabet because some hon. Members have come here to do that.

Mr. Bryan: I am tempted to ask your indulgence for a few moments, Mr. Speaker. The reputation of this entire House is at stake. A bad position has been aggravated by this very puerile remark coming from the Prime Minister at this time.

What are the facts before this hon. House? Two Members from a particular Unit Territory have put formally to the House that there is a stark emergency facing the economy of their country. The House has expressed its sympathy with the matter. The Standing Orders call upon Government to produce a Minister to make some sort of statement to the House on the situation.

If we were to depart from the precincts of this House tonight without having had a statement from the Government on the precarious position of the people of St. Vincent, we would have put the Federation in a blundering bit of trouble.

It is not the reputation of the Government which is at stake. It is the reputation of the House. It is not a question of whether the Prime Minister had time to be informed or of whether he knew. The Government had knowledge and they should have informed the Prime Minister, even while the debate before the House

was going on, if necessary. If they do not say something about this matter, they would not have a face to put before the people of The West Indies when the time comes. They would be as dead as nails to the people of the country this time.

The House called upon them to make a statement; to say something. Mr. Speaker has been kind enough to give them latitude by directing that someone be called upon to do this. Instead, the Prime Minister says he wants notice.

If we, as a House, do not get an answer tonight, we would be again spreading the seeds of suspicion high and wide over the Territories of The West Indies, by this blithering idiotic pronouncement from the other side. It is a matter for your consideration whether you will or will not make an effort to assist. If you are not going to assist, say so and be done with it. Perhaps you have already committed yourself to not giving help, but in that case you will be failing in the elementary responsibility of any Government worth its salt. We call for a statement.

Mr. Gibbs: Mr. Speaker, I notice that on several occasions, when standing to speak, I am asked to take my seat. I do not think that is quite fair to me.

Mr. Bradshaw: Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government has had no application made to it for financial assistance by the Government of St. Vincent. As soon as an approach is made the Federal Government will give whatever approach is made the consideration which it is able to give.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 9.30 p.m.