

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1971 - 76

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 13th July, 1976.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.10 o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour A. DaC. EDWARDS, (Deputy Speaker); Hon. C. E. TALMA, C.B.E., (Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the House); Mr. R. ST. C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W.R. LOWE, J.P., (Chairman of Committees); Mr. W.C.B. HINDS; Mr. L.S. CRAIG; Mr. J. B. SPRINGER; Mr. C.L. BOLDEN, LL.B; Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, O.B.E; Hon. F. G. SMITH, Q.C., S.C., B.A., (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport); Hon. P. G. MORGAN, C.B.E., (Minister of Tourism, Information and Public Relations); Hon. P. M. GREAVES, B.A., (Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance); Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, (Minister of Communications and Works); Hon. A. MORRISON, (Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology); Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A. M.A.(Econ.), (Minister of Health and Welfare); Mr. E. E. GREAVES, B.A., Ed.M; Mr. D.A. C. SIMMONS, LL.M., (Lon.); and Miss B.A. MILLER.

Prayers were read.

THE RAISING OF THE MATTER OF THE BREACH OF PRIVILEGE RE PUBLICA- TION OF UNPUBLISHED DEBATE IN THE ADVOCATE-NEWS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, before the business of the House is proceeded with. I should like to draw your attention to a breach of Privilege of this House by virtue of an article appearing in today's issue of the Advocate-News under the caption "Allegations made not correct," and it is signed by J. M. G. M. Adams who is the Hon. Leader of the Opposition in this

Chamber. Now this appears to be a breach of the privileges of the House and I am asking Your Honour for leave to proceed with this breach in the manner set out in Standing Order No.76 and that it be dealt with by Your leave and under Your direction. I am asking for leave, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leave is so granted.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The position, Sir, is simply this; that before any article or any report of the Sittings of the House can appear in a public newspaper on a verbatim basis as such, the debate must first have appeared in Hansard and unless that is done a breach of the Privileges of the House has been committed, unless it is done with the approval of the Speaker. I think there was a rule to that effect, but, with the approval of the Speaker it may be possible to have a copy of a debate; but as far as issuing it and publishing it in a public newspaper is concerned, that is, a direct speech as such, and for the hon. member learned as he is in his learned profession and having been in here for some time, to create a breach of that nature — no one can say that he does not know any better. This was deliberately done, Sir.

This is in direct contravention of Your Honour's ruling here on the last occasion when we met here last Tuesday — and other things which were said and subsequent events which never took place.

For this article to appear "Allegations made not correct" and for the Advocate-News to have the audacity to bring it out in the manner which they have done — bearing in mind that many times hon. members handle matters in here, including myself as Leader of the House, and you only hear of the matter having been passed but nobody presented it, nobody dealt with it, it was simply passed; but that cannot stop me if I wanted a seat or if I had to run for a seat. They could write whatever they want to write, but I

just want to show that when for instance here in the last debate dealing with the part-time officers, I dealt with that part-time officers revision of salaries; I dealt with that in here and only the speeches of the trade union leaders and the Leader of the Opposition were reported. They never even said what I said, who presented it or what was said, and eventually I managed to convince even the hon. member for St. Michael North East, the Leader of the UPP to abstain. That shows....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the hon. member would give way. I would ask the hon. member just to make out a case in respect of the breach of privilege.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: What I am doing, Sir, is, I am quoting a case where the same Advocate-News refrained from publishing anything at all, and gave a one-sided and biased report on important matters, but this matter, important as it is, they bring it out and they gave everything under it but when the salary revision matter which I handled was being debated, no mention was made as to who presented it, who dealt with what, and so. That is what I am saying. As far as the Leader of the Opposition is concerned, they bring it out chapter and verse, word for word, as far as I know from my twenty-nine years in here it is a breach of the privilege of the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is my opinion that a *prima facie* case has been made out as to this matter being a breach of privilege and I would entertain a motion that the matter be referred to the Committee of Privileges.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move, Sir, that this matter be referred to the Committee of Privileges.

Hon. P M GREAVES: I beg to second that. 12.20 p.m.

The question that the matter be referred to the Committee of Privileges was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:

AYES: Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. A. MORRISON, Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, Hon. F. G. SMITH, Hon. P. G. MORGAN, Mr. W. R. LOWE, Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, Mr. J. B. SPRINGER and Mr. R. St. C. WEEKES — 10

NOES: Miss B. A. MILLER and Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS.

Mr. HINDS' name was called.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot entertain any debate on this; no debate. You are out of order. Let the hon. member record his vote against, for or abstain.

Mr. HINDS: I am not attempting to debate anything.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There can only be one speech on this matter, it has already been made and the Chair will not entertain any further speech on it. Let the hon. member cast his vote.

Mr. HINDS: I am not going to speak, I am going to vote NO. The only regret is that Your Honour being a party to the issue is sitting in judgement as to whether a *prima facie* case has been made out.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ten members having voted AYE and three members having voted NO, I declare the AYES have it, and this matter is now referred to the Committee of Privileges.

MINUTES

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minutes of meetings held on June 22, 23, 25 and 29, 1976 are before you for confirmation. There being no amendments or objections.....

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was not served with any Minutes with my papers.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sure that the Clerk will consider this.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, in view of an hon. member stating that he did not receive copies of the Minutes, I beg to move that the confirmation of the Minutes be deferred.

Miss MILLER: I beg to second that.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: These Minutes have been deferred.

PAPERS PRESENTED

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On behalf of the Prime Minister I am commanded to lay the Leave Passages (Amendment) Order, 1976; and the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 3) Order, 1976.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On behalf of the Prime Minister I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the Leave Passages (Amendment) Order, 1976; also, a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 3) Order, 1976.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 92 is ready.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to state that Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 98 is now ready, and I believe at the last sitting I did indicate that Replies to Parliamentary Questions No. 96 and No. 107 are also ready.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Prime Minister I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 120 asked by the hon. member for St. Philip North is ready.

ORDERS OF THE DAY COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. A. MORRISON, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. W. R. LOWE in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1976-77 No. 9

The Resolution for the sum of \$4,752 was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, as the Addendum sets out, the amount provided in the current estimates under Head 6(1), Item 13 has been exhausted. However, as a result of the reorganisation of the Prime Minister's Office and the report of a recent Board of Survey it is necessary to replace some items of furniture and equipment.

The position, Sir, is that as a result of the establishment of a separate Civil Aviation Division and the report of the recent Board of Survey that was undertaken, certain items of furniture and equipment for the Prime Minister's Office are needed. The money which was voted in the current estimates was spent under Head 6(1), Item 13 and is now exhausted in providing furniture and equipment for the new Civil Aviation Division. Owing to this recent Board of Survey report, one chair for the Prime Minister's Private Secretary and one typewriter for the Prime Minister's other Secretary have been recommended for early replacement.

12.30 p.m.

Also, in addition, there is need for a duplicator for the same Prime Minister's Office,

the Private Secretary and the Secretary, and then there are certain other items of furniture: a desk and a chair for the Administrative Assistant, who has been using a borrowed desk and chair during the absence of an officer abroad, and a filing cabinet with four drawers and another filing cabinet with two drawers, etc. This is routine, Sir, as a result of a Board of Survey, and certain items of furniture have been rejected and we have to replace them in accordance with normal Government practice.

I beg to move that the Resolution in the sum of \$4,752 do now pass.

Hon. A. MORRISON: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I merely want to inquire of the Leader of the House, in view of the fact that this Resolution was laid in Parliament on the 29th June, 1976, and the Addendum speaks of a recent Board of Survey, I would like to know when was the survey carried out, and at what time was the report from this Board of Survey received. We know of certain developments, or likely developments, that will take place, and in the light of the timing of the laying of this Resolution in Parliament, and from what we know of this Board of Survey, we would like to hear if the Leader of the House is in a position to bear out the facts that we have before us, or if there will be conflict, at any point, in the discussion on this matter. I believe he would gladly volunteer that information, Sir.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I will try my best to assist. I always try to do that, anyhow. I want to draw the hon. member's attention to the fact that, when I come down here with a file dealing with a supplementary, I do not have all of the Government's files before me. There are hundred of files. I do not have the appropriate file dealing with the Board of Survey and the report and all of that. I would have to travel with about six boxes whenever I am coming here. I can tell the hon. member that these Boards of Survey are usually conducted before the 31st March in every year. The Board of Survey carries out a survey and makes recommendation as far as replacements of furniture and equipment, etc., are concerned. It is a routine matter, which is done by Government Officials.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am surprised that the Leader of the House speaks about a Board of Survey which operates in this way. It makes me wonder how many Boards of Survey there are existing in the Government Service. I have asked a question in this Chamber long ago for which there has been no answer. If there is a

Board of Survey that operates once a year, twice a year, or three times a year, I believe that there should be a survey of all of Government's derelict property to decide what should be disposed of and what should be replaced. Go to Central Police Station now and you will find not less than 12 motor vehicles lying down there for several years and nothing has been done about them. There is one particular brand of motor car that was out there now for about four years, and nothing has been done about it. A boat was taken from the Harbour and placed in the Police Yard. From 1964 I saw that boat in the Police Yard falling apart. I do not understand the Leader of the House saying that he does not have all of the files dealing with a Board of Survey. No wonder people are asking what is Government doing with the money from the taxes it is charging them.

Now, if you have a Board of Survey that can only send something to the Chamber in July 1976, recommending:

- 1 typewriter and typist's chair
- 1 duplicator with stand
- 1 desk with chair
- 2 filing cabinets (4 drawers and 2 drawers),

then they must have replaced something. Something must have been sold. There are other Government properties lying idle that have to be disposed of. How does the Board of Survey operate? (*Asides.*) I would not deal with the cameras at Seawall Airport. They were never any good before they were installed.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that when the Leader of the House comes to the House, he should come with all of the relevant information to give the Chamber a proper picture of Government's operation. He comes here and says that a Board of Survey operates once a year and, in my opinion, that is not a fact. We should know exactly what the facts are. Now, these things are for the Prime Minister's Office. Is this an addition to the Prime Minister's Office? Is this a new post which has been created? Let us know the truth. There is no doubt about it — if the others do not know — that a certain gentleman has been removed from the magisterial bench, and we understand he is now the Private Adviser to the Prime Minister and Youth Affairs and Sports. That is the long name attached to the post. Is this a new office being set out? You must tell the people and the Chamber what is being done. Do not come here in any roundabout way to tell us about a Board of Survey. We are not being told the truth of the matter. There are several other things that a Board of Survey could

deal with. Instead of allowing machinery, desks, etc., to rot and fall apart, these things should have been disposed of by auction, and the money put back into the Treasury to assist in replacing things that need replacing.

Mr. Chairman, I do not believe what is contained in the Resolution put forward by the Leader of the House. He has to replace somebody, or somebody's desk, or something. What has happened to the old desk? This is the constant excuse of Ministers coming here and saying: "I do not have the file; I am not dealing with it." That is responsible for the Government losing money year after year.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order. I have the appropriate file. I cannot travel with all of the files relating to a Board of Survey. What does he think it is? I have explained the facts. I have explained everything properly, and if he does not listen that is a matter for him. There is no file about any post you want to hear about. If you want to hear about a post, then ask specific questions. If you want to hear about specific information of the functioning of a Board of Survey, then ask substantive questions, but do not expect me to come in here and explain things about the Board of Survey. The Government Officials are doing the routine work. (*Asides.*)

Mr. BOLDEN: Are you talking about the St. Joseph School? Do you want me to talk about the headmaster with the gun in his pocket and you? If you want me to talk about that I can talk now.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member speaking on this Resolution?

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, a Board of Survey must condemn something first before you can replace it. I said before that I do not like the idea of Ministers coming to Parliament and saying that they do not have the relevant file or information, because it is responsible for Government throwing away money. It has happened in here.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I have the relevant file. I do not have files dealing with the Board of Survey, but I have the relevant file.

Mr. BOLDEN: He said that he did not have the file with the Board of Survey. What did the Board of Survey say? What was condemned? This is a question of the Ministers not knowing what is going on. The same sort of thing happened with the National Cemetery. When I came here

and asked a question, one Minister said he did not know anything about it because he had just taken over the Ministry, and another Minister said he was building something for somebody else. The Ministers do not know what is going on.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This has absolutely nothing to do with this Resolution.

Mr. BOLDEN: This is a money Resolution. It deals with the method in which Government money is spent, and the Minister is responsible for it. I am dealing with the statement made by the Minister.

12.40. p.m.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, the logic of the hon. member who has just sat down, I am referring to the hon. member for St. Joseph, escapes me, and quite frankly there is very little logic in what he has been saying. How on earth can the absence of files in Parliament be responsible for the Government losing money only the hon. member for St. Joseph can understand? But when you do not understand a matter, it is very easy to rant and rave and shout aloud on the matter. The matter is very simple. The hon. member says he does not believe what the Addendum says, because it says that the amount provided under this Head has been exhausted, and by implication he does not believe what the Hon. Leader of the House has said, and he confirms this in a *sotto voce*, and I can believe that he does not understand it. This is not the first time that they do not believe matters that are straightforward, because when we were in this Chamber two weeks ago and presented the Women's Protection Bill and I said that the Government had to deal with this first in 1962, the hon. member for Christ Church West said he did not believe me. Unfortunately as I reported to the Chamber at that time, I did not have my files with me then, but on checking back my files I was able to report privately to the hon. member for Christ Church West that this was a fact, and not only was it a fact but that in fact the hon. member's wife had replied to the letter on behalf of the Employers Confederation at that time.

Mr. Chairman, I should like to explain this for the sake of the hon. member and I should like to educate him if he cannot understand it. I would like to educate him and any other who does not understand how the Board of Survey works. A Government officer has a typewriter or some other item which is not functioning or which has been causing Government to spend a lot of money in repairs. (*Asides.*)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like hon. members on my right to adhere to Standing Order No. 33(6). I must be in a position to hear and unless hon. members are prepared to speak in undertones, I will have no alternative but to use the appropriate Standing Order.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I am on your right, and I am on my feet addressing you, and you have a right to hear me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And I also am listening to you.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I am very grateful to you, but what you said just now appeared also to be addressed to me in addressing you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Not the hon. member who is on his feet. It would be *infra dig* for the Chairman to have to ask the hon. member when he is on his feet not to speak.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I am grateful to Your Honour for that explanation. If any item of equipment is not functioning at all or is functioning badly to the extent that it is causing Government to spend unnecessary money, the public officer or the accounting officer responsible for that piece of equipment reports the matter to the Ministry of Finance and a Board of Survey comprising of Government officers reviews that piece of equipment to see if in fact that piece of equipment can be kept in service or if it should be condemned. If the Board of Survey condemns that piece of equipment, then a replacement for that is sought. That is as far as the Board of Survey goes. If the piece of equipment has any value at all, because sometimes it cannot have any value, the Board of Survey would recommend that the item be sold and these items are sold by the Government auctioneer who happens to be D'Arcy Scott. The Government does not sell them. I think these matters are well known and simple; so the Government does not come to replace an item unless the Board of Survey condemns that item, and if there is some life in it, then they ask the Government auctioneer to come in and the item is sold and that money is placed in the Treasury.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, before you put the question, I do not want to hold up this matter because I am the last person to hold up anything in here. I come here to get Government business passed, but the items which were reported on are an electric typewriter costing \$1,725, a chair \$167.20, a duplicator \$1,534.50, a duplicator stand \$324.50, a desk \$385, a chair \$73.70, one filing cabinet (four drawers) \$365, and one filing

cabinet (two drawers) \$177. I have given more information than is necessary.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

1976-77 No. 10

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of this Resolution, I would like to draw the attention of hon. members to the Addendum which sets out quite clearly the purpose for this sum of money which is to provide staff and equipment so that we will be able to introduce the system to pay old age pensioners by cheque.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, I have to be very careful how I am talking about old age pensioners, because I think old, am from an old-fashioned party with old fashioned ideas. One thing I hope for is that when sheep goat's father gets old I will be able to make a contribution to him.

I am going to make a very simple comment on this. Anything at all that I can do or Government can do to assist old age pensioners I am for regardless of whether I think old or not. The Government's Resolution on this occasion is to set up a system for the purpose of paying old age pensioners by cheque. That is very well and good, but I am going to appeal to the Minister who is introducing this Resolution today, and it is that if you are sending out by cheque, make sure that there is not very much red tape. I know this cheque thing good. As a matter of fact, Sir, others on the other side may say I am an authority on the chequing system. We share this in common. I remember the same Minister who is introducing this also said that you should look in your own closet and you may see some skeleton so let us play this right down the line.

12.50 p.m.

It is not only, Sir, that we should vote that the old age pensioners be paid by cheque, but I hope that the day will soon come when we will see the age limit reduced from 68 to 65. I think that in other business and even in the Civil Service 60 years of age is optional and 65 is compulsory, or 55 is optional and 60 compulsory. I think that these people who have worked very hard should

be entitled to get this pension at a reduced age limit. I think that that will be a move in the right direction.

I sincerely hope that in being paid by cheque they will not have the problems of red tape because of this system. I know that a number of them will have to get identification cards who may not have them on this occasion, because a number of old people never went to have their pictures taken, and these have problems when they turn up at the post office or banks to have themselves identified. I hope that the Government will find a way of paying these people so that they will not have any problems at all. That is all that I have to say on this occasion. It may be that I am old fashioned; but we will hear a lot of this old fashioned talk the next few weeks. I have the tape and it is a very interesting tape.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that the Minister — we will have no heated exchanges today, because to my knowledge we have never had any — I hope that he makes sure of every aspect of making it comfortable for these pensioners to get their money. I hope that now the Government is talking about old age pensioners getting their water rates paid, they will not go around and shout about how the Government introduced this, because it was me, who was always old fashioned, who asked about water rates, and we are also suggesting that these people should have their electric bills paid which they may not be able to pay themselves.

They should not be lepers of the society. They are people who made a contribution to this community. I remember going to the constituency of the member for St. Michael South East, and I was talking to a couple of youngsters up there. They look me in the eyes and said you are always talking about old age pensioners. We do not feel that old age people should get anything at all. They worked and they should have saved their money. That is how some of us think. I do not think that way. I know that these people are responsible for the \$4,000 a month for ambassadors and paying for a boat which has cost \$1 million, and which the Minister is not sure if it is \$1 million (US) or \$1 million (Bds). It is strange that the Prime Minister knows history from 1684, about the Battle of Britain, Joan of Arc, William The Conqueror and all of these things, but in respect of one question asking what was the price paid for a boat which the Government has in Florida being refitted, he said that it cost \$1 million, but he was not sure if it was \$1 million (US) or \$1 million (Bds).

As regards old age pensioners getting their water rates paid, a number of them do not know, I did not know myself and I do not think that the Minister himself knew. They could apply to the Welfare Office just as they could apply for a bed or stove. I hope that they will circularise the old age pensioners and let them know that they can all now apply to the Welfare Office or the Government as a whole and get their water rates paid.

Mr. SIMMONS rose. (Asides).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I want to hear the hon. member for St. Philip North.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, this is the second pilot scheme that has been introduced in here since I have been in this House. The first was the pilot scheme for school meals introduced by the Minister of Education. There is a certain similarity in these pilot schemes in that the scope of these pilot schemes is limited to St. Michael.

I do not understand why the Government, piloted by a pilot, is having its pilot scheme introduced only in the parish of St. Michael. It seems to me that this is a severe restriction, and in the case of the old age pensioners it does not meet the need of the greatest number or ease the burden as it should really be eased.

For example, in St. Michael there is a criss cross of bus services, and having regard to the reduction in bus fares, it will make it easier for old age pensioners to cash the cheque in Bridgetown than someone living in St. Philip North or St. Philip South where we are not so well serviced by buses, and there is a great hardship on the old people in St. Philip who have to walk to Six Cross Roads to the post office and so on.

Mind you, I have got a copy of a Resolution of which I have given notice to the Minister asking him to look at the provision of a better bus service; and the Minister of Communications and Works has been most co-operative for the short time that I have been in here; and I believe that he will address his attention to that aspect of it. The problem that we are faced with in St. Philip is that a lot of people live in the pockets of St. Philip — in Vineyard Tenantry, in Perry Tenantry in Ebenezer, in Brereton — although there is a bus service in Brereton which is perhaps more frequent than the one in Ebenezer — in Bushy Park which has no bus service at all, in Lynches, and in Poolers Land. I am only calling places at random without being prejudice in favour of any particular area. What I am saying is that the

old age pensioners who live in these areas will not find it as accessible to Six Cross Roads as perhaps the old age pensioners living in Carrington Village, or Eagle Hall or Brittons Hill, areas which are well serviced by the bus system.

I am a little distressed that once again the Government has only seen it fit to introduce a pilot scheme in St. Michael; but I understand, of course, that the St. Michael area has nine seats including the City, and that the majority of these seats are held by members of the Government; but I am wondering if this again is not being openly partisan in introducing this pilot scheme.

It seems to me that we have a lot of money this year. For the last five weeks we have suddenly found a lot of money to dispense. On the one hand we hear that the country has no money. On the other hand we find that there is this money to dispense. What I am wondering is whether the Government will not consider if it is not too late, since St. Michael has the majority of people, of introducing not only a pilot scheme in St. Michael but one in St. Philip which is the largest parish and comparing the results of the two. It would not cost you as much to do it in St. Philip as in St. Michael. Perhaps it would cost about \$3,000 or \$4,000 to try it in St. Philip or in any other country area. I do not want to be partisan at all. I do not want to be myopic so that blinkers can only show me St. Philip North all the time. I am imploring the Minister to see if he could not comfortably find money to try to do it in a country area and let us compare the efficiency of the two schemes.

1 p.m.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I am indeed grateful to the Government for introducing this Resolution here today. This is the happiest moment of my life I have spent in the House of Assembly. When I entered the House of Assembly approximately fifteen years ago, Hansard will prove that the first Resolution I introduced into this House was the one dealing with the payment of old age pensioners by cheque. A Committee was appointed to deal with all aspects of the matters; included in it were the following people; the late Ernest Deighton Mottley, Lady Scott and your humble servant Renold Weekes. You can therefore see how happy I am to see that fifteen years of hard work has reached the state in which Government has found it possible to alleviate the hardship which these old age pensioners suffer.

Now if you were to visit these various centres you will see the problem at them. It is pathetic, Sir, to visit Country Road and to visit certain paying centres. Now I want to assure this House that this is not the first time that pensioners are being paid by cheque. The

Provident Fund — and the majority of the workers, old people, were agricultural labourers and they at present receive their payment by cheques, and this was done from the inception of the payment to sugar workers from the Provident Fund.

The National Insurance now is paying the people by cheques too. I can see no big problem but I consider it my duty to reply to those who query the pilot scheme, because I have been in direct contact with the Postmaster General in suggesting and recommending the way in which this scheme should operate. Now we know that there are various problems in it and that is why we are trying this pilot scheme. For example, when an old person applies for pension her baptism certificate may be called for; her name may be Mary Reece but in the district she is known as Jane Brathwaite, and those are the problems which the Postmaster has to solve. Consequently he and I have been discussing the matter at all stages and I must say that he has given me his wholehearted co-operation and has accepted several recommendations which I have made to him concerning the payment of this by cheque.

Now the hon. member for St. Philip North queried why St. Michael. This is a scheme which will improve the whole Island. It is no overnight or mushroom scheme. It is one which has been planned well. Everybody dealt with the various ramifications and so on, the various problems which we will have to face, and therefore we have tried to introduce this scheme in St. Michael which carries approximately one-third of the old age pensioners or more, to see the problems which we will get in St. Michael, and subsequently the scheme will be introduced throughout this Island.

So the members of the Opposition need have no fear. This is not a political gimmick. It is a reality, because everything we do these days you get irresponsible people running through this Island and telling the electors 'this is a political gimmick because this is election year.'

Now I want to put my cards on the table. I want to put the records straight. This is something which has been going on for fifteen years. The time has come when Government has found it possible to introduce this scheme, and again I repeat how happy I am, and I can assure you that it will be a successful scheme and it will cover the whole Island. 1.10 p.m.

I can assure you also that it will relieve the old age pensioners. There is no problem about

the cheques, the problem is with people who carry two names, one name on the baptismal certificate and known by another name in the district, but we have dealt with all aspects of that matter and in the long run I can state unequivocally that this will bring relief to old age pensioners who in many cases at this present time have to pay others from the amount which they receive to receive the money from the various Post Offices and bring it to their homes. This will be an asset to those old people, and I do hope in the near future, before the end of this year, that the scheme will function well, and I have no doubt that it will cover the whole island.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, you know, sometimes I wonder how members of the Opposition think. Because it is a money resolution some members have the theory that they can talk about anything on it, and you are very co-operative, you give them a lot of scope. Because it is money you can talk about money in Australia, money in Timbuctoo, about buying a hog or anything else, it does not matter to them although the Standing Orders say it must be relevant.

What is also very interesting about the Opposition is that sometimes they can be — and I hope this will not be regarded as being unparliamentary — but they can be very shameless, because with these old age pensioners' cheques we have to be very careful. I am very glad to see that we have come around to the system that we can now write cheques for people like old age pensioners, because when you started with \$1.00 and 50 cents, quite frankly there was not much point in writing a cheque for 50 cents, it was a waste of time. People have to sort of reach a certain stage of trust and understanding. There was a time in Barbados when people did not like you paying them by cheque — and the hon. member for St. James enjoined himself with others who he says understand this chequing business, but I am not enjoining myself — some people have a lot of experience with cheques not really going to the right destination but returning to the sender, and these are things where you have a chequing system to be very careful.

Even in the public service cheques can be a big temptation, because some people like to know where they can get something, like in some areas with people like contractors. You give a contractor a job to do, but he is not thinking in terms of getting the house ready for you, he is thinking in terms of which house he can get out of the house you are building before he gives you your house. Sometimes you have a problem, some people look to see where they can come off

at the end of this cheque before they write the cheque for the people, and some of these old people — we have had this experience — some people live in a village with the same name and the lawyers do make a lot of money out of the dishonest ones, because the dishonest ones are willing to sell their houses or beg their grandfather to sell the cow in order to pay the lawyer rather than sending the money to the people for whom it was intended. I think the hon. member for St. Philip North would have some experience, he may have to do some free cases now he is in here, because some of your main supporters may run into trouble and you can't turn your back on some of them.

However, the stage I think we have to reach, Mr. Chairman, is not so much asking the Government now, because the hon. member for St. James would like the Government now to reduce the age from 65 to 60 and carry it to 58 for people in the Government Service, but I heard the hon. member for St. Philip North say last week — and I think he must say this at his party meeting — it is time that people in here, politicians, begin not to raise the expectations of the people to a point where they know they cannot satisfy, and they are only going to create and compound dissatisfaction, because the capacity by which you can give them certain things you know is not there. If you reach the stage of giving them \$15.00 and giving them a cheque, see how you can live with that, and give them a cheque. Do not reach out to say you are giving them at 60 and find you cannot give all of them and you have to come back and reduce it. Let whatever you do remain and move from that point to another point.

Another thing I would like to raise is that it takes time to show people they are wrong. The Opposition made a big thing in this island about identification. You would have believed that you were giving people identification to send them to prison, and now the idiotic stance that the Opposition took, only a convulsed idiot could have taken a stance like that by telling the community not to have their photographs taken for simple identification, so that when you put your hand in your pocket and take it out you can be identified. Only a clown can do that. I travel with my identification all the time, what is wrong with it? I can go any part of the world and if I do not have a passport I take it out and sign a cheque. You are advising people not to have these, can you find anything more clownish? Can you be serious to enter Parliament and when you enter Parliament you use this as a plank on your platform telling people not to do this, that the Government was trying to put something on

them? This is the sort of crass ignorance you get, now today we are being glorified.....

Mr. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir, I am not aware of the strictures which the hon. member for St. Michael West has just levelled against the Opposition, but I am aware that it is his Government which told the people not to pay rent for the housing area houses.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order.

Mr. WALCOTT: I was trying to treat the hon. member with more respect, and I was not going to bring you into that area by saying you are part of that. It is true that you are a political fledgeling and you might find it difficult to know when to interject, but it was no point interjecting at this stage to prove me wrong when I am so patently right that you will have to agree with me. Suppose I grant you that, that is no justification for your side to say not to take the pictures. That cannot be a justification, you cannot plead justification, because one side said something that is stupid you can do two stupid things to make up for one, you cannot plead that kind of justification, not even under a sandbox tree far less in Parliament.

1.20 p.m.

Therefore, I would not raise that. What I am very serious about is that Members of Parliament should take their politics seriously, and send out things that they can read and they will not come back to them like a boomerang. Today we are paying the old people by cheque, and it is a very wise thing to do. This chequing system will soon extend to areas other than pensions. I hope that some day it will extend to a wider area. It will extend to the active working population where people will be paid more frequently by cheques, so that the movement of money from place to place, and the security of money will not become a serious problem. People will become accustomed to the chequing system, and it will relieve them of a lot of problems.

Now, I would ask the Minister to examine things carefully. Barbadians do not like to examine certain things very carefully, and when you give the staff things to work out sometimes they want to take a short cut. I hope that they will endeavour to introduce a system whereby they will obviate all of the problems you are going to find in operating this chequing system. Barbadians do not like to spell out their names. They like to put down T. Sobers, and you will not know whether it is Thomas Sobers or Theresa Sobers. These are some of the things we should

he and Fairweather were in the House together.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am telling the hon. member that that is no point of order.

Mr. E. E. GREAVES: I am sure that the hon. member for St. Peter will recognise that we are in this House together also. Let me say, Mr. Chairman, with other hon. members who have spoken on this Resolution, that I am glad of this aspect of looking after the old age pensioners. I am also hoping that the scheme will be extended as widely as possible to cover the whole of Barbados. There is no doubt that this is a scheme which will ease the problems which old age pensioners of this country experienced.

I feel that this is another clear indication that this Government is interested in the entire community because of what the Government has been able to do for the people of this community at all levels, the old age pensioners, the young and the not so young. The hon. member for St. Peter got up just now and denied a statement about the Barbados Labour Party's position on the question of identification. This is very important because obviously there is some need for old age pensioners to be identified when they go to cash their cheques. I would advise anyone in Barbados when they get a chance to go to the Public Library and check a copy of the Truth Newspaper with which the hon. member had some association as editor or publisher. He was in control of that newspaper. They should read it and see what the hon. member wrote about this question of identification cards.

Nowhere in the Barbados Labour Party's campaign or in the writings of the hon. member was there any indication or influence brought on people to get them to go and get identification cards for the purposes which he has outlined. The position which was taken by the Barbados Labour Party was do not get identified because they want to lock you up. They want to get your pictures in order to put you in prison. What the member is trying to do now is because, as the hon. member for St. Michael has indicated, a boomerang has just taken place. They took up one position in 1966, and this is 1976; and they feel that the position which they took up in 1966 has not caught on. They have seen the error of their ways and they now want to come out of the cold, as it were, to something that is good. When something is going good they want to get in on it. I think that what we are witnessing today is a change of heart. What we are seeing is that the Government has done something good for the old age pensioners although it is only a pilot scheme.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, this particular Resolution represents one of the final stages in the payment by cheque to old age pensioners; and I would like to say that this is a matter which has been given very full and detailed consideration; and it involves collaboration between three agencies of Government – the Welfare Department which has the overall responsibility for the subject of old age pensions, the Data Processing Unit which has responsibility for the preparation of the cheques and related matters as well as the Post Office which is responsible for the actual payment of the cheques at post offices throughout the country. I would like to take this Opportunity to express appreciation for the work done by public officers for bringing this matter to this stage.

I would also like to pay tribute to the persistence and the work put in by our colleague, the hon. member for St. Philip South. I would like to assure the hon. member for St. Philip North that this is a pilot scheme with a definite starting time. We do not anticipate that there will be any problems to prevent the scheme from operating, and we are working towards starting it at the beginning of August. We are hoping to be able to implement this system of payment by cheque on or about the 1st August this year.

We want to say that this is a pilot scheme. This Government has introduced other pilot schemes. Reference has been made to the School Meals Service, but that was a different type of service and one that was introduced in three different areas – one in Christ Church, one in St. Michael and one in St. Lucy because we were testing the taste and reaction of the people. This is an entirely different scheme. I believe that there are approximately 6,000 old age pensioners in St. Michael who will be involved in this particular programme, and we are hoping to get the cheques out to them – the cheques being issued once a month – so that the pensioners will be receiving four cheques with the week clearly identified on each cheque. We will be issuing through the Welfare Department information and publicity surrounding the arrangements for cashing the cheques as well as matters relating to identification.

I would like to assure this Hon. Chamber that very detailed consideration has been given to this whole matter. We are not saying that there will not be problems involved; but this is the whole purpose of having a pilot scheme to see what problems there might be in introducing and operating this new system. We will be examining this system very carefully, hoping to rectify any problems. I would like to assure again hon.

members who have constituencies outside St. Michael that we will be moving as speedily as possible to get the system extended to all pensioners when once we have identified the problems and have been able to iron these problems out.

As far as payments are concerned they will be at the rate of \$13 a week which will be the value of the cheque issued for each week.

In this connection I will state that arrangements are now being finalised and we are working towards the payment of pensions at the new rate from next week. Old age pensioners should be receiving payments at the new rate, and arrears of approximately \$15,000 should be payable next week if everything goes well. This will involve, I believe, the payment of approximately \$758,000 over the period.

1.50 p.m.

I know the staff is working on these matters very feverishly in order to make this payment to the old age pensioners; but as hon. members have stressed, this particular measure is one directed towards relieving some of the difficulties which old age pensioners have been encountering in receiving their old age pension. This is a matter which has been going on for some time. This Government came in and found those problems associated with old age pensioners, and I am very glad to see that after exhaustive study we have been able to hit on a scheme which should bring relief in these particular areas. With those few words, Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to say that we will make all necessary arrangements to iron out any problems which may arise, and I will be grateful if there are any, if hon. members will draw those to my attention so that we can get the matter sorted out as quickly as possible.

The question that the Resolution for \$9,261 do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

1976-77 No. 11

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, the next Item is a Resolution for the sum of \$135,653. It is No. 3 on the Order Paper. Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of this Resolution for the sum of \$135,653 under Head 11(8) Police - Ministry of Legal Affairs - Item 11, grants to public institutions, I will mention that this is merely an amount which was inadvertently omitted at the last moment.

After passing the Estimates Committee - the amount should be \$248,834 but this amount of

\$135,653 was inadvertently omitted at the last moment in compiling the Estimates. The other amount was passed. In other words, in the 1976-77 draft Estimates it was submitted by the Police Department to the Ministry of Finance and Planning that a total amount of \$248,834 was included under the Regional Police Training Centre. This amount was broken down as follows: Personal Emoluments \$135,653, Other Charges \$113,181, and these amounts were duly approved by the Estimates Committee of the Ministry of Finance and Planning. Under the approved Estimates for 1976-77 circulated by the Ministry of Finance and Planning it was observed that only the amount of \$113,181 representing Other Charges was included under Item 11, Grants to Public Institutions instead of the full amount of \$248,834. So Other Charges was passed and this amount was inadvertently omitted. So we are asking that this amount do now pass.

I beg to move that this supplementary do now pass.

Hon. A. MORRISON: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move that Your Honour do now report the passing of three Resolutions in Committee of Supply.

Hon. A. MORRISON: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER who resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. A. MORRISON, the three Resolutions were read a first and second time respectively and passed.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, there will be hardly any point in starting something else. The Standing Orders have not been suspended. (Aside) The next Item, Sir...

Mr. CRAIG: If the hon. member will give way, Mr. Deputy Speaker. There is no doubt in my mind that the next Item on the Order Paper is going to be the function of the House for the...

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member is entirely out of place.

Mr. CRAIG: You cannot tell me I am out of place. It is the Chair to do that...

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The hon. member cannot dictate for the Government what the next Item will be.

Mr. CRAIG: I am not dictating to you...

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time now being 2 o'clock this Sitting stands suspended until 2.45 p.m.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

The Sitting was accordingly suspended until 2.45 p.m.
2. p.m.

On Resumption

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move that the bell be rung, Sir.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not believe that that is the way it should be done. Under the Standing Orders you cannot move that the bell be rung.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It was not seconded.

Mr. BOLDEN: That is what I am saying, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I understood what the member meant.

Mr. BOLDEN: It is not a question of what is being understood, somebody has to draw to the attention of the Speaker...(Hon. C. E. TALMA: I meant to ask that the bell be rung). You cannot ask.

The bell was rung and a quorum was obtained.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is now Question Time. Question No. 92 in the name of the hon. member for St. Michael North East. The hon. member is not in her place.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: In the absence of the hon. member...

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question No. 96. I observe that the hon. member is not in her place.

If the Hon. Minister would lay the reply on the Table.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the absence of the hon. member for St. Michael North East I beg to lay the replies to Parliamentary Questions No. 92 and No. 96.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question No. 107.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Similarly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to lay the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 107 asked by the hon. member for St. Michael North East.

QUESTION RE REFUSAL OF LANDING RIGHTS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA TO CARIBBEAN AIRWAYS

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Philip North, Question No. 120.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Question reads as follows;

To ask the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning: Will the Minister state whether it is a fact that the Government of Venezuela has refused landing rights to Caribbean Airways (formerly known as International Caribbean Airways) in Venezuela? If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Minister state the reason, if any, assigned by the Government of Venezuela for its refusal?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The reply is as follows, Sir:

International Caribbean Airways has never applied to the Government of Venezuela nor to any agency of the Government of Venezuela for landing rights in Venezuela. It is therefore not a fact that ICA has been refused landing rights by that Government or by any of its agencies.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question No. 77.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The hon. member is apparently not in his place, and I beg to move that the reply be laid.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in view of the fact that the Leader of the Opposition, the hon. member for St. Thomas, is away on parliamentary business, I wonder if it would not be more appropriate to hold this question over rather than laying the reply. It is quite different when a member is absent on any other business.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The point is taken.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Yes, I agree with that.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question No. 79 asked by the hon. member for St. Lucy.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: In the absence of the hon. member for St. Lucy I beg to lay the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 79.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question No. 97 asked by the hon. member for St. Michael North East who is not in her place.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: And in those circumstances, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to lay the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 97.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question No. 128. The hon. member for St. Thomas is not in his place. I think that since the hon. member is out on parliamentary business this Question can be held over.

This brings us to the end of Question Time. It is now Private Members' Business.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Private Members' Business be now taken. There is a resolution in the name of the hon. member for St. Peter, Order No. 7, and I am quite sure the hon. member is willing to proceed with it. I beg to move that Order No. 7 be the instant order of the day under Private Members' Business.

Miss MILLER: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item No. 7 under Private Members' Business is the Instant Order of the Day.

RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE CHILDREN OF ELMENA MASCOLL

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I propose to seek the leave of the House to withdraw this Resolution. My reason for doing so is that I believe the purpose behind the Resolution has been served in a very great extent in that the children of the late Elmena Mascoll have been provided with a house by the National Housing Corporation. It is true that there are certain minor additions to be done but, however, I am satisfied that ample provision has been made to accommodate the children. I am pleased to say that the National Housing Corporation has responded to a very worthy cause in providing these motherless children with shelter. I know the amount of work that had to be put into this whole scheme of things, because the spot on which the old house stood was infested with termites and that entailed a considerable amount of spraying with insecticides by the people who are experts in that job.

I wish to place on record that the children would like to know that the National Housing Corporation and its efforts have been acceptable to them, and that they are very grateful for the consideration which has been given to the request that they be given somewhere to shelter. In the circumstances, I need say no more. The Minister of National Housing was very co-operative whenever I made a request of him in this respect. I feel that he took whatever action remained in his power, and I know that we have been able to do something to help these poor children.

I beg to seek leave to withdraw this Resolution.

Miss MILLER: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to make a few comments with reference to the seeking of leave.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you on a point of order?

Mr. CRAIG: No. There is a motion before the House that leave be sought to withdraw a Resolution.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leave had been granted, and the Resolution has been withdrawn.

Mr. CRAIG: Can I speak on it?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, you would be out of order. The next Order of the Day.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 10 be the next Order of the Day under Private Members' Business.

Mr. SIMMONS: I beg to second that.

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

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH A DAY CARE CENTRE AND A NURSERY SCHOOL, ETC., ON SITE OF ST. CECILIA BARRACKS

Miss MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a Resolution requesting the Government to give urgent consideration to the immediate establishment of a Day Care Centre and a Nursery School and other suitable facilities on the site of the old St. Cecilia Barracks, or on some other convenient site in the City of Bridgetown. I should, first of all, like to draw to the attention of Your Honour and hon. members the fact that in the City of Bridgetown there has never, properly speaking, been a Day Care Centre and Nursery School of any description save that the Goodwill League has provided a very limited facility on Constitution Road over a number of years. The Goodwill League fell into grave disrepair and so has not been able to afford this facility to City mothers or, in fact, mothers from surrounding areas in that the Goodwill League is sitting virtually on the boundaries of three constituencies, or three voting areas in this country.

Now, the Goodwill League is under repair. It would appear that the whole business of rebuilding the Goodwill League is taking an inordinately long time. From my own observation, the building, even before it is open again to mothers, is going to be grossly inadequate, and the siting of that Day Nursery is not the most suitable as far as City mothers are concerned. It is true that it is near to the bus stand, and for those mothers outside of the City who work around the City and have cause to come in the bus stand. Some of these mothers may want to travel with their children — a situation which I do not at all recommend: this business of dressing up children, dragging them on buses, and going back in the afternoon for them to take them on a long, late bus journey. That is not my idea of a healthy situation for a child of the Nursery School age.

The City of Bridgetown is a very densely populated area. I may venture to say that it is the most densely populated residential area in the Island of Barbados. Many City mothers, contrary to popular belief, are forced to go outside of the City of Bridgetown to find Day Care facilities for their children.

3.05 p.m.

It is within my certain knowledge that city mothers have to travel as far as Grazettes, Deacons Road, and beyond to leave their children so that they may pursue employment outside the city. It is true that many city mothers find themselves in a situation which they can ill afford in that they have to pay large sums of money to what are known as child minders, and again some of these child minders are not in the city and they still have to drag the child on a bus or walk it a long distance, and they pay these large sums of money for women to look after their children while they are working. Often these child minders or baby sitters are operating in conditions which are not the most happy, they are not subject to any Ministry of Health Regulations and we find that Barbadian children, city children included, are living daily in conditions which are far from desirable. The feeding facilities are sometimes suspect, the toilet facilities are sometimes suspect, but mothers, Mr. Deputy Speaker, are forced into this condition because they have Hobson's choice in the matter. Either they would have to stay home and mind their own babies or they are going to have to pay large sums of money to have their children left in conditions worse than the conditions which they enjoy in their homes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am personally aware of one situation in the City of Bridgetown which is by far the most distressing situation I have ever had to witness in or outside of Barbados where a city mother was forced to tie a child less than six months old with strips of cloth to the foot of the bed. The bed, as it were, was the only real piece of furniture in the house and the safest place in her estimation for the child while she was out to work was the floor. It could not fall further than the floor and the way to limit this child from going through an open doorway or get itself into mischief or subject to injury was to tie it to the bed-foot. I know this of my own personal knowledge.

This is an extreme case Mr. Deputy Speaker, but you can be assured by me that it is to some extent typical of the sort of conditions that the very young children and babies living in the City of Bridgetown endure day in and day out. These are not things that the average man or woman

sees. This is not the sort of thing that can upset you in your daily life largely because you do not know about it.

There was in Barbados some long years ago an association for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. It fell into disuse in my opinion largely because people did not care sufficiently. I wish now to state that there is someone who is interested in the city; there is now a representative of the City of Bridgetown who cares about what happens in the city and in particular what happens to city babies and city children, and I urge very strongly that the Government with all necessary haste should awaken itself to this very real and in many cases very sad problem which exist in the City of Bridgetown.

I particularly asked for the siting at the old St. Cecilia Barracks for many reasons. In the first place, that land is Government owned. Secondly, that land is now largely in disuse. Thirdly that site is within walking distance of many of the more densely populated districts of the City of Bridgetown; it is within walking distance for instance, Mr. Deputy Speaker, of the New Orleans where literally thousands of people live and there are hundreds of children. It is within easy walking distance of King Street, King Village, Hunte Street, Chapman Street, the Greenfields. It can benefit people who live on both sides of Passage Road, part of Passage Road being in the City and part being in St. Michael South West. It can benefit children who live in Westbury Road and beyond.

Again another consideration which was borne in mind when I thought of the St. Cecilia Barracks was the fact that it has trees around and about it, and to some extent it is an area of green, and I would hope that if the Government in the end does select the site of the old St. Cecilia Barracks that the architecture and the whole design and planning of this Day Nursery and Nursery School would incorporate that area of green and the already well established trees there. I abhor the thought of a Nursery School which will turn out to be a huge block of concrete and glass with asphalt or concrete playground. I am very interested and concerned that areas of green become liberated in the City of Bridgetown.

I have asked for the establishment of a Day Care Centre and a Nursery School and that is deliberate. A Day Care Centre one imagines will cater for children and babies who are a matter of months old until they reach the age of about three years. If a mother is going to be in a situation where she has got somewhere to take

her baby until it is three years old and then when it turns three it is still too young to enter its first primary school, she is still going to find herself in a position where there is this awful two or three year gap and she may well then be forced back into the old situation.

I would like to see a complex designed and built where children graduate at three years of age from the Day Care Centre. They are walking and talking at three, they are beginning to be aware of colours and people and to think for themselves, and they would graduate naturally from the Day Care Centre into the Nursery School which would look after them until they are old enough to enter into the primary schools. It is a happy thought that there are in the City of Bridgetown some good primary schools. What is unhappy in the City of Bridgetown is that there are not sufficient places in the secondary schools for children. In my opinion, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and this is not a new opinion, the answer to that is a city college.

The whole concept of a Day Care Centre and a Nursery School in my view is only part of a whole new plan for refurbishing the face of the city. I am a woman who believes in priorities. Housing in the city is a very sore point with me and the city people. That will take time. I do not believe, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we can wait any longer or expend any more time in respect of this matter of a Day Care Centre and Nursery School as children are not waiting to be born after we find a suitable place and put up a suitable building to house them. There are children in the city who run in alley ways, who have to play in tracks and in the road because there are no park areas or play areas or areas of green in the city.

There is a place in the City of Bridgetown wedged between two very densely populated districts. This place is known as Murphy Pasture which is wedged between New Orleans and Chapman Lane where it would be reasonable to say more than half of the people in the city live. The Parks and Beaches Commission for reasons best known to themselves and perhaps better known to me saw fit to clear that pasture of the castor oil bush which grew taller than myself or Your Honour. They failed to dig up the roots and they will grow back again; in fact they are growing back again, but you see a lot of old iron is still there, and big rocks are still there, the garbage is still rotting there and rats and mosquitoes plague city residents day and night. Again I speak of my own personal knowledge. In the day time city rats are bold enough to walk

for me to see, and this is what we have within walking distance of this Honourable Chamber. (*Asides*) Yes, city rats of whom the Minister of Health has no shame.

3.15 p.m.

There are City rats living in houses with people and biting babies in their beds within walking distance of this Chamber, within walking distance of Broad Street and of the fancy buildings in Swan Street which we show off to tourists; but no one takes the tourists into the Greenfields or Cats Castle. You can stand up outside Plantations Limited building, and if you shout loud enough there are people living in houses made of card board and papered with all newspapers and magazines to keep out the rats in vain.

These are conditions that City children live under. These are conditions that City children are living in alone while their mothers and fathers go out to seek a living in the City of Bridgetown where unemployment is at its highest. I will challenge anybody on those benches to deny that unemployment in Barbados is at its highest in the City of Bridgetown.

There are day care centres, social centres and social facilities in every parish, in every constituency of Barbados except in the City of Bridgetown. This is a condition that has got to be corrected and corrected fast. It cannot wait for money to be found. The money is there, so the Prime Minister said.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: On a point of order. The hon. member for the City can make her point but she must not mislead this House. She has just stated that there are no day care centres in the City of Bridgetown; but the day care centre on Constitution Road is in the City of Bridgetown. So the hon. member must not attempt to mislead the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made.

Miss MILLER: Apparently the Hon. Minister does not know what is going on. The Goodwill League has not been taking children for years. It is now being rebuilt. There are no children in it today, nor were there any yesterday, last week or last month. For years now there has been no day care centre in the City of Bridgetown. There has been an old building falling into wrack and ruin which is now under repair.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I believe that there is a Standing Order which says that an hon. member must be able to substantiate statements made; and I think

that the hon. member for the City should be called upon to substantiate the fact that for years there has been no children in the day care centre at Constitution Road. This is unknown to the former Minister of Health, and it is unknown to me.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister can make the appropriate points in his reply or in his contribution to the debate.

Miss MILLER: It does not surprise me that the Hon. Minister does not know what is going on up there. I would assume that it is unknown to them. They could not care less, and they have not cared less for years. (*Aside: The new building is in the process of being roofed*). The fact that the old building is still being used is nothing to be brought in here. The old building is in such a condition that it ought to have been closed down long ago. It is approaching the state of Youth Town. It should not be used because it is unsafe and unhealthy. This is nothing for pride or anything for argument in here. What pride is there in that the building is being used, and that the roof has holes in it, that the toilets do not work and the windows and doors are falling off? I do not call that a day care centre. That is a shack that City mothers are forced to use simply because there is nowhere else.

As I was saying, before I was unnecessarily interrupted, this concept of a day care centre and nursery school cannot wait.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I think it is out of order for the hon. member to indicate that it was an unnecessary interruption. I was pointing out that there was a day care centre in the City of Bridgetown which is in use. The hon. member was saying that there was no day care centre in the City of Bridgetown. That was the point of order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the hon. member proceed.

Miss MILLER: As I was saying, the whole concept of a day centre and nursery in the City of Bridgetown and located or sited where it can be of the greatest use — in other words if it can be located as closely as possible or as near within walking distance as possible is a necessity. There is no bus service in the City of Bridgetown. Bridgetown is a packed, densely, highly populated area, and I would like to see this complex sited where it is within walking distance of the more highly populated areas.

I am saying that this is a matter of immediate importance. This cannot wait for money to be fumbled for. There is money, and if necessary, money must be diverted from other non-essentials to this purpose. I would say that this cannot even wait for the ushering in of a new Government. The site is there. It is not being used, and there is no excuse, no good reason that the Government can offer for not getting this complex up within this year.

3.25 p.m.

I see no reason why it could not be in use by the end of this year. As I said, babies do not wait to be born. Babies are being born all the time. There are some who lack facilities. There are children in the City of Bridgetown who do not go to school between the ages that I have within my contemplation — between the ages of three and maybe five. There is no school to take them. There are no facilities for the nursery school child.

I say it again in here today, we have an excellent system of primary school education in the City of Bridgetown. The primary schools have produced some of the better brains in the Island of Barbados. I am sure there are members sitting in this Chamber who can boast that they have been to a Bridgetown primary school. There was Westbury, Wesley Hall — the Wesley Hall of great fame — there is St. Mary's, and it is too sad that City children have to suffer unnecessarily before they can get into these primary schools on having reached the age when they have to graduate from them. Again they suffer unnecessarily because there is no secondary school within the precincts of the City of Bridgetown to accommodate their numbers, and they are forced to pay bus fare and exorbitant school fees to go to all sorts of independent secondary schools; and I would like to see this day nursery and day care centre as the first step in a well planned, well thought out system of education for the City of Bridgetown where the children who live in the City go into day nurseries months old and they do not come out again at the other end of a secondary school or college of some sort until maybe they are sixteen years old.

Should City children be entitled to less than that, Your Honour? Should the City children deserve less than that in 1976 in Barbados? I urge very strongly that the word "immediate" in my Resolution be underscored and underlined by the appropriate Minister, that the words "day care centre and nursery school" again be underscored or circled in red by the appropriate Minister and that the site at St.

Cecilia be given a special consideration, because as I have already pointed out it is in fact the more suitable at this present time. It is free, it is green, it is close to where the children are. It is close again to the main bus routes so that mothers who work outside of Bridgetown can walk to the centre, leave their children, can feel certain that they will be well fed, well looked after; walk again a short distance to get their buses out of Bridgetown and they can return for them in the afternoon. In due course we will see a generation of well balanced, well nourished, well educated children in the City of Bridgetown.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. SIMMONS: I beg to second that.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, these things can be very impressive on infantile minds but at all times they must be examined against the stark realities of the true circumstances and conditions which bear on the particular occasion. The site which has been referred to by the hon. member for the City of Bridgetown has been submitted by a previous Resolution of this House to the Co-operative Society for the explicit purpose of establishing a supermarket and that Resolution has never yet been rescinded by this Chamber. (*Aside*) It can be I will admit that, but one would believe that before you think in terms of putting another use on the same site you would seek to invite the Hon. Chamber to rescind its previous decision.

What has happened with the Co-operative Society, better known as BANDCOS or whatever it is, is still a matter of concern and may be some dispute, but one must point out that up to recently the people in that organisation still indicate that they have an interest in that site, and until someone comes in here and moves a Resolution freeing that site from the previous use, then I think it is useless at this particular point in time to seek to put another use on that land.

All of us in here have spoken on many occasions about the importance of the co-operative movement to Barbados and how important it would be in helping a little distribution of the incomes of the earning of money in this country; and I still believe that those who have spoken still hold this view and therefore would not like to see anything done to undermine the co-operative movement in this country.

No one on this side, Sir, will have any quarrel with the provision of day care centres and nursery schools, but one must point out, Sir, that the need for day care centres and nursery schools is a recent one, and it is recent because of circumstances which have characterized the society of Barbados for a very long time. When this society was principally an agricultural society it was not the fashion or the expectation of many women in Barbados to be seen at work. As this society started to transform itself from a purely agricultural society into an industrial one we find that there are dramatic changes taking place in this society which bring it more in line with the features of the North American society or the highly industrialized societies in other areas. Along with that is the fact that more and more women in an industrialized society seek employment, not only seek it but often get it, and then these women find it difficult to combine the job of a housewife and mother with that of an employee, and it is at this particular stage we find that demands are made more and more on Government to assist these particular people in meeting some of the demands forced on them by these two roles.

The demand for day nurseries and nursery schools is a recent one but due to the increase and the pressure by these women for more and more of these services it is making very difficult the course of planning by this Government or any Government, and, this has to be borne in mind.

3.35 p.m.

It is not any intention of any Government, this one, past ones or future ones, to discriminate against any section of the society, but what we are concerned with on this side is not a question which may be of greater paramount importance to the member for the City because she may primarily be concerned with the City, we as a Government have to be concerned with the needs of all the people in this country and we have to plan expertly to meet the needs of all the people in this country, whether those people reside in the City or in other parts of the country. When you look at the real City you find that the population is small when compared with other areas of Barbados, and this is borne out by the fact that there are just a little more than 5,000 voters in the City of Bridgetown, the true City. When I am talking about the City I am not talking now about the expanded metropolitan area which some of us take at some time to be including more than half the population of Barbados, therefore within that area properly defined as the City of Bridgetown the demands

cannot be as pressing, say, as demands in the St. Michael area or certain parts of Christ Church. This is not to put out the case that the needs of these people should not be met, but this is only indicating that if in certain areas of St. Michael or other parts of Christ Church there have been day nurseries and nursing schools established the demands for these are even far more pressing than any other areas of Barbados, and this is so because the bulk of the population of Barbados is found within St. Michael and parts of Christ Church.

When we have to look at the question of providing day nurseries and nursery schools for the people of this country, we have to look at the total problem and not just try to look at the particular facet of the problem and try to specify particular people for political objectives. It is not easy. It is not easy because more and more women are going out to work, it is not easy because as the family unit in Barbados changes from the extended family into the nuclear family — and by the nuclear family I mean a man, his wife and his children — we find that more women are finding it difficult to have someone around either in the house or nearby to look after the children, and one of the features of an industrial society is that families tend to get smaller. In the purely agricultural society we had the extended family; we had the father, the mother, maybe the grandmother, the grandfather or some other older person in the society, and if the father and the mother went out to work there was always an older person who would look after the children. Nowadays as you find not only in Barbados but in other highly industrialised societies, people tend to restrict the size of the family to a father, a mother and the children, which are usually not more than two, and therefore when the father and the mother are out to work someone has to be found to look after the children. Some people who are prosperous enough can employ a babysitter, those who are not that prosperous have to depend on Government and the other social organisations to provide facilities where their children will be looked after, but at the same time one has to bear in mind that while we are asking Government to provide more day nurseries and more day care centres for children we are also asking Government to provide many other things.

We are asking Government to provide more educational facilities, better health facilities, more jobs, more everything. Obviously since this is being requested of Government, Government then has to plan the best way it can meet all of these demands which are being placed on it, it cannot take up all its money in any one year and spend on education or health or day nurseries or nursery

schools, it has to spend a proportion of its budget on each of these facets of endeavour and the need in the society, and how much it is going to spend on a particular facet of the endeavours of this society will depend on the pressures or the demands for that particular service. I repeat that the demand for the provision of day nurseries and nursery schools is a recent one. It is recent when compared with the demands for health services in Barbados, it is recent when compared with the demands for more jobs in Barbados, and it has to be seen against this background, it cannot be seen otherwise, because to see day nurseries differently is to fool one's self into the belief that the pattern which now obtains in Barbados has always been there. It is not so. This has been an agricultural society for a very long time and the transformation which is taking place in this society changing it from a purely agricultural society into an industrial one has taken place chiefly since 1961, and many of the pressures which we now encounter have come about because of the changes which occurred in the society since 1961.

Very often we find people going around talking a lot but failing to take cognisance of the fact that the society is changing. We have no quarrel with the hon. member for representing the interest of the people as she sees fit, but at the same time we have to point out that we have to make proposals and plans for the total society. As regards a particular site, we say that the chief encumbrance on that site is that it is already committed for another use, and until this Chamber releases it for other uses we have to look further afield.

As regards the public creche or the Goodwill League, I would like to point out to the hon. member that I visited that area when I was Minister of Health, and because of my visit plans have been put into operation for the construction of the new day nursery which is now going on there; I would like to tell her that it is not, as she sees it, that on this side nobody cares, it is because we care that there is now a new day nursery or child care centre being constructed in that vicinity. I can share her sentiments in that there are pressures on that area placed by three different constituencies. I do not deny that, I will acknowledge that, because I am aware of it. I will even go a step further, because on my visit there I became aware of the fact that people from further afield in the St. Michael area come into Bridgetown to work, bring their children and leave them at the Goodwill League, so it is not only the three adjoining constituencies which seek to make use of that Goodwill League but maybe a few people from further afield, and while

I may share her sentiments that it may not be located in such a way that the people of the Bridgetown area can make the best use of it, the point is that it is there and people from the Bridgetown area like other people in the other two constituencies adjoining it do make use of it.

When I was Minister of Health we looked at the City of Bridgetown and tried to identify areas where other day nurseries could be put. We have approached a man in Barbarees Hill who has property there not far from the erstwhile Plaza Theatre, but the type of price which was being requested for that property was such that we could not entertain it. We have examined the whole area of Bridgetown and there are not open spaces which can be readily obtained for the construction of these facilities. When one thinks in terms of a day nursery one has to be very careful where one puts it, you just cannot put it from the point of view of convenience to mothers, we are dealing with the health of the children, and therefore they have to be protected against certain things. It must be placed in a location where the children are not exposed to any health hazards, and in the City of Bridgetown there are certain areas which are open and exposed to flooding when rain falls, and not only flooding, you find that it becomes difficult even after the flood waters have receded, because of the subsoil water is still very high to the surface and we get problems, so it is not as easy as going around any and everywhere to put up a day care centre or a nursery for three to five children.

In the area of children going to school, I would like to point out that the statutory age for children going to school is five, and again it has not been a pressure or demand in past times on Government to provide schools for the children between the ages of three and five.

3.45 p.m.

This has come about recently because of the changes in the society, and Government cannot run overnight and provide all of these facilities for the reason which I have already mentioned. They have to meet various demands in the society, and they have to channel or proportion their money to meet the various demands. There are people all over Barbados who are making demands for schools for children between three and five. Previously, as I have said, due to the pattern of society in this country where you had an extended family it was easy to keep a child at home until he reached the age of 5. Because of the change in the pattern of society, it is no longer easy to do that. That does not make it easy for the Government to provide all of these facilities overnight. We have to examine the matter very carefully.

Now, if you are thinking in terms of a Day Nursery for not necessarily the people in the City of Bridgetown, this is a small area and it would become rather difficult to put a Day Nursery in such a position that it would cater exclusively to the people of the City of Bridgetown. We will always have to look at the question of putting a Day Nursery in such a position that it caters not only to the people of the City of Bridgetown, but to the people in adjoining areas. When you examine the availability of land in the City of Bridgetown, it makes things even more difficult. I think the hon. member for the City of Bridgetown is well aware of the fact that land is not so readily available in the City of Bridgetown on which to put some of the structures or facilities which she insists should be given to the people in the City of Bridgetown.

Quite recently we have been investigating the possibility of acquiring land at the corner of Passage Road, but the owners of that land said that they are not prepared to sell it. They would be more interested in an exchange of land, if they can find the type of land which they require. The type of land they require would depend on the satisfactory extension of the Deep Water Harbour. They are not prepared to sell the land. What they are prepared to do is to let us use the land temporarily as a playing field. We have examined that. It is not as the hon. member is trying to indicate that we have done nothing, and we are not concerned. We are concerned. We are very concerned because we would like to assure her that we would like to see her stay in this Chamber as short as possible. That is why we are concerned. Do not let her fool herself that we are not concerned. If we are not concerned that is to her advantage. We are not waiting on her to come in here with a Resolution to tell us that we should do this or that.

Mr. Chairman, we have been examining these things all along, but we do not go around sounding a trumpet on top of a house to let people know that we are doing these things. While I can sympathise with her in her request for more Day Nurseries in a broad sense, I would like her to put her request against the existing circumstances and conditions attendant upon this particular problem in the country, but she must not try to indicate that we are not interested in the people. We are interested because we want to see her stay in here as short as possible.

As regards bus services, she made a reference in her speech about bus services. Again, the City of Bridgetown is too small to think in terms of having a bus service entirely catering to the people of the City of Bridgetown and nobody else.

Miss MILLER: On a point of order. Your Honour, I do not recall anywhere in the course of my speech that I asked for anything at all exclusively for the use of City people, and certainly not for any bus service exclusively for the people of the City of Bridgetown. As I recall, what I did say was that Bridgetown was too compact for a bus service, and that is why the Day Care Centre and Nursery School would have to be located that people could easily walk to it. That is the trouble with the Goodwill League. It is badly located.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of elucidation.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the City of Bridgetown is too small to have any bus service catering entirely or solely to the people of the City of Bridgetown. Any bus service must cater to the needs of the people in the adjoining areas in the same way as any Day Care Centre or Nursery School will have to cater to the people in the adjoining areas. While we are interested in re-routing the buses to give the best use of the buses to the people who require the use of buses, we cannot promise anybody in the City of Bridgetown that we are going to have buses that will ply solely in the City of Bridgetown. That would be a bad utilisation of our rolling stock, and I would not promise that. We are concerned and we are examining this matter. I have taken part in this exercise of examining the needs for more Day Care Centres and Nursery Schools in this country. This is nothing new, and I would like to remind the hon. member for the City of Bridgetown that we have been doing this long before she came into this House and we will continue to do it. We will surprise her. We are out to surprise her, not only by building the Day Nurseries, but by giving the people the facilities in the City of Bridgetown which she may want to indicate at some future date that they got them because she asked for them. She may do so, but I am going to surprise her because we want to see her stay in this Chamber as short as possible and to that end we are dedicating our efforts.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I shall not be long. I just want to say, briefly, that there is no discrimination against school children in the City. In the City every single child who reaches 11 plus goes on to either St. Leonard's Secondary School for Boys' or Girls', or to Ellerslie, or even to the Garrison. We do not stop the children from the City if they pass for Harrison's College, Lodge, Combermere, Foundation, or any of the other older Secondary Schools. They take the Common Entrance

Examination like any other child throughout the whole of Barbados. If they get the requisite marks they go to the older Secondary Schools, and once they are 11 plus, they go on to the newer Secondary Schools. There is no discrimination against the children in the City. They all are entitled to and get the opportunity of a secondary education. As a matter of fact, if there is any discrimination, the only school in St. Michael is St. Matthews School up in the Turning that is not a feeder school.

When I hear about the City children not getting into Secondary Schools, that is a lot of nonsense. Every child in the City has an equal opportunity with every child in any other part of Barbados to pass the Common Entrance Examination, and if they are all bright they will all go to Harrison's College, Combermere, Lodge, Foundation or wherever the marks take them. They may go to St. Michael's or Queen's College. Do not come in here and give people the impression that the children in the City are discriminated against. All take the Common Entrance Examination like anybody else. As a matter of fact, the children in the City are in a better position than the children in St. Thomas and the children in St. John, because they have no feeder schools, and they have no secondary schools. Even the bright children in St. John have to stand back, while the children in the City go on to St. Leonard's Boys' and Girls', Ellerslie and the other Secondary Schools. This is true, and if the member for the City wants to check it out with the Ministry, she need not ask me because she will not believe anything I say. Check with Mr. Rollings, Mr. Kirton, or Mr. Matthews, or anybody else. Do not come into this House to give the impression that the children in the City are walking about. You must try and get the parents to send their children to school. That is what you must try and do, because the opportunities for children are there. She comes in here and gives the impression that the children are walking about and they have nowhere to go.

At the end of this Common Entrance Examination, the only children we are keeping back from the City, or any other areas in the Primary School at 11 plus, are the children who got no marks in the Common Entrance Examination. There were 83 boys and 23 girls who got no marks, which shows that their standard of reading and so on is very poor, and we are keeping them back for another year with special teachers to try to improve them. I want to stop for once and for all this idea that the children in the City are suffering from a lack of educational opportunity, when the facts are that any child at 11 plus at any school in the City can

go on to Harrison's College, Queen's College, Lodge or Foundation, if he or she has the ability and gets the necessary marks. Even those who fail can go on to the Secondary School.

Of course, as you know, Your Honour, we have bursaries. The parents of some children may say: "We do not like St. Leonard's Boys', or St. Leonard's Girls', and they will accept a bursary, and then the parents have the choice of whether they want to send them to an expensive school or not. They will get \$50.00 from the Government towards a bursary. That is all I want to say. When I hear this nonsense about the children in the City being deprived of secondary education, I know that it cannot be true. We have on the drawing-board, subject to the availability of funds, a new Secondary School at Ferniehurst. The plans are completed, the drawings are ready, and the only thing stopping the building of the school is money. We have been negotiating with the Inter American Development Bank to try and raise money for this project. We are building a new Secondary School in St. James. We are building one in Christ Church. The land is acquired, the architects and the consultants are working on it, but at this present moment, even without those schools, the City is not being discriminated against, and the children are as free as the children in any part of Barbados to avail themselves of Secondary Education, if the parents are interested in their learning and if they want to have it. Let us stop this foolishness once and for all about the City wanting a City College!

3.55 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I seldom enter such debates. I have been in here long enough and I have made a big contribution in many respects, but I am afraid I must join in because I have served in the Ministry of Health and Welfare, Housing etc. from 1965 until 1971, apart from Your Honour who made a contribution, and I think more Day Nurseries and Children's Homes were established in Barbados during that time than under any other Minister of Social Services. If I go back to 1965 I can only recall the John Beckles Goodwill League and the Nightengale Home, but this Government during my time of office established about fifteen, but the fact is that this Government has always been mindful to establish Children's Homes and Day Nurseries island-wide, and I happened to be the Minister who was particularly interested in pushing that programme. I will say that it is not that the Government is unmindful of such duties, but that the Government has made a very big contribution because when you think of Children's Homes like Farr's and those in St.

Philip, St. George and St. Thomas as the case may be, we have done all these and there are Day Nurseries in the various housing areas.

Be that as it may, it is wrong for one to say that this Government has been unmindful of Children's Homes and Day Nurseries. In truth and in fact there is room in the City of Bridgetown for more attention to be given to this problem, but as the former Minister of Health and Welfare who is now Minister of Communications and Works has said, a modern Day Nursery is being established in the Constitution area to replace the old John Beckles Goodwill League, so that certain steps are being taken in that respect. I am not going to be long although I can talk for another two hours on this if I cared, but I am glad the new member realises that the Government has set the lead in this respect and she is now asking Government to do more, because there is need for something more to be done in the metropolitan area where thousands of children are now in need of this day care.

This Resolution on the face of it would meet with our support because that has been our policy all along, and I feel that the hon. member has made a good start in establishing a good point, and anything that is good as far as I am concerned for the advancement and progress and prosperity of the children of this country will always meet with my support irrespective of party.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I just want to make a very short contribution on this Resolution. Now I do not think that anybody would want to deny that whenever the opportunity arises and wheresoever there is a possibility the Government of this country would see fit that Day Care Centres and Nursery Schools are established, because it is part and parcel of the policy and programme of the Government. I do not think that anybody would want to deny the people of the city the opportunity to have a Day Care Centre or Nursery School, but what I am particularly taken back by is the allegation which was made by the now sitting member for the city against the former member for the City of Bridgetown.

I was privileged when Mr. Mottley was representing the city in this Chamber in 1973 to see him come to the defence of some of his colleagues when the Leader of the Opposition attempted to give the other members of the House the impression that they were pressuring him to get a bigger increase in salaries for them. He got up and stoutly defended the hon. member for Christ Church West and the other members who were absent to the extent that the Leader of

the Opposition had to shift and shift until it ended up at the hon. member for St. Peter who apparently was putting pressure on him. Mr. Mottley defended his colleagues then, but we have the statement now being made by the member for the City that Mr. Mottley and those people who represented the city folk before him was not properly representing them, because she indicated that there is now a representative in the city who cares for the people in the city. This is the direct statement of the present member for the City, and I am a little taken back that she would attack her party colleague like that, and I would hope that the members on the other side who were colleagues and presumably are still colleagues of his would come to his defence and would at least set the records straight by indicating the contribution which he has made in this Chamber and to the city, because they were the people who supported him when he came in after a by-election, and in the general election in 1971 they returned him as a fit and proper person to represent them, but we are hearing today that the city never had a representative who cared for the people of the city.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think the member for the City will learn to choose her words. This is different from a law court. We are debaters in here; we are not in the witness stand. I was a little taken back too. We know that politics is really a game where you crucify each other, but not so soon after the Good Friday. You at least wait for the Ascension, but you do not crucify your colleagues so soon after they have departed. At least you should let the seat pay them the honour. You have to be gracious to your colleagues and that is how you have to learn in politics. If the hon. member for St. Philip North keeps it up he will learn well.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are living in an age where exaggeration is going to cause us a lot of misery and is likely to cause us violence too. What you teach in exaggeration today is going to cost you tomorrow in unhappiness. I would like to tell the hon. member for the City that the city is not anything that we have imported. It is not a shirt; it is not a bag of flour. The City of Bridgetown was always there. The hon. member talks about the City of Bridgetown as if this is something that washed in last night or since she was running; that this is some old bag that washed ashore. She does not know that Cats Castle was there in the riots and it was there when the Labour Party was in power for fifteen years.

4.05 p.m.

Cats Castle was there for the 15 years that the Labour Party was there. So was Murphy Pasture. All the political parties in Barbados lived with the City of Bridgetown. I am going to give her a lesson in sociology today.

Miss MILLER: On a point of order. Before he gives me a lesson in sociology, I want to point out that Murphy Pasture was not there for the 15 years that the Barbados Labour Party had the Government. The Barbados Labour Party bought Murphy Pasture for a housing complex which the Barbados Labour Party did not have time to put up because they went out of office in 1961; and for 15 years the Democratic Labour Party has allowed Murphy Pasture to be a garbage dump, a rat hole and a mosquito breeding ground.

Mr. WALCOTT: When you hear the hon. member telling me about Murphy Pasture you would think that Murphy Pasture came into existence since she made her speech. The Labour Party buying Murphy Pasture did not create Murphy Pasture. I played cricket on Murphy Pasture. I pulled crabs on Murphy Pasture. It was also a swamp, a canal running on one side. They called it Murphy Pasture because Mr. Murphy had cows on one side and we used to go and get cow dung to feed the crabs.

What I want to teach the hon. member in sociology is that if she wants to be a good representative of the City she must know that cities are unfortunately the places where the population seems to merge whether it is because of the bright lights or whatever is taking place. What she does not seem to understand is that where jobs are concentrated human beings move there. Do not believe that the population you have in the City is an indigenous population. It is a population that has migrated from St. Lucy, St. Andrew, St. John and other parishes to where the jobs are.

What we have been telling the Government is that we want real development where you can encourage the people to remain where there are. The highest employment rate in Barbados is in the City because more employment takes place in the City than in any other single area in Barbados. I do not have to ask anybody that. I know.

Miss MILLER: On a point of order. It is not fair for the hon. member to try to misquote me, I do not know if he thinks that I came ashore in here. I never said that the highest employment did not exist in the City. I said that unemployment was the highest amongst the City people. I agree that there is employment in the City, but not for City people.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of order made.

Mr. WALCOTT: The City is not an entity in itself. If you are going to talk about unemployment you cannot think about the City as an area which bears no relation to the entire population. You are going to put more jobs in the City itself than the City people can perform. The population of the City cannot do all the jobs in the City. You have to bring in people to do jobs in the City.

The banks are offering jobs. Government offices offer jobs, and all of these cannot reside in a single area of less than 10 or 12 square miles. Therefore you must find that any unemployment in the City is a throw back from those people who come into the City in search of employment and remain in the City.

The 99 acres of land that was made available as a result of the construction of the deep water harbour was in Bridgetown, and not in St. Philip. You have a deep water harbour right here in the City of Bridgetown because you have one port. You have not made Speightstown into a port to accommodate the other port, so that all of your dockers are going to be at the Bridgetown Port. Your main shipping area is there. So your convergence of docks, sheds and employment will be concentrated there. So everybody in Barbados looking for a job on the docks will have to go to Bridgetown.

You do not expect a man who lives in St. Lucy, or St. James or St. Andrew to be a dock worker in Bridgetown who after a time will not get a woman in town. A man cannot be expected to be in town working until 11 o'clock and not get some comfort before he leaves for St. Andrew. (*Aside: That is your attitude towards women?*) If that is my attitude towards women? Do you think that what a woman is doing is something that I created? Did I create Nelson Street? You have these all over the world, but some do it in the open and others do not; but do not tell me that that is my attitude towards women. What is your attitude towards men? Do you think that that is all men have to live for? When you told me that I was not able, do you think that is all I live for?

Miss MILLER: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I never told the hon. member for St. Michael West that he was not able. I have never said that in here. If that is what is on his mind, that is his problem, not mine. I am totally disgusted by the suggestion that a man who works in the City and lives in St. Lucy and in

other far parishes will have to seek comfort in the City of Bridgetown.

Mr. WALCOTT: What nonsense and stupidity are you getting up with on a point of order? That is all nonsense.

Mr. SIMMONS: On a point of order. Previously in this House, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when you are not in the Chair, the word "nonsense" has been held to be subject to withdrawal. Let the hon. member withdraw the word and let us go back to normalcy.

Mr. WALCOTT: The hon. member knows when he interjected that, that it was a *faux pas*. Nobody could seriously regard the "nonsense" as unparliamentary. I am making a serious point that when people are flocking into the City looking for work you get this situation. It happens not only in Caribbean cities, but in cities in developed countries where you bring people from one area to others.

Why is it that you have about 75 per cent of the children born in Barbados born out of wedlock? Do you know what is happening? Talking nonsense about how I look at women? To a man working under pressure in one place, and working for low wages, far away from where he was born and where he lived, a woman is different to him from what you think a woman is. A woman is part of his economic life.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Chair does not think that way.

Mr. WALCOTT: I want to make it clear. A woman to a man in developing countries is an economic unit to him. Whether he is married to her or living with her, she is part of his economic life, and that is why today the banks want to know when a man is married if his wife is working so that they can see what both can really earn. If a man is unmarried, whether you call it concubinage or not, a woman whom a man is living with is washing his clothes and cooking his food and is acting as a unit in his expenses for him to go to work. Without her he is going to be a different case. He will have to be a man who is hanging around in shops or pubs and getting his food like that.

These people who have not given any sociological study to the background of the people they represent do not know how the people are living. They want to give some superficial concept of what is happening. The City is part of our economic structure. People

have to come from the country looking for work in the City. On the other hand, people in the City did not often go out of Bridgetown to work until recently when they were getting more money for cutting sugar cane. People do not leave the cities. That is why we, those of us who have ideas about the development of our country, realise when we talk about rural development and that you have to have industrial parks, more people are employed in the City of Bridgetown. If these industrial parks were located in the City it would present problems throughout the City areas because it would move more people into the City.

4.15 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when I made the point about places like Nelson Street, you go to any city and you will find that these are a social concomitant of industrialization. Mention any city — unless you have a law that thou shalt not look at a woman who is not thy wife because you shall be imprisoned. Even in Russia; in Russia the youth grow their hair long and give the Russian police trouble and the police have to lock them up, hit some with the truncheon, but you do not read about it in Pravda, but it happens, because a nineteen-year-old boy is a nineteen-year-old boy whether he is a Russian or a Japanese, but the nineteen-year-old Russian will behave like a ninety-nine year old person because he is a Russian.

Now the problem we have is that the population growth in the City itself has been greater because it is a concentrated area where more of the people come looking for jobs and remain, and you do not ask a man because he is working — and the same thing the hon. member put a Resolution about. What is she putting a Resolution talking about? A day care centre for whom? For the kids of those people who have children? Where have they got the children from? Under a breadfruit tree? They got the children because they were living together, and they do not have to be working to have children; they have more time, they are young and have a lot of energy.

All the children who were born in this country have to be born from women between the child bearing age. That is a fact, so you do not have to argue that; and the ones who are best able to bring them into the world are the young ones fifteen years old. Yesterday I had to deal with this problem. I represent an area; all of the housing areas where there is a

high density of population and high density of young people. Go in the Farm, go into Silver Hill, go to any of them and find what the ages of the people who are getting children. (*Aside*) A clown like him would say I cannot go into a Farm. Only a clown like him would say so. Let me come and carry him down there this evening. Only a clown would say so. Only to show you how people can be clowns. Not even an ordinary Sunday School clown; an ordinary everyday clown would tell you so.

Her father lived near to the Farm. Ask her, before she was running for the House how many times you would see her in the Farm. The hon. member for the City, she was going to run for the Farm. Why did she change her mind? Leave the City and come now and run. (*Aside*) Am I lucky? Asking me why I don't run? Why don't you come and run? The only difference.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member. Now I would like the hon. member, and any hon. member who is speaking to be heard in silence. Any asides should be in undertone.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I like the asides because I can tell them what they want to hear in the asides. They cannot get up then on a point of order, because when the asides are loud enough that I can hear, I can deal with them.

So when you are dealing with the children fifteen years old, sixteen years old, those are the people; but these are not people that you can walk about and laugh at and pretend that you are sympathetic with them. There is no reality and sincerity in that. Talking about you do not want to put them in any creche, there is not any sincerity in that. Any of us could say so. We have a centre we are putting up in St. Philip and we want a community centre where there is that swimming pool. We do not ask anybody; we do that, we see that. We did not tell the hon. member who got into St. Philip if it were in his constituency — it could be in yours. Put them there for people to use because we know what community development means; what it means for people to live in houses; so we have been consistent in that, but when we were putting this up, when we were talking about this the Hon. Leader of the Opposition was not here and the Hon. Deputy could defend it. Has he not remembered that the hon. member said that the Government should not have given the Barbados Workers Union money? That we should not have

any loan? But no, somebody in Bridgetown could have it.

So when you want to change the economy of this country you could only see the change in the economy coming through the regular established way when you have to go cap in hand saying 'yes Mr.' Well this only shows, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you really mean something about the real sociological changes in this society — and the question of a baby creche and a nursing home, this is only part of a system that is deeper than when you are talking about the children because you can only see you are finding somewhere for the mothers and children — because this is what you regard as working mothers and where you have the concept that the mothers should be working or could be working, what you are going to provide the mother with when she is working with a decent place for her child, and those of us who study children — I can talk about this because I am talking from experience. I am not talking about theory. I do not talk about children from theory. I am a practising parent.

One of the problems you have too, one of the things in this society which we have to watch very carefully, Mr. Deputy Speaker, — let us not run away with the idea that a school or a day nursery for three-year or five-year-old children is going to take the place — they are found in the United States of America; one of the difficulties in some of the developing countries is due to the fact that the parents and people who have been close to these children have never been able to get near to the children at very important stages in their lives, and some of the communities now are paying for it. So do not let us think that a day nursery is a panacea to our social problems. 4.25 p.m.

Do not let us think that a day nursery is a panacea to our social problems, because there is no substitute for a child's mother or father. There is no substitute for the parent at a very important stage of its life, and therefore mothers and fathers who have to be away from their children at a very tender age will miss something because of the unprofessional people who are not their parents, who are not their grandparents or who are not close to them treat them like something else. Children grow up with a certain inner bitterness and carry it right through their lives as a result. The experts and the psychiatrists are carrying out a lot of studies to know if a lot of the problems we are having in some of these communities are not as a result of the three and four year old children who never knew what it was to have a father or mother with them at a

very important stage of their total growing lives and they have missed it. Some of us who have benefited by that in our own societies do not value the reflection, but it makes a lot of difference between what we are, and we are not what we are when we get big, it is a lot to do with what took place when we were small, before we knew what was taking place.

I could not support the idea that the City is a place where you are ramming people into it, the City is a place where employment has been going on for the last 25 or 30 years in Barbados at a pace where all the employment was concentrated in the City and the metropolitan area and therefore the parents have been moving here. As a result of the population moving into the City it has left the City with a problem that they never calculated to handle, because the City became part of the industrial upsurge, and therefore you were never dealing with children. You find a job for a man, but what are you going to do for the children? You find a job for a man, what are you going to do for the mother? You find a job for a man, what are you going to do for the parents?

When the hon. member makes these wide sweeping statements, sometimes when I hear her talk about the City you would believe that the City is something that we have come upon but it never existed before. I feel very proud to think that she has found something as if the City was lost and she has now recovered it. It is true that conceit is one of the qualities that some Barbadians have in abundance, but in these things conceit is not a virtue. You have to examine the issues. The hon. member said last week - and as another young hon. member of the Chamber who I am glad to see that he saw reality in these debates - there is no point the hon. member believing whether it is the City, whether it is the Police Force, whether it is the Ministry of Education, whether it is the Judges, whatever there is existing in Barbados, all of us have to live with now. You have to live with the old age pensioners, those are our old age pensioners, and the economy of Barbados is the economy and the facts of life we have to live with. There is no belief that you can create in Barbados for 250,000 people a situation like what you have in the United States of America where you have two hundred million people. Sometimes I hear people talk in Barbados about the things they have in the United States. We do not need the food that they have in the United States, because we would have a surplus, we have to get enough food for 250,000 people, so it is no point comparing ourselves with the United States of America, it is no point believing that the only

thing you say that because a day care centre is not at a site that the hon. member - and I will say this to the hon. member, the hon. member is not in any position as any expert to know where to put a day care centre better than anybody else, this is only a question of her judgement as against anybody else's. When the Children's Goodwill League was put there it was not put there by an expert, John Beckles saw the need for this, and I believe people like the hon. member would have had a lot of criticism to make. He was criticised but he had a lot of foresight. It had nothing to do with the area but it had something to do with a need.

If there is a need for these things where you put them has to be a question now of where you can get the most suitable land, so it cannot be a question of putting it in the most densely populated area so you can move out the people, because we know that sometimes when we go to the most densely populated area that is the area in which you find it difficult.

The last point I will make is this. People who live in cities - and if the hon. member does not know this she does not know anything about cities - people prefer to live in cities, a way of life that sometimes in a community is below what happens outside areas in the community, but they prefer to live in the city. There are thousands of people who live in the City today who prefer to live, as they put it, near to their work because it helps some economic need. They do not have to pay bus fare, they do not have the same cost to get to work, they do not have the same problems and we find it very difficult to uproot them. The same hon. member and some of the members of that party had a big problem when it was mooted that they were going to move the people from Chapman Lane and carry them to Clapham, not that Clapham was a bad place, but it is a question of taking them from where they know to take them somewhere else. All over the world in a general way people like living in cities, rural people in a general way like living in the rural areas, but in a specific way rural people will come into the city and look for jobs, and some will remain.

I do not think it would require any exaggeration that anybody is holding down a city, you cannot hold down part of your place, we are living in a unitary state, Barbados is not a Federal State, that there is the City of Bridgetown which is another canton, this is not Switzerland. Bridgetown is part of Barbados, but the geographical distinction or a boundary distinction that we make in a microscopic area like this, and if you go in an aeroplane and you

go too high you do not see Barbados at all. You talk about this big city and this big thing. Sometimes when I sit down and reflect, somebody could come to Barbados one afternoon with three or four guns and take over the whole of Barbados, and we talk like if Barbados is a big time place, so how can we talk about the City of Bridgetown being this big place? What you really want to do is if you are going to put down day care centres you want a policy for these things. In a place where you have 250,000 people and children living you want a proper siting of these things, and now that they have come under Government's attention as distinct from under private people, the do-gooders in the community, you want a more social approach by people who have a real intention of doing something, a professional approach, not people who would just sneer at people, not people who are sneering in this condescending way. That is the sort of thing you want to wipe out from Barbados. There is too much condescension in Barbados. Whenever they are doing anything for the poor man there is this element and air of condescension and not an air that it is right to do it and let us do it no matter what circumstances the people are in.

4.35 p.m.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are a number of points, which have been made during the speech on this Resolution, which I would like to speak to. First of all, I think we should take the point which has been made by the hon. member for St. Michael West that the City of Bridgetown did not just happen. It has been here with us for many, many years. It has been here with us as the City, even during the time when the Barbados Labour Party held reins of Government in this country. I know on that side they do not like to hear reference to their record, but the City of Bridgetown was there when the Barbados Labour Party held the reins of Government in this country.

As I recall it, the father of the hon. member for the City was the Minister responsible for Social Services in this country in which Ministry was responsibility for matters relating to Day Care Centres, Children's Homes and related matters. I do not know whether it is left to the Democratic Labour Party, or the Government of the Democratic Labour Party, to discover that there were people in the City, and that there were needs relating to the provision of Day Care Centres, Children's Homes, etc., for what the member for the City likes to refer to as "City people".

As has been said by the hon. member for St. Michael West, the Children's Goodwill

League and care for the young children was provided through the foresight on Constitution Road by Mr. John Beckles. This did not happen when the Democratic Labour Party was in power; it happened before that time. If there was all of this foresight, knowledge and concern for City people on behalf of the Opposition Party, whose leadership in these matters was then in the hands of the Minister of Social Services, Mr. Freddie Miller, I wonder why it is that the provision which was required was not met at that particular time! We are accustomed, as far as the Democratic Labour Party Government is concerned, to a great many demands to be placed upon us — demands which either were unrecognised by the Government of the day, or which we are now called upon for some lack-a-day recognition for the Democratic Labour Party Government to provide at a time when it is said, from time to time when it suits them, that there is no money in the Treasury. But at the same time we are called upon to provide all of these services out of the same Treasury.

The hon. member for the City indicated that there was no Day Care Centre in the City, and that there has been no Day Care Centre for years, and that the Day Care Centre being developed is now up to roof level. That was her contribution. I would advise her that no one is denying the need for providing additional Day Care Centres in this country. This has been the policy of this Government. Realising the need of mothers and children to provide wherever possible where the facilities are available, or can be provided, and the resources are available to develop the facilities to enable the people of this country to earn their living in a manner which would enable them to get great satisfaction out of life, and this includes the provision of Day Care Centres. That is why we have developed Day Nurseries at the Farm. There is a Day Nursery at the Farm put up by this Government. There is a Day Nursery at Pleasant Hall, Christ Church, put up by this Government. There is a Day Nursery at Silver Hill in Christ Church put up by this Government. There is a Day Nursery at Gall Hill, St. John, put up by this Government. There is a Day Nursery at Eden Lodge put up by this Government. Now, sometimes you wonder what they put up!

Now, all of these are actions taken by this Government, and to get up to indicate, or to suggest, or to give the impression, that this Government is unmindful of the needs of the people of this country for Day Care facilities,

Nursery Schools and other Children's Homes and such facilities, is to distort the record of the Democratic Labour Party, and it is part of that distortion of the record in an attempt to get the people of this country weaned away from supporting this Government which has done so much for the people of this country, and which, contrary to whatever false hope may have been raised on that side, the people of this country will, again, give a massive endorsement to the Democratic Labour Party.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Sir. It seems that when two or three are gathered together, they copy each other's phrases. I remember the Minister of Education saying so in the Lower Green a few months ago.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a point of order! The time is now 4.45 p.m., and the House now reverts to Government Business.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker,.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is now Government Business.

Mr. CRAIG: I know that, Sir. I do not know if the Leader of the House.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Take your seat! I was not told and I am not aware, that the Leader or the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is responsible for Government Business in this Chamber. The House reverts to Government Business.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, with great respect to Your Honour's ruling, I am going to appeal to you.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On what is the hon. member speaking?

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of privilege. I am going to beg you, Sir.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not allowing a point of privilege. It is within the discretion of the Chair to allow a point of privilege. Will the hon. member take his seat!

Mr. CRAIG: After a case has been made out, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the hon. member, please, take his seat!

Mr. CRAIG: I am going to beat you.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I take it that if the appropriate measures were adopted...

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order, Sir.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member would sit down for a minute, he would probably hear something. If the appropriate measures were adopted and the appropriate Standing Orders were suspended, I might have been willing to finish this as we have got so far. We are almost finished.

Mr. CRAIG: This is all I was asking of the Hon. Leader of the House. I wanted to know if he would agree.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Would the hon. member, please, take his seat!
4.45 p.m.

THE DEEP WATER HARBOUR (EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT) (EXEMPTION FROM DUTIES) ACT, 1976.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are dealing with Item 2 standing in the name of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, which is to move the second reading of a Bill to provide for the exemption from the payment of duties or taxes on certain articles imported into Barbados for the purpose of being used exclusively in connection with the expansion and improvement of the Deep Water Harbour.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already warned hon. members that I do not want to hear any loud asides in this Chamber. This is the second time I have given that warning, and I will take appropriate action the third time.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Objects and Reasons set out that this Bill would make provision for the exemption from the payment of duties or taxes on certain articles imported into Barbados in connection with the expansion and improvement of the Deep Water Harbour.

Some hon. members may remember — I am certain the hon. member for St. Michael West will because he was a member of the Committee that was set up to establish the Deep Water Harbour — that when the Deep Water Harbour was about to be constructed, provision was made by the

Deep Water Harbour (Exemption from Duties) Act, 1957, for the duty-free importation into the Island of certain articles required in connection with the construction of the Harbour. Tenders are now being invited for the award of contracts for the expansion and improvement of the Harbour and the Government feels that legislation should be enacted along similar lines to grant contractors the same exemptions as were granted when the original Harbour was being constructed, along with the exemption from consumption tax. That tax was not exempted in 1957 however. The matter has met with the approval and support of the Director of Finance and Planning, and the Government feels that it should follow along similar lines in that by imposing duties and taxes they would inflate the cost and serve no useful purpose.

When enacted this Bill will grant contractors employed in the expansion and improvement of the Port of Bridgetown exemption from Customs Duties and consumption tax in respect of (a) articles imported for the expansion and improvement of the Port, and (b) gas, oil, kerosine, diesel and fuel oil imported or purchased out of bond, but it would not include petrol or other motor spirits which would not be included and would not be free or exempt from duty. That briefly speaking is the object of this piece of legislation.

I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have no objection to this Bill and will support it, but I think I should take the opportunity to state publicly that after fifteen years of the Deep Water Harbour we are in a position of finding that the contribution that the workers have made to what has taken place here is not always appreciated in the speeches we heard today, because it is a fact that the development took place against a background that about 1,500 to 2,000 people paid the price in the question of redundancy, and at that time we were asking for different things from now, but the Government of the day should have had an employment policy that would have taken up the the slack and would have pointed the way of a vigorous employment policy, and not to regard merely a question of severance payment as the only answer.

We are glad to see that its concept of what people understand by employment, unemployment and under-employment has a different meaning, and to those who would talk today as if Barbados has been now created, I would like to say that fifteen years ago those of us who had something to do with Port saw that fifteen years hence would have been 1976 and we had some views for 1976. Today I would like to draw to this Chamber's attention that we are in the throes of seeing the expansion and we feel once more that priority must be given to persons who are engaged in docks and dock labour and not to regard that dock labour is something that those who have worked there long would be affected. We also want to make our position very clear that we see in the expansion of the Port new methods in cargo handling. We have engaged in all these things, but we do not see the worker being only a person to underwrite changes without being an active participant. We see the role of the worker in a completely different form from how others see him. We see the workers being able to control certain areas of the economy themselves and not to be handed out things by others, and we do not have any wishful thinking about this or make any vain boast about it. We run our own institution better than some people run their institutions without any question of asking any person to show us how to run it, and we are satisfied that when it comes to the new concept of a new economic order we do not see employment being handed out to us on a platter, but we see ourselves creating our own new areas. In the expansion of the Deep Water Harbour and the containerisation of cargo we are going to have problems and we are prepared to face them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are going to accept the idea that the importers in Barbados can regard all the workers as people where they can import containers, string them all over Barbados and then pay the workers whatever they like. This is going to be a problem. There was a problem in England, there was a problem in Australia and they are going to have a problem here because the organised workers are not going to accept the position lying down. I say that today because too many people want the workers to face new changes, but they do not want to meet the corresponding changes of having a new concept of better wages, better conditions of employment, a whole new concept about a worker's position and a concept about workers in management. I would like to say that we are willing to join hands in new expansion but we are not willing to join hands in any method where we are only going to underwrite a situation that we have just new bosses taking over from old bosses. We

do have any misgivings of our own ability to understand what is required. We have a very clear idea about our position and we want to put it on record because I know that when the row comes you will hear all the criticism. There was a dispute some years ago and people said they wanted food, and you heard that we were holding the community to ransom and all these slogans that we are accustomed to. We know that as Laski stated forty years ago, whenever the workers' organisation has to go out in defence of the workers, it has to take the position that appears to be against the community, and we want to make it clear that the Deep Water Harbour is something that the workers of this country and the workers in the docks have made a supreme sacrifice for and we feel that they are entitled to it.

4.55 p.m.

We are making it clear that the deep water harbour is something for which the workers of this country have made a supreme sacrifice, and we feel that too many people in Barbados still begrudge a worker who is working for a little \$60 a week and the worker who is working for little more than that. When a worker is getting more than \$100 a week, somebody's eyes begin to glitter. As I said here before, I do not see anybody's eyes glittering when some people, not even working, but getting unearned incomes of \$60,000, \$70,000 or \$80,000 a year.

I know at one time that there was a lawyer who was only signing his name to a warrant and getting \$5.00 for signing. Therefore, if he signed one thousand he could get \$5,000. Is that work for \$5,000 a month? What some of the lawyers are doing now is no different from what "Press the Dead" used to do, "Press the Dead" and "Fat Pork". They used to sign these things, and old Williams up at District C. It was only after lawyers started coming down here in greater numbers like they were hungry, that they stopped "Press the Dead" and "Fat Pork" from signing warrants and getting paid for making out complaints. People like the member for Christ Church West do not have the time to make out a complaint for a woman using blackguarding language at a stand pipe. They leave that to these little half dead lawyers that now come down; but you have these other lawyers who will have to plea for a fowl cock, and if the client does not win his case he will call back for the fowl cock.

I am not talking about fowl cock lawyers. I am talking about people who get money for just signing. I am not hard on lawyers, but on people getting incomes which are not in proportion to the work they do. I am not saying that a person

should not be paid for the knowledge that he possesses. You cannot pay a doctor \$5,000 for pulling out somebody's toe nail because you call it an operation. There has to be a sense of value.

As long as you have a small labour force and a high productivity rate at the docks you must be prepared to pay wages and salaries consonant with the high productivity. We must remember that we have operated this port in Barbados without any of the problems that we have had elsewhere. You see what happened on Saturday night; but I am glad that what happened had nothing to do with industrial relations. We are not in that. We are going to fight you in the open. We are going to come out on the platform and tell you what we think about you, but as long as I have anything to do with the Barbados Workers' Union, my integrity and character are going to be such that I will not be a participant in any subversive activity.

If we are going to strike tomorrow, we will give you notice that we will strike. You can call out the Police, you can call out the Army, but we are not going to send anybody to do anybody any injury because we believe that those same methods will rebound against us at sometime. These subversive methods are not for this society.

I think that the harbour is very important to the economy of this country, and now that it is going to be expanded, I hope everybody concerned will come together and see what they can give to those who work in the harbour. We are very pleased to know that we will be sending three dockers to West Germany next month to see how the docks at Hamburg are operating. When we asked the employers seven years ago to do that, they said that they were not able to spend that money. We spent money on the dockers ourselves. We sent them to New Jersey to see how container cargo was being handled. Now we have an invitation from some of our friends in West Germany to see how the docks there are operating, and this will give our dockers an opportunity to see not only how dockers work in Germany but how German workers live, so that people will understand not only as workers, but when they go home to live in their communities. We want to let workers in Barbados understand the concept that it is not true that as long as a man is a worker, anything will do. We feel that nothing but the best is good enough for our workers, and we feel that the worker is entitled to the best that he can get.

We hope that one of these days we will get the contract for the whole set of work so that we will have full responsibility and cut out some of

these people in the middle. Let the worker do the job, because the economy will work better if we take out some of the middle men. What we want to see is that the workers have a certain amount of responsibility and dignity and do the job well so that they can look anybody in the face and be respected for the job they have performed. I think that that will go a long way in this community because we do not have the resources to keep all the people in the centre and the workers going.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am surprised to hear the hon. member for St. Michael West talk about standpipes and lawyers. Those were the bad old days. I think that in 1961 there were 17,831 water services in homes, in 1976 there are 51,271. This was a part of the overall policy of the Democratic Labour Party for the development of Barbados as well as for the provision of work for the people of this country.

For instance, extension of the deep water harbour is going to cost \$24 million. Airport development is going to cost \$23 million. Then you will have seen in yesterday's newspaper the news about a loan of \$6.6 million (US) approved by the Inter-American Development Bank for the building of the Polytechnic, a project that is going to cost \$19 million, and we hope to start that early in 1977. If you go through the Community College you will see buildings going up there to the tune of \$6 million. I am saying that the extension of the deep water harbour is part of a total island wide development.
5.05 p.m.

So that when you look at the total Government provision for the development of Barbados, the Deep Water Harbour is but one of this Government's concern for the development of Barbados as well as for the improvement of the facilities at the Port to make it possible for ships of all sizes to enter into the Harbour.

I have recited these amounts because it is often said that this Government has no ideas for the development of Barbados, that it is uncontributing to unemployment; but when you consider the Harbour, the airport, the Polytechnic, the Community College, the Post Office and Sewage Plant with the amounts involved, you will really see what competent and capable Ministers you have on this side under the Minister of Finance, who can negotiate with international financial institutions, sums of this magnitude. It is no use laughing, because one of these things that the people of this country must understand with a change of Government, is, it is going to take international institutions years

before they know them, (2) investors are not going to put a penny in here; they are going to be cautious....

Mr. FORDE: On a point of order. Under Standing Orders, Sir, I submit that the hon. member is being irrelevant. He is making a very good campaign speech repeating exactly what he said in my constituency on Sunday night. He is making the same speech but it is not relevant. We can get back to the Deep Water Harbour.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: What I am saying, Sir, is that the Bill is to make provision for the exemption from the payment of duties or taxes on certain articles imported into Barbados in connection with the expansion....

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Sir. Is the Minister reading a speech from what he has written down from last Sunday evening?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: You see, when you tell them what we are doing they say we have run out of ideas; when we are letting the House know that the Government has plans for the development and employment of people they tell you it is irrelevant. All I am saying — and I will not be long — is that this Bill is just one of the first of a number of measures which will have to come before the House in order to enable the development of Barbados to take place, because we have the airport, we have the polytechnic, we have the sewage plant, we have the post office and we have the community centre, and therefore I am recommending this Bill to the House....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: And we also have the deep water harbour.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Yes, Sir. We have the Deep Water Harbour as I say, and I am only saying that this Bill should be passed by the House since to the House will come numerous other Bills based on Government's overall policy for the employment of the people of the country, for the ejection of money into the economy and for providing in this country a Barbados which today is unrecognized by people who have been away for years and a Barbados which today is the envy, not only of the Caribbean but of persons from developed countries who when they look on a map and see it, cannot believe that this country is as highly developed, as hospitable and as peaceful as they find it.

So I have very great pleasure in supporting this Bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and as I say it will

enable the Harbour to start, we hope by September this year, in order to provide employment for the people of this country; all kinds of employment; lorry drivers, labourers, all sorts of technical personnel in the community.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, in speaking on this Bill to make provision for exemption from payment of duties and taxes, etc., dealing with the expansion of and the improvement of the Deep Water Harbour, I would like to support two very important and fundamental points which have been made by the hon. member for St. Michael West, and it is to do, Mr. Deputy Speaker, with the whole idea of participation of workers in the management and in the direction of any particular economic enterprise, I think that in this day and age when it is generally recognised that workers must play a more fundamental role in the management of the economic activity in which they are involved, that this gives us, now that we are talking in terms of expanding and improving the Deep Water Harbour, a golden opportunity to put this to the test.

When you examine the operations of the Deep Water Harbour as they take place now you will see that the workers play a very important role in getting the job done. In truth and in fact however there is a management team which is over them but which, if they were removed tomorrow, would make little or no difference to the operation of the Deep Water Harbour for the simple reason that the workers who are involved in carrying on the work there are capable of operating this particular system, and this is why I am saying that this provides us in this country with a golden opportunity for giving effect to the new concept of workers' participation, and this is something which the Barbados Workers Union has been putting forward and which as representatives of the majority of workers in this country and I dare say of all of the workers in the Bridgetown Harbour, we feel very strongly about, because if we are going to be talking in terms of development, if we are going to be talking in terms of a greater involvement of people in the management of the affairs of this country, then one cannot lose sight of the fact that workers' participation is a must.

I am saying that some provision must be made for this within the total expansion and improvement. Now it is true that the improvement in the initial stages would be to do with providing more space for the Harbour, but

this space and what business will accrue to the Harbour as the result of this expansion will provide more work; it has got therefore to be operated and would therefore provide this particular opportunity about which I am speaking.

The other point, Mr. Deputy Speaker, deals with the question of containerization. This is rapidly coming to the way of life in Barbados from the point of view of the importation of goods into this country. It is something which we have got to face; the question which faced the Barbados Workers Union in 1961 when the new Deep Water Harbour was constructed — the question of the large reduction in the labour force — this is one which was faced boldly and which had turned out to be to the benefit of this country.

Now containerization is the new development in the area of shipping, and since the Harbour is going to be expanded it means that provision presumably will be made for providing areas for containers to be stripped and for containers to be loaded.

5.15 p.m.

The present practice is that most of the containers, or some of the containers, are taken away from the surroundings of the harbour, but with this new development it is fairly obvious that there will have to be a shift in the kind of work which will be provided for workers in the docks, particularly those who are working now, and what I think has to be looked at is the fact that for those people who are working on the docks, work which can be categorised as dock work, work to do with the loading and unloading of containers must be preserved and there must be a clear indication that this has to be work for dock workers.

It is a good think that at this point in time we are looking at the expansion of the Deep Water Harbour. There is no point in waiting for another 10 or 15 years when it will be more costly and when the pace of development of this country might be so rapid that we might not be able to expand and improve the harbour in the way that we are able to do at this point in time, so it is probably coming at a good time, and I hope that we will be able to see very clearly and that the plans which have been drawn up for this have taken into consideration all the factors which are involved in the provision, the development and the improvement of a new harbour, the whole area which has to do with the facilities provided for workers, and with the new

kind of approach to handle a matter like this that this would be brought to the fore, because there is no doubt that the expansion of the harbour will mean more work being made available to a number of people in the construction period, and I will say even although it might not be the provision of direct employment within the harbour — and indeed I see that there will be an additional area of occupation there — but not work related to dock work, so that what we will be witnessing soon will be a very important development in the total economic structure in this country. We are building once more a firm foundation and a pillar on which the economy of this country can move ahead at a more rapid rate, and I would hope that at the time this is being done we will take the opportunity to provide for a greater involvement and a greater participation of the workers in this very important economic activity.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, throughout the day during the debate on the need for child care centres in the City I heard members on the other side talk about what the Barbados Labour Party had not done, as if the Barbados Labour Party had only lost power yesterday or last week. Nobody thought about the 15 years which have elapsed in which the Democratic Labour Party had been in power, but now we come to a very crucial point in the discussions, the extension of the Deep Water Harbour, the harbour which was built by the Barbados Labour Party, and I will never forget that when I was first introduced into this Chamber early in 1971 there was a debate when the Leader of the Government Business remarked that I was trying to gain my laurels by criticising everything that came before the House that day, and the now representative at the United Nations, Mr. Cameron Tudor, at the end of the debate rose and said "I would like to say to one hon. member on this side that when the Labour Party set out to build the Deep Water Harbour we were in Opposition and I criticised it although we knew it was the salvation of this country".

The Deep Water Harbour as built by the Barbados Labour Party has been the salvation of this country, but I want to say one thing now to the Minister of Education. I have always said to him before he talks too much, he talks too fast and he forgets what he has said on previous occasions, because when he got up and talked about the long list of developments which the Democratic Labour Party has got, he said if you change this Government now international agencies would not know them, they will not be able to borrow, but I would like to remind him that less than three months ago this very Minister

stood at the West St. Joseph School in delivering the feature speech of the day and said that his Government could not get money to borrow to carry through the developments it had, and he remarked about building secondary schools.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order, that is not true.

Mr. BOLDEN: You said it, man, do not tell me.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: How could I say that when as a member of the Cabinet I knew what money was coming through the pipeline; am I an idiot?

Mr. BOLDEN: You are. He said that they had plans to build secondary schools and the international agencies would not lend them the money and they had to build them one by one as the finances afforded them so to do.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order, all I was saying was that our educational standard was so high that we are expending money for schools, which is entirely different from money for development, that they prefer to give money to Latin America where there is a vast percentage of illiteracy than to a country like Barbados with 98% literacy properly serviced by education. That is all I am saying; a different thing.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point made.

Mr. BOLDEN: I go further, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us get back to the harbour.

Mr. BOLDEN: I am on the Resolution.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is a Bill.

Mr. BOLDEN: It is a Bill. Another Minister in this Chamber has admitted that international agencies refused to lend them money to buy cane harvesters, so you cannot get up one day to suit the Press and talk about all these developments and this money that you are going to borrow and that no new Government would get money to borrow, and on other occasions you have said you cannot get money to borrow.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order, the hon. member knows that nobody lends anybody any money to buy cane harvesters. Cane harvesters are bought from money that is set aside locally in the same Fund.

Mr. BOLDEN: The hon. member is wrong, Sir, they applied to the World Bank for money to finance the purchase of a certain kind of cane harvester. Is he saying now that the Minister of Agriculture has misled this Chamber?

Hon. A. MORRISON: On a point of order, Sir, we applied to the World Bank for money for mechanisation and before that application was fully processed we had found the funds otherwise. This a fact, I have never confessed in this Chamber that we could not get money from the World Bank for the financing of cane harvesters, but we had applied and before the application was fully processed we had used funds from the Price Stabilisation Fund in order to finance it because of the rate of return and we decided to abandon that idea.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of order made.

Hon. A. MORRISON: These are the facts and the true facts, there is nothing about that to lie.

Mr. BOLDEN: You do not borrow money, Sir, one member said you do not borrow money for cane harvesters.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order, the hon. member must listen. I said that we have money here, because the hon. member should know, if he knows so much about agriculture, money is made available for cane harvesters here from the fund of money that was set aside. I sat on the committee where that was done. You will have a lot of old iron about here too. We have to be careful that because they can get money easily that we do not get a lot of old iron knocking about here and the people not knowing what to do with it.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is no use trying to solve this argument, because the Minister of Agriculture said they had applied to the World Bank for funds, and the whole story behind it is different from what has been said here. The Minister knows, I have told him what the story is.
5.25 p.m.

Hon. A. MORRISON: On a point of order. What I am saying is that the area of sugar mechanisation was the area which the World Bank would look at, and, because that was an area that they were prepared to look at, we have assisted the Producers' Association in order to apply for a World Bank loan for mechanisation. When we applied to the World Bank and found

out what was the rate of interest and so on and it was difficult to get the loan, we had authorised, eventually, two years after a sum of money, \$600,000, from the Price Rehabilitation Fund in order to finance the same mechanisation that we are talking about. The funds have not been fully taken up by the Sugar Producers' Association.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of order made. Let the hon. member continue his speech.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, why do they not tell you that after they applied to the World Bank for the money, while the loan was under consideration, the Minister of Finance took the \$40 million out of sugar. The World Bank said: "If you can take the money out of sugar, we cannot lend you money to put back in sugar." That is why they had to talk about finding money in local sources to finance the mechanisation of the sugar industry. That is what they should have told you, but they had applied to International Agencies for money to mechanise the sugar industry. They must not try to mislead the Chamber. I know about it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sugar comes through the Deep Water Harbour.

Mr. BOLDEN: It comes through the Deep Water Harbour, and it is the only exporting item we have that can keep the country stabilised. When the Minister of Education talks about if this Government is changed the International Agencies would now know the new Government that is nonsense. Ask the Minister if I did not tell him that people were in Barbados looking around for industries and were willing to help? What is he talking about International Agencies not knowing people on this side? Why is it that everyone of them over there says that the people on this side know more about what is going on in Barbados than they know about it? It is due to the fact that we know who to talk to.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, let us go back to the Deep Water Harbour. It is true that containerisation is now the modern means of shifting cargo. There is no doubt about it that whatever happens it has to come to Barbados. It will create a redundancy problem. I am advising the Government at this stage that, even before they begin the extension of the Harbour, this is the time when they must sit down and work out the long-term development of the Port in Barbados. They have to find out what redundancy is likely to take place. I believe they should embark on a re-training scheme now, because in this day and age, because of good

health standards around the world, and not only in Barbados, people are living very much longer than 20 years ago. People are more capable of working in their higher age brackets than they were 20 years ago. You cannot make a man redundant at the age of 50 and expect him to go home and do nothing. The cost of living is high in these parts of the world, and I believe it is time that the Government really sit down now, and work out a scheme which will cause no hardship when the Deep Water Harbour is finished. We have time now. We have to know what we are going to do in respect of containerisation; we have to know how many people we need to work in the Deep Water Harbour, and how many people will be displaced.

Again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the people who operate the Inter-Island schooners are saying that, if they have to move from the wharf into the Deep Water Harbour, it will be necessary to pay an average of \$25.00 a ton more on commodities brought into the Island. These are things that Government should look at now, and see how best the Inter-Island schooners can be fitted into the scheme of things in a Deep Water Harbour and at the same time maintain a constant cost-of-living factor without increased cost in the shipping in the country. It is no use getting up and talking about the Barbados Labour Party did not do this or that. That was 15 years ago. There are young people walking about the streets of Barbados who do not know when the Barbados Labour Party came into being. If those young people are now even 22 years old, and you subtract 15 from 22, they would have been 7 years old, running about the villages and even down in the Orleans and on Murphy's Pasture, which the hon. member likes to talk about. They would not know about the B.L.P. What people want to know about is what you are doing now, and what will be done next year, and four or five years from now. That is what the Union and the Government should be talking about now. The Union should be entreating the Government to sit around a table, even if you have to bring experts or other people from outside, and work out a policy for the new extended Port, so that it will not cause undue hardship to the people working there. You would then know what sort of employment you would have to look for in the future and what you would have to discard.

Quite recently, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we heard of the reclassification of workers at the Deep Water Harbour. The operators of the Port

were saying that, because of CARICOM, the volume of trade was not coming into the Harbour as usual, and therefore persons who were promoted, or who were pending promotion, now have to be demoted or put back to their original position. With the completion of the Harbour, you will have a worst situation. You may find that you need fewer workers and if, as we hear, shippers prefer containers because there will be less pilferage, easier handling and less freight charges, that in itself will account for a decrease in the cost of commodities coming to the country. It also means that you will have fewer people employed.

I would never like to see the type of dispute in Barbados as the one which developed somewhere in Britain where they had a line of demarcation between the Containerised Union and the Dockers Union as to who should handle containers. The Court decided that the Containerised Union should handle the containers. Then the Dockers went on strike, and the Containerised Union backed the Dockers Union in the strike. I would never like to see that sort of thing taking place in Barbados. Barbados is too small to entertain that sort of dispute and, therefore, before we reach that stage, I believe that we should have our discussions. We have time enough to argue and debate this matter and come to a compromise that is satisfactory to both sides: the Union in respect of the workers, and the Government in respect of the consumers of this country.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that everyone would give easy passage to this Bill and, perhaps, it would have invited less debate had the hon. member for St. Michael South Central stuck rigidly to his brief. But this is the silly season, Sir, and the time when all politicians, of course, blow trumpets. The hon. member, obviously, took the opportunity to blow various trumpets. I would like to defuse or mute one of those trumpets. It is one of the arguments that I have heard consistently advanced in the last election campaign, and I would have thought that by now, particularly dealing with a Bill of this nature, that argument would not be advanced with any degree of seriousness. It is the argument that, because the Government has to negotiate international loans for expansion of some of our facilities like the Deep Water Harbour, any succeeding Government will not be able to carry on the same negotiations and conclude them successfully.

5.35 p.m.

Now it would be a great tragedy and a terrible comment on the expertise of our civil

service plus the undoubted ability of so many of our politicians if this were true. Let us make no bones about it. Even prior to Barbados' independence loans dealing with the Deep Water Harbour and the airport were being negotiated by our former Ministers and negotiated quite successfully, and I have no doubt that with a change of Government the incoming Ministers whoever they happen to be will have enough expertise to negotiate new loans and most likely on better terms. For instance, I would like to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that it is well known that the effect of Caricom on the Deep Water Harbour has to a large extent affected the employment opportunities at the Harbour and a proper rationalisation of the work force. One of the commitments which the Labour Party has given the country was to negotiate more effectively than has been done by the present Minister of Finance the whole Caricom Treaty. We are conscious of the effect which this has had on the cost of living in the country and we are deeply conscious of the effect which it is having on work opportunities for Port workers within the Port itself, and that is why when we talk about things we do not talk about them flippantly. To us there are important implications there and of course we would wish very strongly to consult and indeed take the advice of the Workers' Union on this point, because it is a matter that concerns them and concerns them intimately.

Now I am hoping that the Government would heed some of the advice given to them by the hon. member for St. Michael West, not in relation to the lawyers. I think he was giving us the usual touching up this afternoon. His comments about the Port are very apposite. For instance, I am surprised that with the taking over of the shares of the Port that the workers have not been given a bigger role to participate in the actual day to day ownership and running of the Port. I myself could not understand the mere re-appointment of a Board which varied very little indeed from the Board which formerly existed when there was a heavier element of private enterprise in the Port. I think if we are going to be serious about the workers and particularly the less well off section of our community learning about industrial democracy and learning to manage businesses as undoubtedly they can, because without any political overtones at all, let me tell you that I consider the Barbados Workers' Union a very well managed organisation and I would have hoped that we would take to heart as a Government every opportunity which we get to ensure that the workers know and exercise management in industry, and I trust that with the expansion Government will have second ideas about

conditions — whichever be the Government of the day, be it the P.P.A., the P.D.M., the P.P.M., the D.L.P. or the obvious choice the B.L.P., and I would hope whichever is the Government of the day that we would seriously consider the rationalisation of this situation.

I am very serious about this because I drive along the wharf and I note that schooners are coming daily into the Port bringing the things of the new elitist industrialists of the Caricom area and that the spin off to the work force is very little. In other words the profits are being kept in the hands of a few people and there is no further percolating of money throughout the economy, and also put a safety valve on the type of revolutionary explosions that we are witnessing in the Caribbean. Like the hon. member for St. Michael West I do not believe in subversion regardless of from which quarter it comes, but I think we have to be conscious that there are elements in this community who believe in subversion and those who want to preserve order, and a progressive society must not miss any opportunity we have for making sure that people who are not as fortunate as some of us have been are at each stage given an opportunity to better themselves and get on.

I regret that the present arrangements that exist for the shipping of Caricom goods seem to be affecting the living standards of the work force in the Bridgetown Harbour, and rather than working towards expanding in the Harbour they are contracting and continuing to contract. This is a very serious point of view, and I do not know what study the Government has carried out on it. It may have had a study with consultants about the physical development of the Port, but it does not seem to me that it has done any proper study on this aspect of the matter, and it ought to do it in a hurry. I think that the hon. member for St. Michael West not only spoke passionately but knowledgeably on this aspect of the matter, and I said in here last week and I repeat again that whoever is the Government of the day nobody can lightly in these days ignore the considered views of the Workers' Unions regardless of whether it is the Barbados Workers' Union or any workers' union. They represent a corporate group of people who must be as significant as capital or money in the scheme of things in this country, and it is for this reason that I am asking the Minister not only to look at the necessity of exempting materials and equipment and supplies and goods coming into the Harbour, but to look at the overall rationalisation of Port services, as the hon. member for St. Michael West put it, to ensure that the expansion of the Port is not only

necessary but that there will be work there for them to do.

The question of containerisation was raised, and it is quite true that wherever there is an improvement in the methods of working either to lighten the duty of the manual labour involved or to save costs that we are to be in step with this sort of development. But I want to sound a bit of a warning. Underdeveloped countries like our own cannot always go towards the most modern of developments in the world at large to the expense of reducing labour opportunities for our citizens. We cannot do it as rapidly as some people hope, and no matter how well trained an economist may be, I think it is only a commonsense view that anybody should take of their country in a developing stage. We have an excess of labour over capital in Barbados and when we are looking at introducing new methods in Barbados, we must ask ourselves whether capital goods or capital in terms of money is going to replace manpower and what we are going to do with the additional manpower.

Another argument that I should like to see borne in mind on this containerisation problem very seriously in the Port is that I do not think it is right that because containerisation should come that the work force should be asked to accept less than their fair share of wages. Certainly if containerisation is coming, it is beneficial not only to the consumer, but there is obviously some rake off or additional profits available to the shipping companies as well as available to the people who are selling the goods that are coming through the Port, and if we are fair in our society social justice must demand that part of that saving will have to be given to the workers regardless of whether they are being called upon to do more work or less, because it is through no fault of their own that this type of development has taken place. A man who is on a fixed income particularly or who depends on a weekly wage cannot write off his living expenses or any part of muscle power which he puts into the thing. If you give his muscle power an economic value, Mr. Deputy Speaker, he cannot write off this energy which he used as, for instance an industrialist can over a period of time write off his machinery by way of depreciation and get tax benefit, and those of us who are planning the future of our country must be conscious of this, and I think that this Bill provides a good opportunity for us to restate the type of principles which we expect to see carried on in future developments of this nature in Barbados. 5.45 p.m.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of explanation. Part of the loan for the deep water

harbour is for technical assistance and part for the establishment of the Port Authority.

Mr. FORDE: I am thankful to the Hon. Minister, but that is information of which I am aware, and that is why I am taking the stand which I have taken. If I may go back to the point I am making, what I am trying to say is that we have to organise a fundamental social development, if social development is to be judged against the background of development that is going on in the country.

The hon. member will recall that the Barbados Labour Party, conscious as it was of the importance of the development of the Port to this country, so quickly built in the foundation on which the Democratic Labour Party built in the last 15 years. We are conscious that we have to refashion the house a bit, and do a bit of spring cleaning; set new goals, new ideals and new ventures; and I give the country the assurance that not only will we seek to negotiate in the international sphere loans at the lowest rate available, but repayment dates as far off as possible so that we can get the financial burden on the country less and less.

We are going to stipulate a bit more. We believe that international agencies who lend money to these countries and what not should not come in here asking for consultants who are working to get off income tax. They must pay income tax somewhere if they are going to live in the country and work in the country, particularly as we contend that we have available among us trained young people and people under the 40 year age limit. Therefore I do not see the necessity of bringing in an outside consultant service on projects such as this.

One of the economic policies which we will adopt in Foreign Affairs will be to lobby very strongly with other undeveloped countries to prevent this type of rake off. I can assure the hon. member that we are not electioneering on a matter such as this. I believe that he will hear some of the most statesmanlike speeches if he takes the time off to listen to us both outside and inside of this House between now and September 6 — or is it September 8 — whatever the date will be.

He may be assured that we will not just take up \$30 million from the Community College. We are conscious that it has to be repaid. We want to add up first how little we can pay for what is the genuine development of this country, and how it is going to push the economic activity, and whether it will increase the productivity without

costing more of the workers' leisure time, and whether it means a genuine increase in wages for the work force without a contraction of the work force.

My friend, the member for St. Michael West, can have my assurance that regardless of whether I ever form part of a Government, there must be absolute consultation with those organisations; otherwise he will have my assurance that I will be joining with him on the back benches with great fervour and stand up for this. (*Aside:* You will never get on the front.) The hon. member is light hearted and say that I will never get on the front. As you know, you have tasted the front both in actual reality, and you have tasted the front as, I believe, a shadow Minister. I assure the hon. member that as a Shadow Minister on the Opposition side, if he is worth his salt he can be as valuable in the development of the country's life as anywhere else.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Including the development of the Port.

Mr. FORDE: Yes, including the development of the Port. If the hon. member exchanges places on this side I can assure him that what advice he gives on port matters — because he did have some responsibility for port matters when he was Minister of Communications and Works, and I had the good fortune of seeing him open the canteen down there for the Workers Union — even if he happens to be Shadow Minister of Communications and Works in port development I assure him that if I form part of the Cabinet I will listen to his views very carefully, and I will articulate his views in Cabinet so that they will get good consideration.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on the Bill.

Hon. A. MORRISON: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

On separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA seconded by Hon. A. MORRISON Clauses 1 to 5 inclusive were called and agreed to.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move that Your Honour do now report the passing of one Bill in Committee.

Hon. A. MORRISON: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER who resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA seconded by Hon. A. MORRISON the Bill was read a third time, passed and cited as the DEEP WATER HARBOUR (EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT) (EXEMPTION FROM DUTIES) ACT, 1976.

BILL TO INCORPORATE THE BARBADOS BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the next item that the Government proposes to deal with is Item No. 5 which stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Education, Community Development and Sport, which is to move the second reading of a Bill to provide for the incorporation of the Barbados Boy Scouts Association.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, there can be no controversy about this Bill. A similar provision was made in the Laws of Barbados for the Girl Guides Association, and the Boy Scouts Association has intimated to the Government that they would like a similar Bill for their Association. I think that there should be the complete support of the entire House on it.

I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Bill.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

The Question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill. Mr. W. R. LOWE took the Chair.

On the separate motions of Hon. F. G. SMITH each seconded by Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD Clauses 1 to 5 inclusive of the Bill were called and stood part.
5.55 p.m.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I beg to move that Your Honour do now report the passing of one Bill in Committee.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER who resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a third time.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

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

On the motion of Hon. F. G. SMITH, seconded by Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD the Bill was passed and cited as the Barbados Boy Scouts Association (Incorporation) Act, 1976.

A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF STUDENT REVOLVING LOAN FUND

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The next Item is Item No. 4 which stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Education, etc.; it is the second reading of a Bill to provide for the establishment and administration of the Student Revolving Loan Fund.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will not deal with this Bill to any large extent, except to say that this is another attempt by the Government to make available to the students in this country funds for the purpose of higher education. Negotiations with the Inter-American Development Bank and the establishment of a Student Revolving Fund took place and as a result of negotiations it was agreed that a Bill of this nature should come before Parliament. This Bill, as I said, speaks for itself and unless hon. members would like more information, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am very much in favour of this Fund and this Bill setting up the administration for a Student Revolving Fund because I would like to see a really up-to-date and modern public service, so that

we can look at the public service not as a simple career but look at the public service in modern context so that your young public servants could give the thrust and leadership at work that is a different orientation from what we have taken over from the old-fashioned colonial service. It is difficult to divorce yourself from yourself. It is nearly impossible, but I think we are labouring under a very serious handicap that when we go from a colonial system into an independent system and you have to carry the same people you have to carry the same system, you have to carry all of these, you have to drag on for such a long time unless you have a revolution, and therefore you are able to remove completely one age group or one group from the society completely and start fresh again.

Well, that would be a lot of blood; but in a normal transitional manner the only thing we can do is to have an educational transformation, and Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to see a different concept. I said earlier today and I must say quite bluntly, I am a Barbadian but I do not like the Barbadian concept about education and change. The Barbadian concept about education and change is that you must wait 89 years till your great grandchildren come and succeed you.

Now the Civil Service method in my view — it was the old-fashioned collar and tie, going up, saluting, forming fours and coming up. This system is still so prevalent; They take off the collar and tie but they are still waiting, and this idea needs to be removed and I would like to see a new change. I hope this Revolving Fund will help. For example, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not know how any member whether it is that side or this side, can sit down in Barbados and spend public funds on any person as a condition of employment that you are sending some person to England on leave passages. On what basis? For what? On what grounds? To help an aeroplane? To help the travel agents? Now tell me how any person who went to school, like the people we are employing, can claim that as a condition of service they would be expecting leave passage in 1976.

Now if the Barbados Workers' Union attempts to ask an employer or the employers in Barbados to transmit that same condition of employment into the people of Barbados who work, they would say, I want to smash up the whole economy of this country to ask people to provide leave passages for everybody who work. I say this quite openly that there is an election coming on; public servants can hear what I say. They must be men and women enough to know this is not good for your country. This is not

good for a country. There is no point in telling me that you cannot educate your children, you cannot have them exposed – I read all the papers on this. You are exposing a man or woman every three years to the opportunity to go outside. Each one of them that would be exposed to this are people who would be exposed to it anyhow. If they are teachers, if they are headteachers, if they are at that level, at some time they are going to conferences. They are going to have these meetings. Why? Why must we have a system of your retaining.....In the Estimates I do not know what is the amount of money, whether it is \$100,000 but the principle – why should this principle be maintained? It was not always in Barbados.

Now the circumstances that caused the principle to be utilised in Barbados are no longer relevant to our situation. The hon. member for Christ Church West would say that I am taking a dig at the lawyers. Now the lawyers came up some time and introduced to the people in the Civil Service a bogus theory that in view of the fact that a leave passage was a condition of employment therefore you cannot now remove it. 6.05 p.m.

You can have conditions of employment, but you can have by agreement how you will phase it out, that up to a certain point it will no longer exist. You will not come along and say tomorrow that if a person was entitled to get leave from 1st August you will remove it from them, but you must be able to set a target so that you will phase it out over a period of X number of years, and after that it will be no more. It is stark madness to have in a country of Barbados' economy that you tell a person as a condition of employing a Barbadian to work in the public service, when you work for a salary even if it is on an arbitrary basis that when your salary reaches a certain point *ipso facto* you are entitled to leave Barbados and go away. Why? I can see this money going into training and I say that it is time that we should be bold enough. I do not see an American doing it, I cannot see an Englishman doing it, I cannot see an Englishman giving a man who lives in Yorkshire this sort of thing when his salary reaches a certain amount – but the Englishmen are cheap anyhow – but I cannot see a man who is working in London getting a leave passage to go back. If he has train fare to get back to Yorkshire he will get back, and I do not see how we in Barbados recruiting people in Barbados for jobs can do it. I can see it in an isolated case if you recruit people, Barbadians or otherwise, from overseas and you send them back from where you brought them, because if I was recruited from overseas you would have to send me back.

I think in the areas where you will say you can excuse this is in the university area where it is a region, where you are not working in your local area, but I do not really see, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I hope that now you have a revolving fund that the Government would call a conference of the Unions concerned and say we want to discuss this matter in the national interest, and I do not see any national with any pride for his country maintaining a position which would, as it were, support colonialism. All we are doing is providing airlines with more finance.

To those of you who lived in England, I had my shock when I first went to England. I had the greatest shock of my life to see where some of these stupid people, living a life in Barbados far superior to the kind of life they live in England, but it was a great shock to me to see how and where they lived. There was a man running a place somewhere around Earls Court – J.D's I think he was called – a man with some little leather thing he used to wear, and it is a place normally where Barbadians go to live, but you go at this place, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and if you drop in there in the winter time, if you miss and sit down on the cold bedstead you would hit the roof immediately, because this is not anything anybody could write home about. What really amused me – and I am not calling any names – I had a shock to find that there were old people who were living in Barbados that if you had asked them to go anywhere in Barbados, or if the Government had sent them anywhere in Antigua or somewhere like that they would come back home. The way they lived I wonder what they went to England for in that sort of torture for six or eight weeks. I am amused that some of them have to be butting about England scrounging a little lunch here, working a little thing there, hoping to meet somebody here, and it is really a tortuous experience. This is all right if you are 19 and like any 19 year old boy or girl who can get in a pair of old jeans and a pair of dirty pumps and get on the train, put a haversack on their backs and go across the continent hoping to meet a boyfriend or girlfriend and go hiking, but not grown people who are accustomed to some comfort. These are the people we are encouraging to do this. Sometimes they tell you they like to go to the theatre and you meet some of them in Shaftesbury Avenue, but some of the prices can be very steep and they will stand up in the cold. I do not know what some people leave Barbados to go up to England for.

Everybody has his likes and dislikes, and to be quite frank I could not see myself going five or six thousand miles for that kind of treatment.

I feel that if you like this you can pay for it. I feel that the public servants — I do not say they will be doing a service to their country — but I feel it is in the interest of future generations. I do not think the young public servants should grow up and enter the public service with this mental approach towards national development. If we are talking about developing the nation we have to develop the nation for people with different concepts, and these old fashioned concepts we are looking for should be done away with. I feel those who have had it had it, but I do not feel that it is in the best interest of our economy that we should maintain leave passages for people who work in the public service. We should train our public servants to take their positions. I am satisfied that even in Cuba the Cubans would not have as a condition of service that they can get leave passages to go to the Kremlin. They may send you to see how they do things there but not as a condition of service will they send you to the Kremlin to see how Krushchev and Kossygin lived in order to be a good Communist, and I do not see where to be a good democrat we have to understand democracy by giving people leave passages.

I agree with this, and I hope the money can be diverted from that area into training and train some of the public servants.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are satisfied that with the establishment of the Revolving Loan Fund there is presented to us an opportunity to gauge the future of our service proper. What we are particularly concerned with is this, that we do not see training being engaged in for the sake of training. In other words, that if we are to lend money for training from this Fund we would want to see that the money is loaned to people who still have years of service to render to the country.

6.15 p.m.

You will find that the system has been, in part, that very senior personnel in the various branches of the Service, who have another year, or maybe two years, before they retire, being sent abroad to be trained to improve their qualifications and so on. We are not against people improving their qualifications, but what we must be totally against, if the belly of this Fund is not to be eaten out for such purposes, if I were to put it that way, is people going to improve their qualifications merely for their own benefit. In other words, they get a better salary on their return to the job, but their real aim is to see that their pensions are fattened as a result of the training they received. Some of these officers are not particularly concerned with seeing that the extent of their training is to be benefit of the community at large.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Minister, I feel, is in duty bound to tell us what is going to be the extent of this Fund which is being established. We appreciate the fact that there is already in existence, as far as we can remember, a Higher Education Loan Fund. We would like to hear from the Minister if there is going to be any conflict between the Higher Education Loan Fund and the establishment of this Revolving Loan Fund. The Minister would, we are sure, Mr. Deputy Speaker, take into consideration what is set out here in Sections 13 and 14. We learn that the Committee that is to be established to administer this Fund has authority to borrow money. If the Committee borrows money and finds itself, for any reason, being unable to repay it, Parliament's approval for guaranteeing repayment of loans and interest must be sought. I believe the Minister would want to try, however feebly, to explain to us that a corresponding responsibility ought to be placed on the Committee to seek Parliament's prior approval before it engages in any borrowing. One would have a right to feel that it is only reasonable to expect this. We have had, from time to time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to deal with very similar situations in respect of the Transport Board, for instance.

We do not, for any reason, seek to decry or to deny the necessity to set up this Revolving Fund. We see that conditions are attached for the repayment of loans. We know that some borrowers have not all honoured their obligations under the present Loan Scheme, but we are glad to say that the few who have defaulted are in a very small minority. If we know that we have loaned money for education to help people to improve themselves, as long as the money is really and truly spent on improving the qualifications of Barbadians, although it is not right that the loan is not repaid, we still feel, not a sense of total pleasure, because that could not be the case, but there is a degree of satisfaction to the extent that when we find that we might have to write off a particular debt that it has been spent on a good cause. The necessity should never arise for this Revolving Loan Fund Committee to have to write off any bad debts, because it cannot be denied that the money is to be loaned to persons who are in the Service, or to persons who will be joining the Service at some point or other. In other words, the money is to be loaned with a view to benefiting totally the community at large. When we send any person to be trained at a University here or abroad, we are training such persons to return to the Service and to be in a position to place at the disposal of those in the classroom, or those in the work unit, or whatever sector the person is

attached thereto, the benefit derived from that higher education training that has been received.

It behoves us, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that Government must begin to show itself as a wise Government at this stage. Here you have the InterAmerican Development Bank throwing in its lot, not for the benefit of the Government as such, but for the benefit of the nation. You have the Inter-American Development Bank making a decision to help to create this Revolving Fund, and we are satisfied that this has been arrived at after a careful survey of the existing needs and the requirements for the building up of the community generally. Having reached this point that we have come to Parliament to legislate for the bringing into being of this Revolving Fund, one must require of the Government that every caution be exercised. What better guidance could Government have at this stage than a review of all of the circumstances that surrounded the present Higher Education Loan Fund? Fortunately, for us we have a pattern before us which we can examine and reject what was bad in it, or set about to improve what was bad in it. I think with this aback of us a wonderful opportunity is presented to Government at this stage to lay the foundation in a manner that is exemplary. It should lay the foundation in such a way that students, or persons, applying for loans will begin to feel a sense of responsibility attaching thereto that we have not witnessed in some instances in the past.

6.25 p.m.

Establishing this Loan Revolving Fund, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is not another political gimmick. Establishing this fund, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we do believe is intended to improve generally the standards of performance of all who benefit from this fund, and if this pattern is followed it must of necessity show itself benefiting the various sectors of the economy. It should in process provide us with men and women better equipped to play a leading role in the affairs of this country, and we hope that the end result would be a total involvement of Government, the International Monetary Fund and whatever banking agency, whether it be the Central Bank or other banks that we establish, but that we do not find that one institution that took part in the local funding of this fund relaxes its efforts at some point that would lead to a break down in the administration of the fund which to my view could be utilised to the total economic and physical benefit generally of this nation of ours.

We are asking just to be told as far as the Minister knows what are the fortunes in the fund. In other words, let us know that we are

establishing this fund with \$X. If this is done, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we could from there and then begin to gauge how far-reaching, the scheme can be, to what extent the fund would be able to benefit and do not find ourselves expecting more from the fund than what the fund is able to bear in itself.

Now the draughtsmen found it necessary, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to make provision for improvement from time to time as the necessity arises the quantum, the extent of money that must be in the fund to meet its commitments. It must mean therefore that resulting from some sort of survey and from an examination of our requirements, whether in commerce, in the teaching service and may be in our postal services and all these things would have to be taken into consideration at some point in determining these are our requirements and these requirements would in turn necessitate our establishing the fund with so much and so much potential. We believe that all this was done before the decision to create this fund. Having satisfied themselves as to this, we are simply and merely asking to be told, because we would like to partake and make our own contribution in whatever way to assist in effecting the nearest of perfection in the administration of such a fund.

We believe that the Minister responsible would like to know that after having at his disposal the operation of a previous or existing fund he can decide what are the best guidelines to follow in making this revolving fund a specimen for others to follow. I believe that the Minister must by now observe that we on this side are prepared to support this Bill, but we would like to know that we are doing so after having the assurance from the Minister that he is totally conversant, that he himself is armed with all the facts to establish this revolving fund and that it is not a case where a file has just been pushed into his hands like we heard from some other Minister during the course of the day. We know the type of Minister who has got this matter to deal with and we know that he would never have brought it before us until he had familiarised himself with all the ramifications thereof, and we leave it to the Minister at this stage to tell us what he knows about the whole operations as are set forth in this Bill.

Mr. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, all of us I am sure would want to commend the Government for establishing this Student Revolving Loan Fund. In looking through the

Interpretation section of the Bill which is under consideration, one sees what is described as the definition of a student — a person who is enrolled or has been accepted for enrolment in a prescribed course of study at any university.

Now I think this is one of the very important aspects of this Bill which we are being asked to pass here this evening, for the simple reason that the fund can be used to create opportunities for people who hopefully will return to Barbados to be involved in the important aspect of nation building, in that the Committee which was established to administer this fund presumably can prescribe the areas of study in which the students will be given loans to go to study. This I consider to be very important and I would hope that very clear directions would be given to the Committee when they are considering applications for loans from this fund.

6.35 p.m.

Now, there have been a lot of opportunities which have been missed by a number of Barbadians who, in years gone by were desirous of obtaining funds to further their education whether it was in the professional or in the technical area, and that has, I am sure, to some extent slowed down our progress, and has held back our growth and development both economically and socially.

Now that we get this opportunity, we will hope that a greater number of people will be able to pursue a course of study which will not only lead to their personal development, but at the same time will give them an opportunity to broaden their outlook and to acquire the kind of knowledge which will enable them to make a very important contribution to this country.

On a question of returning to the country after having benefitted from a loan from the Student Revolving Fund — I think that the member for St. Peter mentioned — there have been defaulters in another fund which has been very limited, and in which we see a number of people who have borrowed from the Higher Education Loan Fund and have not returned to Barbados, or are not repaying the loans which were advanced to them.

That is to me, Mr. Deputy Speaker, extremely irresponsible. I would hope that the committee which will be set up to administer the Student Loan Revolving Fund will lay down some very stiff conditions, and stiff penalties for those people who borrow money and do not return to the country, because it is not only

unpatriotic, but it is the height of dishonesty; and I do not think that anyone of us would want to subscribe to a situation where people can borrow money from a fund, go overseas and study and then do not return to the country and make their contributions or even repay the loan.

It is my fervent hope that those people who will benefit from this fund would feel committed to return to Barbados and make a contribution to our national development because that is what we need at this stage. We need as much manpower and brain power as we can get within this society so as to go forward in one national effort. I see that this fund is to create yet another opportunity to build on the former foundation on which this country can grow. I suppose that it is because it is limited in scope, and there is no particular mass appeal about this, that you will probably get the Opposition agreeing with it in total; because it is not the kind of issue that you can take to the electorate and describe it as a political gimmick because the people who will be benefitting will be relatively limited.

This, however, is a very important cornerstone in any foundation that we build in this young nation. I hope that these people who borrow money from the fund will feel it is their bounding duty to repay it, because if they do not it would seem to me that the fund will be reduced by that amount of money for every one person who does not repay, and so many students will not be able to benefit. So, the operation of this fund calls for serious commitment, and it calls for honesty and sincerity of purpose on the part of those people who will be proceeding to further their education through a fund of this nature. I am sure that this is one piece of legislation which is going to be welcomed because in the long run it is going to be a very important cornerstone in our development.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, as the hon. member for St. Lucy has observed, I do not think that there will be any dissension on this side on the principle and for the most part on the terms and conditions of this piece of legislation. I feel that the Ministry of Education spends the most money of any of the Government Departments, and this is recognition of the role that Education must play in a developing society that this is so.

It is also important for us to remember that in nation building, especially in a young nation, that perhaps there are two areas which are of the greatest concern to the general public — and these are the areas of Education, apart from the ordinary day to day living — Education and

Housing — and I welcome a Bill of this nature which will assist someone who is desirous of and ambitious to improve his educational standing, to get a loan to go abroad and study, or study within the community so as to develop his educational horizons, so that ultimately he will be rehabilitated into the fabric of society as a more skilled and expert person and where the benefit of his education will be all the more evident, having regard to the youth of the nation.

I would hope, Sir, that the committee would be nationalistic, and that one of the guidelines or the directions of the Minister, whoever he may be, would be to ensure at the time that wherever possible the University of the West Indies is seen as the first choice for subsequent education. The member for St. Michael West — even though in my submission, he spoke a little bit irrelevantly on this Bill — was trying to get across the point that we must be more introspective. We must look within the Caribbean area for areas of expertise and training which are available, and send our people within the area to obtain such expertise and training.

I think that some of us who have had — I do not know if it is the honour or privilege — but those of us who have, for example, as I did after secondary school — attended a school in the English society — obtained very little about life as related to the Caribbean. We got general experience. We learned about people and how to deal with people of that type, but the actual training was more germane to the area of law for carrying on a practice in England. We found ourselves hamstrung by the structures and prejudices of the English society, and to that extent the training became totally unfitted for West Indians. So I make a plea for the committee to seek to educate our people who make use of this fund within the area. Sir, I have one or two queries, not necessarily criticisms, and if I am wrong at any point I am sure that the Hon. Minister will stop me or make a suitable answer when he makes his final reply.

6.45 p.m.

I see that this Committee is incorporated. It is given the status of a corporation but there is no provision for the report of the Committee to be laid in Parliament. Now, Sir, if this is a statutory corporation having to deal with funds, some raised locally, some raised through international agencies, why has it no obligation to lay its report before Parliament as for example, C.B.C. and other statutory corporations? I think this may be a lacuna in the law and I wonder if it is too late for the Minister to consider amending Clause 9 to provide at some point for

the report to be laid in Parliament. We are going to be dealing, one assumes, with a substantial amount of money. Other members who have spoken before me have adverted to the fact that Higher Education Loan Fund has seen a number of delinquent borrowers and defaulters. We would not want this Fund to suffer a similar experience but I think there should be some provision for the report to be laid in Parliament. The Minister will obviously reply so he will have something to say on that.

In respect of Clause 9, the Committee is required to keep proper books of account and the accounts are to be audited annually by an Auditor appointed by the Committee with the approval of the Minister. Now beyond that the Auditor General can only carry out an investigation or special audit if required by the Minister. I wonder, Sir, whether the Minister has not considered giving the Auditor General his own powers. In other words, providing that the Auditor General shall on his own motion or at the request of the Minister carry out this thing if he comes across in the course of an audit something which he thinks requires a special investigation or a special audit, because as far as the public accounts are concerned, as I understand it, there has not been an audit of the public accounts since 1971, I believe, and I wonder if we should not invest the Auditor General with powers that he can assume on his own motion to carry out his own investigation or special audit rather than having to wait on the Minister to initiate these proceedings.

Clause 16 deals with the question of recovery of loans and there is an observation that I would wish to make here, Sir. The Clause purports to extend the jurisdiction of the magistrate of District "A" to sue and collect wherever possible the debts defaulting and delinquent borrowers. Now what will happen in a situation where a person borrows money under this Fund, then goes abroad to Trinidad or Jamaica or England and does not return, and owes the Fund a substantial amount of money? Now it is all well and good to exceed the magistrate's jurisdiction but a magistrate's court has no power to issue a plaint out of the jurisdiction. There may be somebody who owes the Government \$3,000; he has finished his course and he has got a job in Trinidad, Jamaica or England and he does not pay back the Government. Now we want to ensure that as far as possible and as efficaciously as possible, this thing works. So we want to get hold of that man wherever he is. We know where he is. He is within the Caribbean Commonwealth or in England with whom we have reciprocal

jurisdiction. If this had been amended to give the High Court power or to allow the Government to sue in the High Court, then there would be no problem. The writ could issue out of the jurisdiction, to Trinidad or wherever it is and attached to the man in Trinidad; but as it stands the magistrate's court can only collect if the defaulting borrower is in Barbados but if he is elsewhere we cannot collect it, Sir.

I think the Minister as a former Attorney General appreciates that. I wonder since we are all interested in seeing that people do not escape who legitimately owe the Government money, that he would possibly amend Clause 16. I think a small amendment could be done. I have not addressed myself to even a draft of it but I think that that is a very important consideration to which I am drawing the Minister's attention.

Now again, I notice that borrowers have up to within 18 years within which to repay the loan but as far as I am aware there is a time limit on a debt which is substantially below 18 years. As far as I remember, Sir, it is 6 years and you cannot sue outside that period. You are statute barred. Now there is no provision that I can find on a quick glance through this Bill which will enable the Crown to sue outside this statutory period, the normal statutory period in the Limitation Act. That is another area to which I think the Minister can address his attention, and I wonder if he has seen that and how he would plan to get around the problem that is posed by this Bill in terms of the provisions of the Limitation Act because it is all right for a man to have 18 years to repay. He can live abroad, pay back \$100 for six years and then don't pay again; and then the Government may not be able to do anything about it, Sir.

So again that is an aspect of the Bill which to my mind renders it less efficacious than it is at the moment, and than would appear to meet the eye on a second reading, Sir.

I think those are all the points that have occurred to me and I wanted to draw them to the Minister's attention.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will not be very long but I would like to pay tribute to members who have taken part in this debate. Except for the last part of the speech of the hon. member for St. Peter, I think he was going very good until he sort of deviated somewhat.

Now just let me say, Sir, that this is another measure which this Government is making

towards the education of its citizens. I think I said in this Honourable House before that whatever happens, this Government would go down in history as having devoted a considerable amount of money and energy to the development of the young people in this country.
6.55 p.m.

I think I have said in this Hon. House before that whatever happens this Government will go down in history as having devoted a considerable amount of money and energy to the development of the young people of this country. Before this Bill was actually settled the Inter-American Development Bank provided technical consultants in the form of a Consultant Manpower Economist for two months to enable a socio-economic study to be undertaken to determine the feasibility of the scheme and the areas in which shortage of skilled personnel was likely to retard economic development. We didn't just hit and miss, we had technical assistance to ensure that we knew in what areas the development of Barbados might be retarded through lack of skilled manpower. The loan as proposed will be channeled mainly into development areas to ensure that economic development is supported by persons working in such areas; that graduates can obtain jobs on completion of their studies; and that graduates can command salaries at such a level as to enable them to repay loans.

Those are the three vital areas for this particular scheme;

- (i) to see that the economic development is supported by persons working in the areas of need;
- (ii) that graduates can obtain jobs on completion of their studies; and
- (iii) that graduates can command salaries at such a level to enable them to repay loans.

Of course, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the areas of priority will be subject to constant review on the basis of current manpower data. We will be reviewing it from time to time to see if we have to bring in other areas of study to meet manpower requirements.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time being 7.00 p.m., this House now stands suspended until 8 o'clock.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I could finish in 10 minutes.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. members on the other side would agree I would suspend the Standing Order in order to enable us to continue. This is the last Item we are dealing with and we'll probably adjourn for two weeks, so I am seeking the co-operation of hon. members just to suspend the relevant Standing Order.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move, Sir, that Standing Order 6 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I shall not be long, Mr. Deputy Speaker. As I say, the matter will be reviewed from time to time in order to meet manpower needs.

To deal with the question raised by the hon. member for St. Philip North, I think on a Bill like this there is no big omission of the report to Parliament. It can be put in, but I do not think that is any big thing, the Ministry of Education is certainly in a position to report to Parliament. In addition to that, the members of Parliament will have an opportunity every budget time to discuss this Fund. It is a fund, it is not any big amount, which I will mention later on.

As for the Auditor General having power, if the Minister appoints a competent firm of auditors — you will notice that some Boards have the right to appoint an auditor or Auditor General — but I do not think it is fair, because you can get an Auditor General who is not a qualified accountant, and therefore from that point of view I would not like to appoint an auditor from a reputable firm and then find some civil servant who has reached the position of Auditor General — you know that it is not enshrined in the Constitution — but for the sake of professional harmony not to put somebody if a reputable firm of accountants says these are the figures, these are the defalcations, I do not think you will need the Auditor General either on his own motion or on a Minister's assuming that the professional firm of auditors have given a report.

On the question of the limitation of action, this is a matter in which I suppose the hon. member for St. Philip North is more conversant. The Bill says it can be recovered after a certain time. I am not sure whether it is an extension to the Limitation Act or whether it is the power based on this Bill. I do not know, it is a matter for interpretation, but before it gets to the Senate I will ask the Attorney General's view on that aspect.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member will give way, I think Your Honour should put to the vote the motion that Standing Order 6 be suspended.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am sorry about that, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Those are the three points mainly raised by you. The Ministry is a bit worried about the whole cost to the Government of higher education. You will notice in the budget that there is a figure of \$630,177 under Head 13(5) which covers scholarships and exhibitions in lieu of Barbados Scholarships, exhibitions, national development scholarships. Obviously with a fund like this the Ministry will have to review the whole concept and the amount of money spent on higher education. That is inevitable, and certainly a review will be carried out in such a way as not in any way to decrease or cut down the availability of scholarships and possibilities for students to benefit from university education.

The proposed loan from the Inter American Development Bank will be approximately \$2 million (Bds.), of which the Bank will provide 75% and the Barbados Government will have to find 25% from its own funds. You can work that out mathematically. The Government would also be required to provide resources to maintain a balance of a half million Barbados dollars each year for 10 years subsequent to the final disbursement of the loan resources, and so this would provide approximately 40 new loans per year. The Bank recommended that the areas in which these loans should be used should be engineering, technologist, teacher specialist and industrial arts, science technology, commerce, secondary teachers, land surveyor, hotel management, hotel management technology, business administration, agriculture, agricultural technology, natural science, tertiary teachers, accountancy, medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, architecture, dietician, dietetics, food technology and town planning.

The Minister will have the right, as I say, on review to add in any areas that may be necessary from time to time to meet developmental needs, it gives any Minister the right to give scholarships, say in interior decorating or designing, or industrial designing or in any area in which he thinks the country's manpower needs are lacking, to meet those needs. If you look at section 14(1) we have to come to Parliament. Even although

the Minister says borrow, if the Government is guaranteeing under the Constitution, there is no escape from coming to Parliament as you will see in the Act under section 14(1). It clearly says that the Minister responsible for Finance may, with the approval of Parliament, guarantee in such manner and on such terms and conditions as he thinks fit the payment of principal and interest on any authorised borrowings, so the Minister first gives permission for them to borrow and then Parliament will have to approve it.

7.05 p.m.

I do not have very much more to say. The statements of the hon. member for St. Peter, up to the last statement, were very helpful to me. He asked for an assurance that the Fund would not be used for persons who are about to leave the Service, which is sensible. Even now I would not give a scholarship to a man who was going to retire in a year or two. I would not do it, and I do not care if he is my brother. There are a lot of other useful points which I have noted, and which I think contributed to the debate.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Bill.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill. Mr. W. R. LOWE took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 21 inclusive were called and they stood part.

The Schedule was called and it stood part.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report the passing of one Bill in Committee.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER who resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. F. G. SMITH each seconded by Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Student Revolving Loan Fund Act, 1976.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this concludes Government Business for today's sitting. I beg to move that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday 27th July, 1976, at twelve noon.

Hon. A. MORRISON: I beg to second that.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, is the hon. member assuring us that we will really be meeting? I wish to know if we are serious, and if we really need the adjournment. If we are having a prorogation, then let us have it now. I take this opportunity of wishing you many happy years of retirement. I do not know how many faces I will be seeing after this occasion, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the hon. member may direct those remarks to himself.

ADJOURNMENT

The question that the House do now stand adjourned until Tuesday, 27th July, 1976, at twelve noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

7.14 p.m.