

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION OF 1976 – 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 6th October, 1976.

The 1976–81 Legislative Session was inaugurated at 5 o'clock p.m. today in the Senate Chamber by His Excellency, Sir William Douglas, Acting Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Island of Barbados.

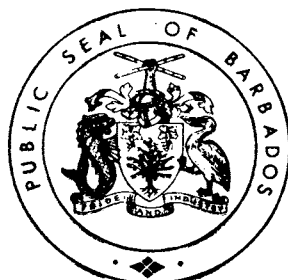
Pursuant to the issuing of Writs, the Hon. Members elected to constitute the General Assembly for the Session assembled in the Assembly Chamber as follows:—

Messrs E. W. BARROW, B.Sc., LL.D. (Member for St. John); L. S. CRAIG, (Member for St. James); J. M. G. M. ADAMS, M.A., (Member for St. Thomas); C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B., (Member for St. Joseph); F. G. SMITH, Q.C., S.C., (Member for St. Michael South Central); H. deB. FORDE, M.A., LL.B.,

(Member for Christ Church West); Dr. R. B. CADDLE, M.B., (Member for St. Michael North Central); L. E. SANDIFORD, M.A., (Member for St. Michael South); E. E. GREAVES, B.A., Ed.M., (Member for St. Lucy); D. A. C. SIMMONS, LL.M., (Member for St. Philip North); Miss B. A. MILLER, (Member for the City of Bridgetown); Messrs L. B. BRATHWAITE, (Member for St. Andrew); J. ODLE, (Member for St. George North); M. WARD, (Member for Christ Church North Central); H. B. ST. JOHN, Q.C., LL.B., (Member for Christ Church South Central); V. JOHNSON, B.A., M.A., (Member for St. Michael West); B. M. TAITT, M.A., (Member for St. Michael South West); L. R. TULL, (Member for St. George South); DeL. BRADSHAW, (Member for St. Michael South East); L. L. SISNETT, (Member for St. Michael North East); R. CHELTENHAM, Ph.D., (Member for Christ Church East); E. E. ALLEYNE, M.A., (Member for St. Michael North West).

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The Deputy Clerk read the following Proclamation:—



W. R. DOUGLAS
Acting Governor-General.

By His Excellency Sir
William Randolph Douglas,
Knight Bachelor, Acting
Governor-General of
Barbados.

A PROCLAMATION

Whereas it is provided by section 60(1) of the Constitution that each session of Parliament shall be held at such place and commence at such time as the Governor-General may appoint:

And Whereas it is expedient that a session of Parliament should be held at the Public Buildings, Bridgetown, commencing on the 6th October, 1976:

Now, Therefore, by virtue and in exercise of the power and authority in me vested, I, Sir William Randolph Douglas, Knight Bachelor, Acting Governor-General of Barbados, *Do Hereby Appoint* the Public Buildings, Bridgetown, as the place at which a session of Parliament shall be held and 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 6th October 1976 as the time at which the said session shall commence.

Given under my hand
and the Public Seal of
Barbados this first day of
October, 1976 and in the
Twenty-fifth Year of Her
Majesty's Reign.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN:

Mr. DEPUTY CLERK: I have the honour to read a letter from Government House dated 5th October, 1976 and addressed to the Clerk of Parliament. The letter reads as follows:—

Ref: GG:99.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
BARBADOS.

5th October, 1976.

Dear Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of the proclamation which has been issued by His Excellency the Acting Governor-General appointing Wednesday, 6th October, 1976, at 5.00 p.m. as the time at which the first session of the new Parliament shall be held.

2. I am further to inform you that it is His Excellency's desire that the House should elect a Speaker at the beginning of that session at 5.00 p.m. and before it proceeds to the despatch of any other business, under the provisions of Order No. 2.1 of the Standing Orders of the House of Assembly; and I am directed to request you to inform the members of the House accordingly.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

M. HASKELL
Private Secretary to
The Governor-General

The Clerk of Parliament,
House of Assembly,
Public Buildings,
Bridgetown.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Clerk, I beg to move that the hon. member for St. Peter do now take the Chair as Speaker.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Clerk, there seems to be a bit of reluctance on the other side which is not in keeping with the old traditions of this august Assembly. I take great pleasure in seconding the nomination of the hon. member for St. Peter to be Speaker during this Session.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Clerk, the Government has proposed the hon. member for St. Peter to be Speaker of this Hon. Chamber, and the nomination was seconded by the Minister of Labour and Welfare.

I wish that I could have found it possible to second this nomination, but I want it to be quite clear that the Opposition is not prepared to create history in this country today. Barbados has had a long history of democracy and I have had an opportunity to study the background, the achievements and antecedents of Speakers of this House and I have no intention, and the Opposition has no intention, of being a party to creating history in this year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventy-six by supporting that nomination.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Clerk, unless there happens to be two candidates before this House there can be no debate on any such motion under the Standing Orders, and I will invite you to put the question.

Mr. DEPUTY CLERK: Are there any further proposals?

Mr. SMITH: I nominate the hon. member for St. Lucy to be Speaker of this House.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Deputy Clerk, I beg to second that nomination.

Mr. SMITH: In proposing the hon. member for St. Lucy I want to say that the Opposition has no intention of putting in the Chair of this House to preside over its deliberations the member for St. Peter.

I am going to deal with this in detail, I am not going to oppose for opposition sake, as I have often said, but the member for St. Peter has been in this Chamber for 10 years, this is his third Session, he is one of the oldest members in contra-distinction to the neophytes who are sitting on the Government benches, yet you will find that the Government and the Prime Minister cannot find it possible to put him on the front

bench because the Advocate says he is a chucker. If he is a chucker his action must be suspect, and therefore as suggested by the Editorial in the Advocate the Prime Minister has so many good bowlers and all-rounders that he can afford now to call on the member for St. Peter, whose action is suspect and not only is it suspect, but he has actually been called upon to be Speaker of this House.

The Speakership of any Legislative Assembly is an Office of dignity in the House. He is no less important than a Minister because he is presiding over deliberations of a Chamber which in the Commonwealth has a long and distinguished history. If the Prime Minister cannot find it possible to make him a Minister in his Government, but because of Party affiliations and in order to ease difficulties in his Party he thinks that he can make him the Speaker of this Chamber in order to equate the Speakership in dignity with a Minister in salary, the Opposition is not falling for that. I am going to warn the Prime Minister now that if he intends to come into this House to make the Speakership a full time job in order to solve his internal party problems by equating the Speaker to a Minister salary wise — well, of course, you have the numbers, as we used to say when we were over there — but the public of Barbados will have to understand that I will not allow you as Prime Minister to use the taxpayers' money to solve the internal problems that you have in your Party. I am warning you now, if you ever come to the House with that suggestion of making the Speakership of this Chamber, which for 300 odd years has had a part-time Speaker, a full-time job to meet on a Tuesday, then you will have to use your numbers because we on this side of the House will not be agreeing to that. I cannot see any justification for a full-time Speaker in a Chamber that meets on a Tuesday only.

Mr. Deputy Clerk, I cannot address the Chair because there is nobody there, so I do not know who to address, but I think that if the Government really seriously went into the background of the hon. member — I am not quarrelling with the member for St. Peter, the people of St. Peter voted for him, I do not live in St. Peter so I cannot decide whether he is fit and proper — but they voted for him for two sessions and that is the business of the people of St. Peter. I do not live in St. Peter so I have no choice of whether he is a fit and proper person, but thank heaven I have the choice today to say whether he is a fit and proper person to preside over the deliberations of this Chamber, even although I scraped home with 20 votes, over the next five years and I am saying that in my own

conscience and in my own mind the hon. member for St. Peter for his antecedents, for his career, for his incarceration is an unfit person to preside over the deliberations of this House.

As I look across the Government benches I can think of men even although they have come into Parliament for the first time — and we have as a Government selected a former Speaker on his first entry into this House as Speaker — but as I look across the Government benches and I see people who have not been guests of Her Majesty's Prison, as the hon. member for St. Peter was, who could fit the post, so it is not part of this history. History will not record that the member for St. Michael South Central on the 6th day of October, 1976 took part in seating in a Chair donated by India a member who was a guest of Her Majesty's Prison. I want to be quite clear, that I can look across and see persons on the Government benches who can fill the post. What does worry me is how we can in a short while entrust the hon. member for St. Peter to claim for us freedom from arrest. One of the privileges that he will have to claim from the Governor-General for all of us is freedom from arrest. I am not quarrelling with his right to do so, he has paid his debt to society, I am not quarrelling at all with the people of St. Peter for electing him time and time again, all I am saying is that this Opposition as at presently constituted cannot support the nomination as put forward by the Government.

Now when you look at Mr. Greaves, the nomination that I have put forward, the hon. member for St. Lucy, a young, bright man, a Senior Assistant General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union, a man who is qualified, a man who by valour is the equal of anybody on that side, a man who has certainly not been a guest of Her Majesty at any time except at a garden party, when you look at him in contra-distinction to whom the Government is bringing to preside over the deliberations of Parliament, I want to say that I consider October 6, 1976 a black day in this country when the Prime Minister and his Party can suggest to this Hon. House that for the first time in the entire history of this country a man who has been guest of Her Majesty should be our Speaker.

I am not being part of that history and I want posterity to record that the Democratic Labour Party in Opposition in this House did not create new history by supporting a nomination like that.

5.15 p.m.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr Deputy Clerk, it is with a great deal of reluctance that I rise this evening to speak on the motion for the election of the Speaker of this ancient and Honourable House. I have no personal criticisms to make of the hon. member for St. Peter. I consider the issue here this evening much bigger than the hon. member for St. Peter. I think it will surprise him later on to hear of the way in which I have assessed this matter. I have sat in this Chamber on the other side as a member of the Government, and on many occasions I have been deeply impressed by the way in which the hon. member has castigated the Government, criticized them, and did his best to bring about their downfall.

There are many occasions on this political platform when he bestrode it like a colossus, and the other puny men on his side spoke about his legs. There are many occasions, some of which I will recall, when I was deeply impressed with his behaviour. I do recall, some years ago on this very floor, when a debate in this House centred around the availability of rice for people of Barbados. The hon. member for St. Peter with his knees bent, his elbows flexed, and his fingers tensed as if holding the words as they emitted from his mouth, shouting "Rice, for Christ's sake, give them rice," and as he reached his climax in that presentation I had to peep to see if the enthusiasm had trickled down his legs. I have been deeply impressed on many occasions during the debate on the Estimates in this Honourable Chamber when the hon. member with equal facility deal with every head presented before this Honourable Chamber.

For many years he has been a champion debater in here, and there have been occasions when he exceeded the debaters on both sides of the House; therefore, to my way of thinking and to the way of thinking of the people of St. Peter, we would expect that the man should be amply rewarded for his work, because as the good saying goes: "The workman is worthy of his hire." I have no grouse with the man. I would say that a very strong case can be made out for Mr. Hinds being put on the front benches of the Government. When one looks at some of the other people who have come into the House since him and have superseded him in that respect, I say that it can only be interpreted as an insult to the broad masses of people who like to define themselves with the grass-roots people of this country. I would like to say that it is a shame in the history of Barbados that, after a man has served his Party so well and served the people of St. Peter and of Barbados so well, an Uncle Tom and his cabin boys can treat him with that contempt and disregard.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Clerk, on a point of order. The Rules under which any debate in this Honourable House are conducted must be according to the Standing Orders, and the hon. member, like so many hon. members, may well be smarting under the sorry defeat that has afflicted his Party.

Dr. CADDLE: The hon. member for Christ Church West.....

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Clerk, I am on a point of order, and the hon. member must take his seat and wait until the point of order is dealt with. The point of order I am making is that the hon. member must stick to Parliamentary language.

Dr. CADDLE: For the benefit of the House, will the hon. member tell me which Standing Order I have broken? There are no Standing Orders in this House. I am saying, as a man who also rose from that level and has nothing but sympathy for the hon. member for St. Peter, that I feel he has been shabbily treated. If he can be treated in that way when over 5,000 people in St. Peter have acclaimed him, it is not without significance that a few hundred people in the Parks and Beaches Commission and in the Transport Board can be treated in the way in which they have been treated since September 2. This is only a sign of things to come, and when one examines forcibly this society and sees the content and the middle-class elitest snobbery that goes on in it, one can only hang one's head in shame and wring one's hand at what is meted out to people in this country.

He has been champion here, and I have no regrets for saying so, and he has defended that Party far more capably on more occasions than many of the people who are now gracing the front bench of that Party. There have been occasions, if people in this country were honest in their assessments of people and were concerned with proper representation -- there is no reason why he should not aspire to the highest office that his country can give him.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Can you pick our Cabinet?

Dr. CADDLE: I have no reason whatsoever to comment on the man's past behaviour. On three occasions the people of St. Peter have judged him, and their judgement has been that he is an hon. member. He is an hon. member, and all of us in here are hon. members; therefore, when the people of St. Peter have passed that judgement on him, it is very shameful that any

other person can now want to castigate the people of St. Peter for making that judgement. (*Aside.*) That is interesting, and it is amazing that you can get out there and talk about letting you down. The worst sin that one can be guilty of is the sin of ingratitude. Let us get that straight. I am saying to all of you that before the elections that man was described by all of you as a formidable force. Read your manifesto and see what all of you have said about him. Therefore, when all of you have said that, I doubt if there is anyone on that side who would have doubted the remarks which had been made about the hon. member for St. Peter.

Now, when the prizes or the plums have to be shared out, we hear a different tune being stated. It is interesting to find that no less an organ than the political propaganda of the Barbados Labour Party, better known as the *Advocate*, can on Friday, September 10, have this to say about the man, and I am going to read it into the records. This is what was said about the man:

"Prime Minister, Tom Adams, is finding out that success can bring with it peculiar problems that are far removed from failure. When the Barbados Labour Party was a small group struggling in the Parliamentary opposition, it was easy for the few to hold together in the face of an almost overwhelming Government. It is now the turn of the Barbados Labour Party to be successful at the polls, and already there are indications that the expected reward of success can cause complex if not forthcoming....."(*Asides.*)

You do not have to tell me how to present my case.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Do not worry about out here; the people have decided the matter already.

Dr. CADDLE: The report continues:

"Mr. Burton Hinds, who was one of the few in the Barbados Labour Party opposition, has threatened to resign because ambitions he had of becoming a Minister of the Government have not been realised. This makes him opposite in attitude to Mr. Henry Forde, whom we are told only accepted a Ministry under the greatest persuasion. We can see Mr. Forde being reluctant to accept Ministerial privileges, since he does not need these to prove himself a success."

5.25 p.m.

He has an excellent law practice and even if he has not chosen to enter politics himself, has the ability and dynamism to appose for himself a place among the highly respected and honoured sons of the land, but by the same token that is why his inclusion among the Barbados Labour Party Ministerial line-up would redound to the party and enhance the image of the Government.

Now we come to Mr. Hinds.....

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Presiding Officer, we are acting under the Rules dealing with the election of Speaker. I submit to you, Sir, that one is only allowed to speak on the respective claims of the candidate, and not read newspapers. The hon. member is quite entitled to the reasons why he is acclaiming the candidate proposed by his side but he is not entitled to read a newspaper in this Hon. Chamber.

Mr. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Clerk, I was in here — it was in 1956 when the Government proposed Dr. Cummins in contradistinction to Doc Husbands. I have been in here before any of you on that side, and are you telling me that one cannot read a newspaper? The Governor had to go back in 1956. You can read anything; nobody can send you out. I was in here before you when your Government doubled-crossed Doc Husbands and proposed Dr. Cummins. I was in here, and the Governor Sir Robert Arundell had to go back to Government House. What ignorance are you telling me about one cannot read?

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That was the same time when you begged Dr. Cummins for the office of Speaker.

Mr. SMITH: Begging for office of Speaker? You can read anything, man; what foolishness is he talking?

Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Clerk, I am not concerned with the occasion when Mr. Smith was elected to this House as Chairman of the Democratic Labour Party, and as he himself has told me, all his colleagues then refused to serve under him and he had to ask for the office of Speakership. I am not concerned with that. What I am concerned with is that in this House where there are, as there are at the moment, no Standing Orders, we have always followed the practice in Erskine May; and Erskine May makes it clear that the debate does not ensue on the election of the Speaker until both the candidates have addressed themselves to the Chair — have addressed themselves to you in the Chair, Sir. I will refer you to page 260 of the 18th edition. You may have a more up-to-date edition.

I am respectfully submitting that until the candidates have addressed themselves to the House — to the members gathered — there can be no debate; and since the candidates have not addressed themselves in this particular regard, nobody else should be allowed. We have gone on a long time, because we on this side have no intention of choking off debate even with this Opposition. No intention whatsoever.

If one hon. member wishes to get up and say you must not have Mr. Hinds because he is bad and another hon. member wishes to get up and say you must not have him because he is good, that is bare confusion; we know they are confused. It is a party of one President, three Vice Presidents and the Leader. Well we cannot help their confusion but we must follow the rules; and I, Sir, move that at this stage the question be put. The candidates not having addressed themselves to the Chair there can be no further debate. I refer you to Erskine May, Sir.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to second that.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Clerk, I think it will be conceded that I am the longest standing member in this ancient Chamber, and I think that I have taken part in more debates on more elections of Speakers than any other person. When the member for St. Thomas, the Hon. Prime Minister reported that we should resort to Erskine May he is completely omitting the fact that Standing Order No. 2, Rule 4 states specifically that if more than one member is proposed and seconded the Clerk shall propose the question that the member first proposed do take the Chair of the House as Speaker. That is the only omission, and then it goes on to state very, very clearly that a debate may thereafter take place, the Clerk continuing to act as presiding officer. When the debate — the same debate — is closed' the Clerk shall put the question that the member first proposed do take the Chair of the House. If a majority of the members voting is not in favour of the member first proposed, the Clerk shall put the same question in respect of each of the other members in the order in which they were proposed, until the question is carried in favour of one of them.

We have no recourse to Erskine May. It is quite proper for a debate to take place but I respectfully submit, Mr. Deputy Clerk, that the procedural matter to take place now is for you to put the motion that the member first proposed do take the Chair of the House as Speaker, and then debate shall continue. (*Aside*) I am very serious. I cannot afford after twenty-five years, to flaunt the Rules of the House. I am referring to

the Standing Orders of this House and not to some remote gentleman in the United Kingdom. This is a sovereign independent country.

Dr. R. B. CADDLE: Now we come to Mr. Hinds. We know Mr. Hinds is a man of good sense and judgment. — (*Aside*) I am reading it. You cannot stop me from reading it, man — and we do not put credibility in the claim that he is threatening to quit the party because he has not been named a Minister. It would have to be something else. It is true that Mr. Hinds has served the party well but Mr. Hinds has also done well through the party. In the first place it was the BLP that gave him chance to prove that he could be of service to this country when there were many sceptics and frowns of disapproval. The party took a big gamble in bringing him to the people and his acceptance might be more a result of the confidence the electorate had in his party than any awe in which it holds Mr. Hinds. It is also true that in Opposition Mr. Hinds was Shadow Minister of Education but there is much difference between a shadow and the substance. People do not judge us by the shadows we cast. They know only too well that a pigmy can cast a giant shadow once the circumstances and light are right.

Furthermore for every reason that some might care to project as to why Mr. Hinds should have a Ministry, there is at least one major one which it is not so easy to circumvent, why he should not have one, and at this stage detractors could with convenience present an argument for as easily as one against. We are a cricketing people and we understand the game. Those of us who followed it closely also know that many of its situations are analogous to life. This is why we invite readers to consider the following; let us assume that on a cricket team — this is the interesting thing — there is a player with good all-round ability but whose bowling action is suspect. In fact we go further; let us assume that this player has found himself beyond suspicion to the extent that he has been called for chucking, his captain would know that at any time he gives this player the ball, his delivery would be subjected to more than ordinary scrutiny by the umpires and even the fans of the opposing teams. In these circumstances the captain will be more circumspect about relying on this player's ability as a bowler while he might well be an asset to the team as a batsman or fielder.

5.35 p.m.

"In these circumstances the captain will be most circumspect about relying on this player's ability as a bowler. While he might well be an asset to the team as a batsman or fielder, he

would only take a chance with such a bowler if his bowling strength is so weak as to give him no alternative; but if he has team players with the bowling skill whose actions have created no controversy, or who have not been called previously, he will turn to those to do what is to be done. Furthermore if the captain has given instructions before hand that how the game is played is even more important than getting the opponents out, we will at once realise Mr. Adams' position. Mr. Hinds has a lot more to gain by accepting the consideration his party members are willing to show him to keep him on the team than by resigning at this stage. Unfulfilled ambition is no crime."

That is what the organ of propaganda of the Barbados Labour Party has said about the member for St. Peter; and there is nobody on that side who has got up and refuted the insinuations and allegations implied by this editorial. What do we find? The same man who we had been told is not suitable to hold a ministry, to sit on the front bench of that Government is now suitable to sit in the Chair of this House.

The same man whose disqualifications are so frightening as to keep him out of a ministerial post, we are asked to believe that by putting him in that Chair his disqualifications will be white washed or will completely disappear. If there can be doubts about his performance as a Minister, what will the public think about his performance when sitting in the Chair?

None of you have for one moment got up and denied that Mr. Hinds has a lot more to gain by accepting the consideration his party members are willing to show him to keep him on the team than by resigning at this stage. (Hon. L. S. CRAIG: How about Maxwell?) There can be no comparison between Mr. Maxwell and Mr. Hinds; and the only reason that Mr. Hinds has not found himself in the same muddled position as Mr. Maxwell is that you all have been holding that Damocles Sword over his head to keep him in line with what we want to do.

Now we are asked to sit down here this evening after all of you have criticised the man and have permitted your organs, the Nation and the Advocate to emasculate the man, to pull the man down — you come here and tell us now that there is nothing in that. Join together and put him there.

How can we feel safe on this side when you said that the man is unfit to be a Minister? How can we feel secure in this Chamber? How can you

expect us to appeal to him to protect our rights in this Chamber? How do you expect us to feel? If you all want to honour the man, give him his due. The people of St. Peter have spoken and have spoken very strongly. They have not judged him on his past behaviour. They have judged him on his political ability, and they are convinced of his political ability. We have no quarrel with that. If we were to have a quarrel with that, we could as well quarrel with the people of St. Thomas for giving us the type of Prime Minister that we now have.

I am surprised that some of the people on that side who always like to talk about coming from grass roots and seeking to identify themselves with grass roots, not a word had been heard from them about the way in which that man has been treated. Some of you said that you would not sit down in a Cabinet room with him. Have you no shame? If he is not good enough to be on the front benches, why ask us to accept that he is good enough to sit down there and rule and preside not only over us, but over all of you including those who are good enough to be ministers. What are we coming to? Are we losing our senses?

We know that a lot has to be done about pulling up the standard of debate in this Chamber. When we look at that we have to be concerned about the type of people that we are putting in the Chair, and we also have to be concerned about the way we talk about the people we put in the Chair. After they have spoken about the man and treated him in the way that they did before they nominated him as Speaker, how can you expect us to look at his rulings and abide by his rulings? Do you expect us to feel good?

If you were concerned about raising the standards and dignity of this House I think that you would have deliberated much longer on your choice.

That is why we are forced today to put in our candidate. (*ASIDE: Vote for him.*) We will vote for him. We know that you will vote for the candidate of your choice, and we have no quarrel with that but we have a duty to perform. After you criticised the man and raised these doubts about his ability in the way you have done, do you think we could sit down idly and let this slip by? You have made us concerned about our fate in here after what you have done. If you had not criticised him we might have been willing to come in here and support his nomination; but you have raised doubts in our minds and that is why we have to be concerned because we will be here reacting to your propositions and words.

Before he even sits there you have raised doubts in our minds as to the capabilities and integrity of the individual. Therefore you have to go back and look at your manifesto and see what you have said about Mr. Hinds. I wonder if you really meant this when you said it or if that was one of your tricks in '76. I would like to read what you did say about the hon. member in this manifesto: "Mr. Burton Hinds is the consummate parliamentarian. He takes his duties as a representative of the people very seriously and is respected for the quality of his contribution to the debate."

That was before September 2. After 2nd September you did a complete somersault. I am wondering now how you will refute that after having presented it to the people of this country. We have to take this Chamber very seriously. In the last House there has been criticism about the standard of debate and I believe that on both sides we have been concerned about the standard of debate falling because of the attitude of the Speaker in that House. I agree that it is time we raised the standard of debate, but how will we raise it? By putting doubt on the character and integrity of the person you want to put in the Chair? (*Asides*). I know that you will deal with me. I can deal with you too. I can deal with all of you over there. Let there be no doubt about that. (*Laughter*). You all will be dealt with severely when the time comes. You all can sit down and laugh because you may think that it is a laughing occasion.
5.45 p.m.

That is why we nominated the representative for the constituency of St. Lucy as a fit and proper person to sit there, because there is nothing which you yourselves have said against this man which can be compared with the indiscretions which you have made against the man you proposed. That is the difference between the two, and I am asking you if you should not go and re-consider your choice, if you should not go and re-consider doing justice to the people of St. Peter. In 1956 a similar thing was done by another Adams to the people of St. Peter and in 1976 you find the same thing being done to the people of St. Peter. People say that lightning does not strike in the same place twice but the experience of the member for St. Peter will give the lie to that remark. This has happened twice in 20 years by an Adams and that is what we are concerned about. That is what people are concerned about. They have put him there and he should be properly rewarded by you, but you are a bunch of cowards and all you can do is to bow to the wishes of your masters. Maybe if you go in the other Chamber and look

at the faces of the people over there you will recognise who are your masters. These are the people whom you have listened to, these are the people who have made you ashamed of Mr. Hinds, and now you can tell me that we should appoint a person whom you have criticised and made harsh indignities against to sit in that Chair. We want you to understand we will have no part of it.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Clerk, I hereby signify my willingness to stand and to serve as Speaker of this Hon. Chamber.

Mr. DEPUTY CLERK: The question before the House is that the Member for St. Peter, Mr. Walter Clare Burton Hinds do take the Chair of this House as Speaker.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Speaking on that question, Mr. Deputy Clerk, I wish to make a very brief intervention in this debate, and I would like to start first of all by saying that I am not interested in the character assassination or personal vilification of any member of this Hon. Chamber. I think we have two propositions before us and we should discuss those propositions on their merits. I would like to start first of all by warning the hon. member for St. Thomas — and I believe he has started out on a very wrong footing because he has got up in here, when this Session of Parliament was not 30 minutes old, and already he was using the guillotine in order to prevent the members.....

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Clerk, he brought it in here. You and Greaves introduced the guillotine in here, now you get it back you cannot take it, but you can wait for a lot more.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Deputy Clerk, I am making a point. We are seeing new standards brought to parliamentary matters, and I am certain that with more mature consideration the hon. member for St. Thomas or the hon. member for Christ Church West would not press that particular point in their debate on this matter, but the question that is really before us is the person who should preside over the destinies of this Hon. Chamber, and there is no greater honour that the members of this Hon. Chamber can give to any other hon. member than to elevate that person to be Speaker of this Chamber.

The Government benches have nominated the member for St. Peter and on this side of the Chamber we have nominated the member for St. Lucy. It is my view that the role of Speaker in

this Chamber is a very important one because the dignity and ancient traditions of this Hon. Chamber, the powers of this Chamber, the control of debate in this Chamber, advice to members in this Chamber rest in a very peculiar way with the Speaker or whoever is elected as Speaker of this Hon. Chamber. We must be very careful that in looking at members on both sides of this Hon. Chamber that we make the best decision. It is my considered view that having reviewed the characteristics and qualities of members on both sides of this Hon. Chamber, I believe that we should arrive at a person who would bring greater honour and dignity to the Chair and to this Hon. Chamber.

I am not here to lay any record on the line, that is not my business. I do not believe that that is the level that we should be aiming at in this particular debate, but I say this, we have persons proposed as Speaker of this Chamber; let us look at their characteristics, their qualities of tact, balance, impartiality and all of the qualities which are supposed to go into the making of a good Speaker, and I would say that on both sides of this Hon. Chamber we could find someone who I believe would bring greater distinction to this Hon. Chamber (Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Do you want the job?) There is no job as Speaker that I am interested in.

In closing, Mr. Deputy Clerk, I make a point. There are certain qualities which are required of a Speaker in this Hon. Chamber. Obviously it is clear to the littlest child in this country that there were certain difficulties over there, certain internal problems which could only resolve in this particular way.
5.55 p.m.

Well, nothing that we say on this side of the Chamber, of course, will prevent the Government benches from going through with their particular decision, because that is what they have decided. But I believe that the Opposition in this country have a right and a duty to speak on matters as they see them according to the facts and according to conscience, and that is what I say. We believe that the hon. member for St. Lucy will bring a greater dignity to this Honourable Chamber and preside over this Honourable Chamber with greater balance and impartiality than the hon. member for St. Peter. That is all I wish to say on this particular matter, Mr. Deputy Clerk.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Deputy Clerk, I had hoped that the first time I got up in this hallowed and Honourable Chamber — (*Asides*) I know you are going to envy me forever because of my

capabilities, but that is how it is going to be that I would have been getting up on a matter of much greater substance. I would have hoped that the Government of the day would have had the decency not to put all of us into a position that could only be described as embarrassment. It is a fact, Mr. Deputy Clerk, that all of them sitting on the other side, from the greater to the lesser because as you must know, Sir, I understand they are operating in terms of an inner and outer arrangement, but that is their business. (*Asides.*) You must be a member of the soft tyres.

Mr. Deputy Clerk, I would have hoped that they would have put us in a position where we could find it possible to support the member they put forward to fill the role of Speaker of this Honourable Chamber. In a few moments from now the person elected as Speaker of this Assembly will go to the Acting Governor-General, and he is going to utter these words:

"Your Excellency: In the name....." (*Asides.*) I always heard that he had no manners, but I did not realise it until today. I never really believed that they used to behave as badly as he is demonstrating today.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Clerk. The hon. member must speak to the motion. He cannot be irrelevant. Regardless of whether there is an absence of Rules, one of the fundamental Rules of debate is that a member must be relevant.

Mr. TAITT: I am surprised that the Hon. Attorney-General would get up on such a frivolous excuse to give emphasis to bad behaviour. Let me make it clear, Mr. Deputy Clerk, that none of them over there will be able to frighten me. As I was saying, he is going to say:

"Your Excellency: In the name and on behalf of the members of the House of Assembly, I lay claim to their ancient and undoubted rights and privileges and especially to freedom from arrest and molestation of their persons, freedom of speech in debate and free access to Your Excellency whenever occasion may require it, and that the most favourable construction may be placed upon all their proceedings."

Mr. Deputy Clerk, I would have hoped that the Prime Minister, when making the nomination, or the suggestion, that the hon. member for St. Peter be the Speaker of this House, would have given more and deeper thought to the significance of these words. (*Asides.*) But, Mr. Deputy Clerk,

whether it is by heart or not, he does take the opportunity to phrase it every time he gets a chance. I would really have hoped that these people would be serious on the whole question of the election of a Speaker. I would have hoped that the Prime Minister would find it possible to forgive Mr. Hinds for all of the sins he had committed, whatever those sins were. I would have hoped so, Sir, and I did not believe that he could consider a form of punishment like that which was meted out and aired in the newspapers of this country.

There are some persons, who now are jumping up and grinning like Cheshire cats, who might not recall what has happened. But you will recall, Sir, that every single person in Barbados came to the conclusion that if there was one person who was capable and who would get a Ministry in the B.L.P. Government it was Burton Hinds. Now, it is known that the Prime Minister is good at bowling a short one from time to time, and he bowled Burton a short one. Burton going for the hook, got hit full in his face.

The hon. member for St. Peter had laboured in the field, Sir, (*Asides.*) Even the lady and the gentlemen are honourable members, Sir, and I so recognise them. In here they are hon. members. Everyone knows that the hon. member for St. Peter has laboured in the vineyard in the Opposition. Everyone knows that he was their equal at that time. (Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: And still is.) It is amazing that, at the time when they come to sit in the Cabinet room, one or two of them can say they will not, under any circumstances, sit with him. I am not going to attempt to deal with their problems. (*Asides.*) Mr. Deputy Clerk, as I have said, I have heard of the bad behaviour in here, but I never assumed that it could take on such proportions. (*Asides.*) Let him threaten me; I will deal with him over the next five years, three years, or whatever period it is.

I am not here to speak of the hon. member's convictions. I am here to speak on my convictions, and I am satisfied, Sir, that it is a wicked trick on the people of this country to suggest that one of the ways in which you reward someone is to make him the Speaker of the House. And then they come later on and say that the standards of the House have gone down.
6.05 p.m.

They walk around and tell everyone that the standards of the House are dropping. Someone mentioned a previous Speaker, and I heard and read the now Prime Minister saying that if he had known that that Speaker at that time would have

subsequently behaved in such a way he would not have dragged him towards the Chair, and now the same Prime Minister comes to drag toward the Chair a person who they themselves have said, and who they mercilessly allowed the worse editorial ever written about the character of any human being in this country, to be written about this man. I am satisfied in my own mind, Sir, that that editorial was inspired; it was part of the plan to humiliate and put into his place the hon. member for St. Peter, and then they come to us in this Honourable House and suggest that he be the Speaker.

The member for St. Lucy whom we have proposed as Speaker follows in the traditions of great men from St. Lucy. He is a man who demonstrated far and wide that he has the capacity to be impartial. He has demonstrated that he has the capacity to be honest. His character is clear. He has never been subject to any form of arrest, molestations or anything. He is a man who demonstrated that he has the interest of the people at heart, and it is for that reason that I can stand proudly and support the hon. member for St. Lucy to be the Speaker of this House.

It is not too late for you over there to take cognizance of the shame which you have brought, perhaps upon yourselves, but certainly on this country. It is not too late for you to withdraw him. Withdraw him. As a matter of fact, I am fairly certain that if any other hon. member from over there were proposed, this side would have much less difficulty in supporting him; but how can you expect us to come to this House of Assembly on this day and support these schemes to satisfy persons within a political party who find themselves left out of the fold because of promises made — fickle promises — that they are capable of doing the administration of this country with less people and having found themselves in such a bind they come and offer the Speakership as a plum; and we have reports of the hon. gentleman saying that if he had not been given an assurance that the Speaker's salary would be the same as that of a Minister he would not have taken it. I consider that, Sir, to be a clear indication of the kind of administration this country can look forward to over the next few years.

It is one thing to state that you are going to reduce the number of Ministers; it is another thing to state that you are going to save money when you reduce the Ministers, but it is fraudulent to come through the back-door and offer a solution by promising someone that you will do something for them. I cannot support it,

Sir, and the people who live in St. Michael South West cannot support it and they will not support it. You may, with the numbers, railroad it through. In the final analysis that is what you will do. You will when the time comes, vote for it, but deep in your hearts all of you will know that you have done something that you rather not have done. Long after this day when the history of this country comes to be written, and especially the history of this Parliament, this particular session is going to stand out as the session when we reached the new low, where with the coming of the new Government instead of the dawning of a new day there was the damning of a black night.

Mr. Deputy Clerk, we are going to support the hon. member for St. Lucy because he is a fit and proper person to be the Speaker of this House. We are going to support him because he can maintain the dignity of this House, and not, like was said by one of the apologist for the Barbados Labour Party, members of the Barbados Labour Party, feel too that with the great plans envisaged for the Speakership as a result of his long Parliamentary experience and other qualifications Mr. Hinds would have a golden opportunity to restore to this post some of the prestige, veneration and glory that was once attached to it.

Mr. Deputy Clerk, they cannot be serious when they write that. That is an insult to the people of this country; and in the same newspaper not more than a few days before, we had the absolute worst editorial ever written about any human being in the history of this country. Unfulfilled ambition is no crime.

There are a lot of good points about the hon. member for St. Peter. You will recall, Mr. Deputy Clerk, that sometime ago an ambassador was alleged to be wanting to bring a puppy into this country illegally, and you would recall, Sir, that it was that hon. gentleman who wrote about it in what used to be called his newspaper, and about 200 people in Barbados know that when the ambassador complained to the then member for St. Joseph, the member for St. Joseph said words to the effect that he was the most disgusting — I am quoting — person in the party and he did not know how he managed to join the party, etc., etc. These are the kind of sentiments which they have about this hon. member for St. Peter and that is why they have subjected him to the embarrassments which we have seen over the past few weeks, and now the ultimate embarrassment they thrust upon us in this House of Assembly, and upon the people of

Barbados and upon all those who will sit in here in time to come.

They proposed him; they exchanged him as though they were exchanging poker chips. They exchanged him — we will give you the Speakership for a Ministry. Mr. Deputy Clerk, the thing about a Ministry as they will find out is that it is collective responsibility. The thing about the Speakership, Sir, is that it is a lonely single office, and it would have been much easier for them, in the same way that they have put one Minister to report to another one so they can watch one another, it would have been much easier for them to keep an eye on what is happening with the distinguished gentleman.

6.15 p.m.

I regret, Sir, that they found it convenient, that they found it necessary, that they found it desirable in order to fulfill their campaign promises to visit upon us this horrible institution, because it will become an institution. (*Aside*). Your day is past and your bad behaviour will no longer be remembered, at least not by us. You can stay over there and shout and jump, and now you are doing the ultimate. You are bringing to us a Speaker of whom you are not certain and of whom we could never be certain. You are bringing a Speaker whom you do not trust. You have said time and time again that you cannot trust him. You are asking us now to support him.

Mr. Deputy Clerk, we will happily support our distinguished friend and colleague from St. Lucy as we cannot support the nominee of the Barbados Labour Party from St. Peter.

The question that Mr. Walter Clare Burton Hinds member for St. Peter do take the Chair in this House as Speaker was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:—

Ayes: Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN, Hon. L. S. CRAIG, Hon. H. deB. FORDE, Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, Hon. L. R. FULL, Hon. B. MILLER, Dr. R. CHELTENHAM, Mr. M. WARD, Mr. LeROY SISNETT, Mr. V. JOHNSON, Mr. D. SIMMONS, Mr. E. ALLEYNE, Mr. DeL. BRADSHAW and Mr. J. ODLE — 16.

Noes: Mr. F. G. SMITH, Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW, Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD, Dr. R. B. CADDLE, Mr. E. E. GREAVES and Mr. B. M. TAITT — 6.

Mr. Deputy Clerk declared that the ayes have it. (Cheers).

Hon. H. B. StJOHN and Hon. L. S. CRAIG robed the SPEAKER-ELECT and then directed him to the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER-ELECT: I am very grateful to all of those who voted in support of me this afternoon and to those who did not find it possible I venture to give the assurance that I will take every interest in looking after their rights and privileges in this Hon. Chamber. I pledge both sides of this House that I will at all times perform my duty without fear or favour.

I will ask hon. members to realise that we are all now entering upon an era of new political stewardship in this Hon. House. Let us incline our hearts into doing this job in the interest of the nation. I thank you. (*Cheers*).

Mr. SPEAKER-ELECT, preceded by the Marshal bearing the Mace and the other members following him according to seniority proceeded to the Senate Chamber.

6.25 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER-ELECT: Your Excellency, in the name and on behalf of the members of the House of Assembly, I lay claim to their ancient and undoubted rights and privileges and especially to freedom from arrest and molestation of their persons, freedom of speech in debate and free access to Your Excellency whenever occasion may require it, and that the most favourable construction may be placed upon all their proceedings.

HIS EXCELLENCY: I give and grant so far as is consistent with the royal Prerogative and the laws and constitution of this Island, every privilege and liberty which has been enjoyed by any former Assembly to be enjoyed by you as fully and freely as heretofore.

Mr. President and members of the Senate:

Mr. Speaker and members of the House of Assembly:

In accordance with the proclamation which was issued by me on 1st October 1976, this session of our new Parliament commenced just over half an hour ago; and it now falls to me to outline my Government's programme for the new parliamentary session.

My Government is deeply concerned at the state of the Barbadian economy. A Public Investment Unit will be established with a view to improving the machinery for managing the economy and the existing Management Services unit is being streamlined to give more effective oversight of the accounting operations of Government.

Certain existing financial institutions will be amalgamated with the aim of increasing efficiency and stimulating development. The services provided by the Barbados Savings Bank will be expanded as a preliminary to consolidating all the banking institutions of the Government and the Bank's operations will be commercialised.

The two-year old Retail Sales Tax of 5% will no longer be payable as from tomorrow, 7th October 1976, in consequence of an Order which has been made to revoke that tax, and the Travel Ticket Tax which had been proposed during the last parliamentary session will not now be imposed.

My Government will provide for relief from Trade Tax for the many small traders on whom that tax is now a burden without being of great advantage to the Revenue. The Trade Tax as presently exists will be abolished and incorporated, where applicable, into the Corporation Tax.

The 1977/81 Development Plan is already under preparation, and projects which will have an immediate impact on stimulating economic growth are being formulated.

So deep is my Government's concern that the agricultural economy must be revitalised and home production increased so as to make the best use of

the limited land resources and reduce the high bill for food imports, that it has specifically set up new divisions of "Food" and "Consumer Affairs" as part of the responsibility of the Minister of Agriculture.

The Ministry of Agriculture will be re-organised to provide more effective services.

It is the policy of my Government that lands capable of sustaining agriculture should not be allowed to lie idle, and appropriate legislation in this connection will therefore be submitted to you.

Provision will be made for new fishing ports with cold storage and marketing facilities, and provision will also be made for granting greater assistance to persons engaged in the fishing industry.

A review of the import licensing system has been initiated and already, within the past month, my Government has taken steps to eliminate the necessity for almost one quarter of the import licences previously required to be applied for. It is the aim to eliminate all import licences which are not necessary for the protection of local or CARICOM industry by way of total or quantitative restriction; or which are not required as part of the support of the price control system. The existing machinery of this system will be overhauled so as to remove unnecessary delays.

My Government will strive to ensure that there is the greatest possible co-operation between Barbados and other Commonwealth Caribbean countries, particularly in terms of intra-regional trade, and will take steps in the context of the CARICOM Treaty arrangement to safeguard the growth of our own industries. Already, the agreement of the CARICOM Council of Ministers has been obtained for the suspension of duties for a period of three years or until the revision of the rates of the Common External Tariff in respect of items related to the Fisheries and Agricultural industries. Legislation to give effect to these arrangements will be introduced shortly. Further examination of the impact of the Treaty on consumers in Barbados will be undertaken.

External Trade promotion will be given a high priority. Industrialists will be encouraged to expand their foreign trade; and every possible measure will

be taken to support them, including the provision of tax incentives and export credit by way of guarantees.

A vigorous policy will be adopted towards the marketing of our sugar, rum and molasses to ensure maximum sales at maximum prices.

Full support will be given to the Tourist industry as a vehicle for the social and economic development of the country but it will be ensured that the rights of Barbadians to the use and enjoyment of any or all of our tourist resources are not abridged.

My Government will take all necessary and remedial action to safeguard the country's interests in the field of civil aviation, and investigations have been started in respect of the Barbados-based airlines. The findings of those investigations will be published in due course.

The modernising of the airport facilities will be continued, and the airport at Seawell will be renamed the "Grantley Adams International Airport". The technical requirements for giving immediate effect to this step, which my Government considers marks a first move to honour an outstanding Barbadian, will be put in motion right away.

An examination of the role and function of the Ministry of External Affairs and its overseas Missions has already begun with a view to rationalising their operations and eliminating unnecessary expenditure. As a small nation with limited resources it is necessary to re-assess and evaluate the benefits of membership of the international and regional organisations to which Barbados is currently committed, and such re-assessment will be carried out.

My Government, because of the country's long tradition of freedom and record of being relatively devoid of racial disharmony, will strive to bring about similar conditions of equality among other developing nations and in particular those nations suffering oppression under the racist regimes in Southern Africa. At the same time, my Government will continue to maintain friendly relations with all countries which recognise the rule of law, fundamental human rights and the settlement of disputes by peaceful means.

The processes for bringing the Physical Development Plan for Barbados into effect at the earliest opportunity will be completed. However, as soon as possible thereafter a revised plan will be presented to reflect the changed situation and to incorporate the development of Oistins, Speightstown, Holetown, Belleplaine, Welchman Hall, Central St. George and an area in St. Philip as subsidiary urban areas.

Strict measures will be instituted to safeguard our environment. Legislation will be introduced for strengthening the Town and Country Planning Act, for controlling pollution of our air, water resources, beaches and land mass; for controlling littering, and for controlling indiscriminate noise levels.

My Government recognises that there needs to be a new deal to end discrimination against women and proposes to establish a National Commission on the Status of Women on a permanent basis, which will be empowered, among other things, to investigate all complaints of discrimination against women.

An Equal Pay Act and a Sex Discrimination Act will be enacted to provide for equal opportunities and equal treatment for women.

Active consideration will be given to the provision within the existing Court system of a special division to deal with all matters pertaining to the family and to the welfare of children. Family law will be reformed and so too will be the law concerning Children and Young Persons both at the criminal and civil level. Provision will be made for the better enforcement of Maintenance Orders and for a more equitable system of ownership of matrimonial property.

The physical and other conditions under which the members of the Royal Barbados Police Force and of the Fire Services work will be improved as far as possible.

The spate of fires which have resulted in a number of instances in the loss of life is of great concern, and my Government will review the Gomes Report on the Bridgetown fires and will ensure that the recommendations in the report are considered for appropriate action.

Law Reform will be carried out systematically and will embrace all aspects of civil and criminal

law in Barbados, and revision of the Subsidiary Legislation will be continued and completed. The system for keeping the statute laws of the island current on a continuing basis will be placed on a sound footing.

The present Legal Aid Scheme will be examined with the object of making available a wider and more meaningful legal service at minimum cost and a free service as far as possible to the less privileged.

My Government's Works Programme will be designed to stimulate economic growth by providing roads, buildings, bridges, and water supplies for domestic and industrial use.

The necessary examination will be given to the construction of a new coastal road in the parishes of St. Joseph, St. John and in northern St. Philip to link up with the East Coast Road at Bathsheba and the St. Philip Road at Blades Hill in order to develop those coastal areas. A road linking the Harbour and Highway I will also be constructed.

The improvement of subsidiary roads and private tenantry roads will be accelerated and attention will be given to the improvement of junctions throughout the country. A new Road Traffic Bill will shortly be introduced into Parliament for updating the existing legislation and providing more effective means for management and regulation of traffic.

Work on the expansion and improvement of the Bridgetown Harbour will be continued, and the Port Authority, for the establishment of which legislation has already been enacted, will be proceeded with.

A new Merchant Shipping Bill will be introduced into Parliament shortly, and legislation for the protection of seabathers from the indiscriminate use of speedboats, surf-boards and skis will be enacted.

My Government is committed to the improvement and expansion of the public transport system throughout the island and will take the appropriate steps to achieve this.

A new Telecommunications Bill to regularise and control all telecommunications media, both internal and external, will be submitted to Parliament shortly.

The improvement of Post Office facilities will be pursued systematically. The policy for issuing postage stamps will be examined with a view to increasing revenue now being derived from that source and the expansion of the Philatelic Bureau of the General Post Office will fall under this examination.

My Government considers the housing of the people, and especially low income workers, to be a matter of the highest priority and accordingly proposes to develop a National Housing Plan, aimed at achieving this objective, which will introduce a new and dynamic community approach to housing.

The plan will provide for Community Centres, adequately staffed Day Care Centres and Playing Fields; it will also provide for lots with basic amenities for rental, for the application of paid up rents to the reduction of the cost of properties purchased from the National Housing Corporation, and for the mobilisation of financial resources - both public and private - to finance mortgages.

A comprehensive Building Societies Bill will be enacted to encourage the growth and formation of bodies devoted to the development of housing, and will provide for tax free incentives for such bodies.

Measures will be instituted to curb speculation in land and to ensure that the enhanced value accruing to land through the development process is recaptured for the benefit of the community. Plantation tenancies will receive special attention and every effort will be made to provide them with all the necessary services. Talks will soon commence to provide an agreed framework within which each tenant will be given the opportunity of purchasing his house spot at a reasonable price.

A Land Registration System will be introduced as early as possible.

My Government is unswervingly committed to the principle of collective bargaining and will not countenance nor be a party to any measure or act which tends to undermine this process. Positive support will be given towards strengthening the trade union movement and the system of collective bargaining.

My Government proposes, after full consultation with employers' and workers' organisations, to initiate

appropriate measures to achieve full worker participation and representation at management level in enterprises.

It is also proposed to give early consideration to the feasibility of introducing a national minimum wage; to increasing the minimum period of paid annual holidays; to amending the Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act in order to remove the restrictions on employment of women at night subject to appropriate safeguards; and to providing a comprehensive labour code.

The Severance Payments Scheme will be reviewed and simplified, and employers will be required to give longer periods of notice in relation to dismissals and redundancies.

The Labour Department will be better equipped to monitor job opportunities, and to improve its guidance programme and its placement activities.

My Government believes that some sacrifice must be made by Barbadians for the care of retired senior citizens. It is therefore proposed to reduce the qualifying age from 68 to 65 for old age pension and to give the earliest possible consideration to increasing the rate of that pension.

A new look will be given to the expansion and operation of senior citizens' Homes in order to provide more and better facilities for them.

Early attention will be given to the establishment of assessment and training facilities, expansion of educational facilities and sheltered workshops for the handicapped so as to ensure that such citizens are given an opportunity to take a proper place in the society and in the economic life of the country.

Approximately 60% of our people are under the age of 25 years and it is estimated that unemployment is highest among the 61,000 persons who constitute the 14-25 age group. In order to secure the stability of our society, it is important to take urgent action to develop youth programmes designed to equip the youth to play a leading role in the promotion of social justice, economic changes and cultural development. It is the Government's intention to do so.

Believing that sports people should themselves organise, direct and control sporting activities

subject to a measure of general oversight by the Government, it is proposed to establish a National Sports Council whose responsibilities will be to foster the development of sport generally.

My Government considers health care to be a major priority. Consequently, it intends to take all necessary new and innovative actions to help Barbadians achieve the highest standards of health.

My Government's policy will have as its primary tenets -

- (a) a free National Health Service, provided within the structure of the National Insurance Scheme, and designed to remove the heavy financial burden that now prevents persons of all classes of society from having easy access to the best medical services available;
- (b) the training of more doctors at all levels to ensure the availability to everyone of an adequate number of the best medical personnel;
- (c) the training of para-medical staff to give the necessary support to the doctors; and
- (d) the re-organising of the administration of the Health Services to ensure that adequate trained staff is at the disposal of the Government so as to achieve the objectives of the Health Plan.

Agreement has already been reached on the setting up of a Steering Committee to prepare the plans for the National Health Service.

My Government considers that the role of the existing National Insurance Scheme in providing protection to the working population and their dependants can be improved. It is accordingly proposed to make the following improvements in the Scheme:-

- (a) increasing the limit on insurable earnings in order to provide for more meaningful benefits;
- (b) introducing a maternity grant, separate and distinct from the present maternity weekly benefit;

- (c) increased payments on national insurance pensions to take account of the changes in the cost of living and in the general level of earnings since the pensions became payable.

Consideration will also be given to alternative methods of payment of contributions by employers and self-employed persons.

My Government considers that the school leaving age should be raised to 16 years and, therefore, as a matter of immediate priority, will provide facilities to re-absorb into the system of education the over 2,000 children between the ages of 14 and 16 who were turned out of school at the end of the last school year.

Greater emphasis will be placed on the teaching of technical skills to ensure that the educational process can more easily be converted into productive activity, and therefore technical and vocational education will be made available on a much wider basis than at present. The present plans for the erection of the new Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic at Martindales Road will be critically examined to determine their suitability in the light of this.

The programme of assistance to approve independent secondary schools will be further expanded.

The School Meals Programme has now been extended to cover the entire primary school population but there are inefficiencies in the system which will have to be corrected.

My Government will expand the scholarship programme in areas of critical national demand, and pledges support for the continued development of the University of the West Indies. Steps will be taken to ensure that as far as possible scholarships, exhibitions and bursaries will be tenable only at that University. Greater facilities will be provided for the obtaining of legal education.

The Education Act 1975 will be closely scrutinised to ascertain its acceptability as the basic framework within which the entire educational system must be remodelled.

The Public Library services will be improved and the provision of additional space for the library will be investigated.

A National Arts and Culture Council will be set up to look after the preservation of our cultural heritage and the enrichment of our contemporary cultural life; to facilitate access to participation in every sphere of cultural and artistic opportunity; to promote local art and culture including the development of markets for consumer cultural goods and services at home and abroad; and to establish and manage a Cultural Foundation which will function as the funding institution for the arts and culture.

Plans for the establishment of a national auditorium will be continued.

My Government is of the view that the children of Barbadian women are entitled to the same rights as the children of Barbadian men, and that such children should have an automatic right to Barbadian citizenship whether or not they were born in Barbados or in or out of wedlock. My Government is also of the view that Barbadian women who are married to foreign husbands should have the same right, which Barbadian men with foreign wives now enjoy, of having their spouses live and work in Barbados. This policy is already being implemented; and such further legislation or administrative direction as is necessary to achieve this fully will be introduced at an early date.

It is seriously considered that the regulation of immigration should not be left entirely to the "discretion" of a Minister where the basis on which the discretion is exercised is entirely unknown. Accordingly, my Government proposes to settle and publish rules for admission of immigrants so that intending applicants may know the requirements.

My Government also proposes to grant an amnesty to citizens of CARICOM countries who entered or remained in Barbados illegally or irregularly prior to 1st September 1975, and will introduce legislation to make it possible for all such immigrants now ordinarily resident in Barbados to be granted the full status of resident.

The provisions of the Official Secrets Act will be reviewed to ensure that freedom of information is not unnecessarily limited.

Of particular concern to my Government is the existing machinery for the holding of elections to Parliament, and it is its intention to seek to establish a permanent Electoral and Boundaries Commission to preserve free elections.

The existing provisions of the pensions law for parliamentarians, with particular respect to the generous qualifying periods, is also of great concern to my Government, and it is proposed to set up an independent committee to review that legislation.

Legislation will be introduced into Parliament relating to integrity and morality in government, including a code of proper conduct for legislators, senior public officials, including those of statutory boards and political appointees to those boards.

A Commission for the Protection of the Constitution will be appointed on which all political parties represented in Parliament will be offered places. It will be required to examine the Constitution with a view to ensuring that multi-party democracy is given such institutional protection as can effectively prevent its destruction.

Mr. President and members of the Senate:

Mr. Speaker and members of the House of Assembly:

I extend my best wishes to you in your new parliamentary session, and I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels.

Mr. Speaker, all of the writs have been duly returned and the country is fully represented.

On resumption —

HOUSE RETURNED TO ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

Mr. SPEAKER and other hon. members, preceded by the Marshal bearing the Mace, returned to the Assembly Chamber.

Prayers were read.

MR. SPEAKER REPORTS HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to announce that I have received a report of the Speech From The Throne from His Excellency the Acting Governor-General. Is it the wish of the House that I should read this speech?

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that note be taken of that speech.

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Standing Orders of the previous House be the Standing Orders to govern the proceedings of this House.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to second that.

Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, in rising to support that we adopt the Standing Orders of the last House as the Standing Orders of this House, I want to take the somewhat unusual course at the first opportunity which is available to me of expressing on my own behalf and on behalf of all hon. members who sit on this side our particular pleasure that you have taken you place in the Chair, and to express the wholehearted belief that you will administer these Standing Orders which we are now seeking to adopt.

Today we have witnessed, Mr. Speaker, an unusual departure in parliamentary history. Instant research finds no example where there has been a contested election for the Speakership of quite such bitterness and in which remarks comparable to those which have been made have desecrated and sullied the floor of this Chamber. I do not wish to give further currency to any of the things which were said by repetition, but I would want to deal with aspects of the speech of the hon. member for St. Michael North Central. The hon. member for St. Michael North Central in a series of false syllogisms in which he excelled even his record in the last Parliament in a speech replate with logic-chopping of the sort that I would have thought he would have abandoned when he left not the Sixth but, perhaps, the Third Form at Harrison College, or whatever school he attended, attempted to suggest that the motives of the members of the Government in supporting your election, Mr. Speaker, and in nominating you, sir, were other than those of the highest regard for your fitness to fill this post.

For reasons of economy of time, none of us found it possible to reply at length on that occasion, and I would not wish Your Honour to think that the lack of a defence in the face of such manifest ill manners was due to anything other than a wish to see the Parliamentary time-table fulfilled with reasonable despatch and a wish not to see the large numbers of persons who have come here for the opening of Parliament disappointed by having to return. But I take this opportunity in saying that you are one of the most senior members of this House. You have shown an interest in the Standing Orders, in procedure, in this House unparalleled by any member who is now sitting in here. You have, as far as I know, been a member of the Debates Committee of this House for its entire existence since its establishment in 1966 — certainly for the entire time that you have been in Parliament.

At all times I have heard nothing but praise for the balance which you have brought to the discharge of your duties on the Standing Committees of Parliament. Your contribution to the debates in sub-committee which led to the

original adoption of these Standing Orders — it was well known to hon. members who took part in the debate today as it is to you and, indeed, as it should be to the general public would the rule of Parliamentary reporting permit. For that reason I was all the more shocked when the hon. member for St. Michael South lent his voice, albeit very faint and very well-mannered. He really praised you with faint dams, sir, today to the argument against you. You have never been in any way guilty of some of the gross acts of ill manners which I have seen emanate from the hon. member for St. Lucy. You, for one, have never come in here and abuse the mothers of all the members who were sitting opposite to you, as I recall that hon. member did and was made, indeed, by Mr. Speaker Maxwell to withdraw on one occasion.

If I speak, sir, with a little more warmth and temper than might be thought appropriate in a speech of congratulation, it is because I was genuinely angry to see the Leader of the Opposition smiling all over his face and yet loosening upon the afternoon air of the House of Assembly the sentiments which he thinks are appropriate in this year of grace 1976 to mark the occasion of the election of a new Speaker. I do not have, sir, to urge on you mercy or balance towards honourable members on either side of the House. I have always known that the same balance and tack which have enable you to spend 10 years in Parliament faced with some very hostile and wicked persons indeed — obviously I am not speaking of any hon. member now present — which have enabled you to avoid being sent out of the House will serve you in good stead. You have never been disciplined by being asked to withdraw from the House. You have never had to threaten the Speaker by reminding him that God giveth and God taketh away in order to avoid such discipline. You have always acted within the Rules of the House. I have no doubt, and I have always had no doubt, that you are the fittest person to administer them.

This House has a long record of appointing persons distinguished by their seniority and interest to the Chair. When Mr. Theodore Brancker as he then was, was appointed Speaker of this House nobody got up and said he should have been premier, as indeed, I believe, was the view of nearly half the members of the Democratic Labour Party in the Elections in 1961 intended that it should be. Nobody said that, as he has been Leader of the Opposition, he should have been Premier or a Minister. He was elected to the Chair as, on that occasion the

members thought, the most fit person to occupy the Chair. Nobody has made the criticisms of Mr. Maxwell, which we should have, that he was too inexperienced to occupy the Chair and could not bring to the Chair that mature respect for the office which he would have brought had he spent some time in Parliament. Mr. Maxwell, of course is a lawyer; he has been the Prime Minister's personal aide; he was the chosen of God in the eyes of the members of the Democratic Labour Party in 1971 and, therefore, there could be nothing wrong in electing Neville Maxwell to the Chair. His subsequent conduct showed us how wrong we were and how right you were when, in the private council of our Party, Mr. Speaker, you recommended that the Opposition support Mr. Eyre Hoppin on that occasion. We did not then quarrel with the choice of the then Government, because we felt that the preservation of the decency of Parliament was more important than entering into a controversy which any schoolboy could manipulate for his own aims.

I regret that in the bitterness of a, perhaps, unexpected defeat, that in the bitterness of the size of the slap of the face which has been administered to hon. members opposite, they have permitted themselves to insult the House, I say, by some of the speeches which were delivered here earlier today. Mr. Speaker, you know that you have the entire confidence of hon. members on this side. You know that we are looking to you and expecting, and are confident in that expectation, that you will raise the dignity of the House from the level to which it has been dragged in the last few years.

I am going to tell you something, Mr. Speaker. Notwithstanding the speeches which were made, I believe you also have the confidence of some of the hon. members who have spoken here today. One speech I characterise as cowardly — a speech seeking to gain your approbation — I regret the hon. member for St. Michael North Central is afraid of what you will do to him if he did not put in a good word for you. He, perhaps, is the only one who does not have confidence in you, because he is the only one who showed his fear so openly in the sort of halfhearted speech which he made today. You have all of our confidence; you have our love as a Speaker. Let me tell you that. We know that the Chair is going to rise to heights which all of us who sit in the House of Assembly want it to rise to under your not one or two terms. We want to use you there for as long as you wish to be there, Mr. Speaker, and we and the good people of St. Peter will see to it.

Mr. Speaker, I support the motion that these Standing Orders be the Standing Orders of the House.

7.25 p.m.

I want to make one or two things perfectly clear. The Opposition is making no apology for having opposed your election to this House. You have been democratically elected as the Speaker of this Honourable Chamber and I pledge the Opposition's support to you in maintaining dignity and honour, and I promise the Opposition's support in abiding by the Standing Orders which we are now about to adopt. I am not apologising for having opposed you, Mr. Speaker. That is my democratic right and the democratic right of the Opposition, and I would only have hoped that the Prime Minister in praising your parliamentary record would have used the same glowing terms in electing you as a Cabinet Minister, but hearing him talk about your glowing record and your tenacity and pugnacity and dedication and interest in the people, one would have expected that with him having the right to choose Ministers, he would not be praising your parliamentary contribution and emphasising your parliamentary contribution but he would be paying a total and global tribute to you as a person who according to him, has dedicated yourself to studying the Standing Orders, to fighting for your people, to holding the working classes at heart, and all the other glowing terms that he has said this evening in praise of you.

It is very funny. He is telling you that he wants you to be in the Chair, never to be a Minister, stay there not only this term, next term, next session, as long as the people elect the Barbados Labour Party. Don't you see this is a wicked.....

Mr. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Does the Hon. Leader of the Opposition hold any position at all on the executive body of his own party? He is not anything at all, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order.

Mr. F. G. SMITH: I am a member of the Executive of the Democratic Labour Party, elected last Wednesday night. Why don't you get your facts, boy? I am a member of the Executive, but that is not important. That is not a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is no point of order.

Mr. F. G. SMITH: Now that is why I am giving you my wholehearted support, because

the first point made by the member for St. Philip North you have ruled, with greatest respect, Sir, correctly no point of order.

As I say, I think I know you, Mr. Speaker. You are the Speaker of this House. You have claimed privileges and rights for us, and I know that you are going to safeguard those privileges. All the Opposition was saying — and I think you feel this but I do not think you can express it and it is a pity you would not have an opportunity on the floor of the House to express it — but all we are saying is that if the Prime Minister can get up in these glowing terms and praise you, a person who has been elected to this House from 1966 — to praise your parliamentary work, your dedication to your people — we are saying that if he is really sincere in his praises of you then he as Prime Minister under the Constitution of Barbados had a wonderful opportunity to translate and to bring into practical reality his real regard for you in making you a Minister.

Take the member for St. Andrew. From 1951 he has been running. Lost, lost, lost, lost. I always thought he was a born loser. Ends up as Minister of Communications and Works. (Asides) I am coming back to you and that is why I.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I just want to remind you that the member for St. Andrew is an hon. member.

Mr. F. G. SMITH: So are we all; but be that as it may, I am only showing you. I am not criticising the member for St. Andrew. I admire his tenacity and stickability, because I do not know how you can stick from 1951 losing one, two, three — 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971. I admire him; but what I am saying is that one would have expected that you — and I want to make it clear, that if the Opposition could survive with six from 1971 to 1976, the Democratic Labour Party can survive doubly better with seven. So do not get this idea that you survived and we are going to crumple. You survived with six and we have seven given by the people and we are going to survive.

Mr. Speaker, I know, and I want you to understand that now that you are democratically elected as Leader of this Honourable Chamber the Opposition — and it is amazing that the Prime Minister in praising you should use words like 'mercy' and words like 'leniency'. I do not have to ask for leniency from you. I have been elected here. I did not come in here in a box-cart, so I am not

asking you for any leniency. I am not asking the Government for any leniency. I am asking you as I know you will do, to uphold the tradition and the Standing Orders of this House now that you have been democratically elected.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has minority rights and they will be protected.

Mr. F. G. SMITH: Thank you, Sir. But what I am saying is, what does annoy me is that the Prime Minister is insinuating in his praise of you, that he knows that you are going to extend mercy and leniency to the Opposition. The Opposition is not asking for any mercy or any leniency in here. I want it to be clearly understood that we are all members of this House. We are not members of the Government, but the people just as they elected the seventeen of you they elected the seven of us and therefore the Speaker is the Speaker of the entire House, and I am surprised to hear that you are injecting — the Speaker was not in the debate; the Speaker was outside. He may have been listening, but you are injecting to tell the Speaker 'we over here voted for you, those bad fellows did not vote for you, deal with them kindly.' Fancy a Prime Minister telling the House this. Well, if that is your attitude early, let me tell you that you have a lot of lessons to learn in here for the next five years. If you are insinuating that because we exercised our democratic right and voted on a matter of the election of the Speaker, that you are going to ask the Speaker to deal with these little boys kindly and leniently and show them mercy, you better get that out of your head, Mr. Prime Minister, as from now, because you have a lot to learn in the next five years; and when you are suggesting about people being sent out; going out is no disgrace. This happened in Italy's Parliament, it happened in Canada's Parliament. Going out is not going to prison. Going out is going out. So I want you to understand Mr. Speaker, that we are going to support you. We know that you are going to rule according to the rules of this house. You have had the experience.

We did not support you, for which we make no apology, and I as Leader of the Opposition pledge our wholehearted support to you in seeing that the dignity of the House is maintained now that you have been democratically elected according to the Constitution and the Standing Orders of this Chamber.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, may I crave a short bit of your time to congratulate

you in having risen to the heights you have risen in this ancient Parliament, and, may I say that the deception practised by members of the Democratic Labour Party during their last reign has landed them where they are today, and I forecast they shall be there past twenty years from now.

The Leader of the Opposition — I will adopt your words — I cannot say he is dishonest. I will not say he is dishonest because it would be unparliamentary; but what I say is that he has a convenient memory and he has very convenient words and he knows when to use them, but I very much believe that the amplification system of this Chamber was in operation when he got up and said he would not lower the dignity of this House by voting for someone who has been an inmate of Her Majesty's Prison, and is now saying he only opposed you because he thought the Prime Minister would have made you a member of his Cabinet. The dishonesty he carried out in here in September he has come back with.....

Mr. F. G. SMITH: On a point of explanation, Mr. Speaker. I was not dealing with any opposition to you. If you want me to give you, I will give you what I said in my speech. I was trying to avoid going into detail of my opposition.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Your point is well taken.

Mr. F. G. SMITH: So if you want me to tell the Speaker why I opposed him, I am not afraid to say it.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The point of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central is well taken.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, each and everyone of them came in here with newspapers and prepared speeches. It was a vicious attack on your character and they planned it deliberately. Everyone of them had written speeches and newspapers to recite in here, and have come in here talking about being democratically put in the Chair now. (ASIDES) I have started dealing with you already; do not let me start telling you about licences in here. You go and cement your mouth first.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Joseph.....

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I apologise to you, but I would like to warn the hon. member that if he does not know me in here, I hold no bars for anybody. When I start to talk, I talk.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please stick to the Standing Orders.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I am very happy that you have taken the Chair because I believe there is no member in this Chamber who knows the Rules and procedure of this House like you do. I have sat next to you in those two chairs on that side for six years. I know how you scrutinize the Minutes. I know how worried you are about the whole procedure of Parliament. I know the problems we have had in this Parliament, and I believe you are the only person who will bring back the dignity to Parliament that is justly due to it.

I have commented many a time that the history of any country is written on its parliamentary procedures and what goes into the debates. I believe a new era has come and I trust and pray, Mr. Speaker, that you should rule according to the Standing Orders and not according to the whims and fancies of anybody telling you how to rule to suit their position. With that I say God bless you and may you reign long.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to join in the debate which I assume was the classic giving of approbation to the Speaker on his election, but I sat here and listened to and an attempt by the members of the Government to give you an impression that is itself unworthy.

Mr. Speaker, you have been a parliamentarian for a long time and you know, Sir, that given the set of circumstances which existed it would have been almost unbelievable that the members of this Opposition could come into this House of Assembly and say 'Aye' without having put up their own position and without having taken the position they took. Mr. Speaker, any attempt now to suggest that they are for you personally and we are against you personally is dishonest. Mr. Speaker, what we contended on this side was no more than what was contended in the columns of the newspapers during the period between when the Cabinet was announced and when the intimation as to who would be put forward as Speaker was announced. What we were saying, Mr. Speaker, is not anything that we are embarrassed or ashamed about. We said that the members of the Barbados Labour Party were using the opportunity of the Speakership to solve their internal problems. That was clear to all those who could read in this country; and I would not sit here and have any hon. member suggest that we came into this House to launch a vicious and personal attack on your person, Mr. Speaker.

If in fact a vicious attack was made, Mr. Speaker, it was made in the newspapers of this country, and all of them must know that I said in here and I will say it again that the absolute worst editorial I have ever seen about a person anywhere, I saw in the newspapers of this country about you, Sir, and I am saying to you that they were inspired by the attitude of a number of persons in the Barbados Labour Party; but you are the Speaker, Sir, and you will deal with them and you will deal with us. You will not forget them even as you remember us. So do not let them think that they can get rid of their psychological problems by coming and suggesting to you that you are the greatest thing that has ever walked in these Chambers. That will do very well for the gallery, but the Speaker, you Sir, if you are anything Sir, one thing I am certain, you are not a fool. You cannot be intimidated by false flattery, and you, Mr. Speaker, will take the opportunity in here to do the things which you know must be done.

I will not rise with any false sense of congratulations to you, Sir. I rise to make things clear to those over there who will try to suggest that we have been involved in some plot. They are masters of plots and therefore they assume that everybody else is capable of the same plotting capacity, but Mr. Speaker, as I said, you will not forget them even as you remember us.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, first let me salute you, Sir, for adorning the prestigious office of Speaker of this august Assembly. I am quite sure, Sir, that the sentiments expressed by the Prime Minister of Barbados are the sentiments of all of the colleagues this evening here on this side. I could not sit down here this evening and hear this one-sided bread-in-the-mouth and trying to whistle at the same time speeches made by members on the other side.

7.35 p.m.

Of course as a very young boy I saw a film entitled The Magnificent Seven and it revealed that the Magnificent Seven were seven gangsters who walked with guns to protect the interest for which they had fought many years ago. That is what I saw, and as I look around this Chamber it so happens that there happens to be seven members on the other side. The things they said about you, Mr. Speaker, this afternoon in here — and Hansard is going to reveal the wicked things which they said about you before you took that Chair — and now they are asking for mercy. I do not know why they did not make me Speaker or Prime Minister of Barbados for two hours, because I would have them arrested and made an

example of for raping the economy of this country, so that the country would be able to see the people they were dealing with over the past 15 years.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us get on with the adoption of the Standing Orders.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I am going to add my quota. We have five long years in here and you are going to have five interesting years. I know you know the feel of the shoe in Opposition, we know what it is to be in Opposition but you, as Speaker, now find yourself in the position to rule as you know best and you should rule in that way with all the confidence we have in you. What I do not understand is the case that all evening the Opposition tried to make out. They were trying to tell us who we should make an opening batsman and when we should bring on somebody to bowl and how to bowl them. If that is how it is done over there, it is not done that way over here, the Captain chose his team as he considered it fit to do, and that is why we adopted the slogan in our campaign, "Barbados and the BLP, the great combination." You will recall that, Sir. That is what we adopted, and as you sit there you are not on behalf of the Government or on behalf of the Opposition, you know that only too well. You are there for all of us and I am going to make sure that I do everything in here to help you when the rough seas occur. I wish you the best of luck in your high office and I pledge my fullest co-operation to the Chair.

The question that the existing Standing Orders of the Hon. House of Assembly be the Standing Orders to govern the proceedings of this Hon. House of Assembly was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I move that the hon. member for St. Michael North West be elected Deputy Speaker.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second that. I am very happy to do this despite the fact that he poses in the Nation as an authority on constitutional law, and I was reading with great amusement an article which he wrote. (*Aside*). All I am saying is that I am very happy because I read where he has constituted himself an authority on constitutional law, where he has written on what are the duties of the Leader of the Opposition, the Speaker, and the Deputy Speaker, and I think that his background and his scholastic achievements have made him a fit and proper person, but let the Government understand that as long as I am here,

even if I scaled in with 20 votes, and in spite of the Church, I will be speaking in here and the Church and everybody else will have to wait five more years to get me out. I want it to be quite clear.

I have great pleasure in seconding the motion for the Deputy Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Michael North West is therefore elected Deputy Speaker of this Hon. House.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the hon. member for St. George North be Chairman of Committees.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I have very great pleasure in seconding that.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. George North has been duly elected Chairman of Committees of this Hon. House.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE DEBATES COMMITTEE

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the hon. member for St. Michael West, the hon. member for Christ Church North Central, the hon. member for Christ Church East, together with two nominees from the Opposition and myself and Your Honour constitutes the Debates Committee.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the nominees from the Opposition are the hon. member for St. Michael South and the hon. member for St. Michael South West.

The question that these hon. members so named constitute the House of Assembly's members on the Debates Committee of Parliament was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

APPOINTMENT OF LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to propose the Hon. Prime Minister and His Honour the Deputy Speaker as the members from this side, together with a nominee from the Opposition to form the House of Assembly's members on the Library Committee.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the nominee from the Opposition is the hon. member for St. Michael South.

Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I beg to second all those nominations.

The question that those hon. members constitute the Library Committee of this House was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

APPOINTMENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to propose the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, the hon. member for St. Michael West, His Honour the Deputy Speaker, the hon. member for St. Philip North, the hon. member for Christ Church North Central, together with two other members proposed by the Opposition to be members of the Public Accounts Committee.

Mr. SMITH: I think the rules say, Mr. Speaker, that I am supposed to be Chairman but there would not be any accounts for a little time to check on. Be that as it may, the two nominees from the Opposition are the hon. member for St. Michael North Central and the hon. member for St. Michael South West.

Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, in seconding that nomination I would like to speak very briefly as the past Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee.

There are elements of unfinished business of that Committee which should be dealt with; for example, the investigation of the accounts of the Housing Authority, but I would say this to the new Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. I myself was very hamstrung because, as you know, it was very difficult to get a quorum since the Opposition could not form a quorum by itself. If he has a similar difficulty we will not treat him as his Party treated us when we were in Opposition, but we will be prepared to consider a revision of the Standing Orders to reduce the quorum to three as is the case with other special Committees of the House so that the Opposition can form a quorum of the Public Accounts Committee by itself. We are not going to treat them as they treated us.

The question that those hon. members constitute the Committee of Public Accounts of this Hon. House was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

7.50 p.m.

APPOINTMENT OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, what Standing Order calls for the appointment of the Standing Orders

Committee? My understanding is that if you want a Standing Orders Committee, a Resolution will have to be passed asking the House to appoint a Committee to examine the Standing Orders, to revise them, or whatever the case may be.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: It is Standing Order 59(2). Mr. Speaker, I beg to nominate the Hon. Prime Minister, member for St. Thomas; the Hon. Attorney-General, member for Christ Church West; the Hon. Deputy Speaker; the hon. member for Christ Church East; the hon. member for St. Michael West and myself as the Government nominees, together with the others to be nominated by the Opposition.

Mr. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure how many of these we are entitled to.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Five – four.

Mr. F. G. SMITH: Fair enough. The four for the Opposition, Mr. Speaker, are the Leader of the Opposition; the member for St. Michael South; the member for St. Michael North Central.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Three.

Mr. F. G. SMITH: You are giving me three now! You told me four, and I could have changed my priorities. Make up your mind. Mr. Speaker, I want to know how many I am allowed. I want to know what the Government wants to do.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: There are to be nine members. How many do you have? I am instructed that I called six members, and you will have three. I said the other members, and I thought you could count to three.

Mr. F. G. SMITH: Now, do you see how I can get into trouble? He is asking a man with my qualifications if I can count to three. That is how the row will come about.

Mr. SPEAKER: You will not get into any trouble in this Honourable House. The hon. member knows that you can count to three. Please proceed.

Mr. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, after the initial debate, I think that you are endearing yourself – (*Asides.*) We are going to have a lovely session in here. I respectfully suggest that the three from the Opposition are the hon. member for St. Lucy; the Leader of the Opposition; and the hon. member for St. Michael South.

Mr. SPEAKER: In accepting these nominations, I think it is only fair that the Chair

should make it known, consequent upon what the Hon. Prime Minister rose and said earlier in connection with the constitution of this Committee, for the benefit of those members who have entered this Honourable Chamber for the first time, that this Standing Orders Committee is being constituted in accordance with Standing Order No. 59 and the requirements thereof. I think it is one way to help our new members to become familiar with the Standing Orders, and that will help the Chair in the future.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: I beg to second that.

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

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to propose the Hon. Member for Christ Church West; the Hon. Member for St. Joseph; the Hon. Deputy Speaker; the Hon. Member for St. Michael West, and the Chairman of Committees, the Hon. Member for St. George North, together with two nominees of the Opposition to constitute the Committee of Privileges.

Mr. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to state that the nominees for the Opposition are the Hon. Member for St. John, and the Hon. Member for St. Michael South West.

Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I second all of them.

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

APPOINTMENT OF FOUR HON. MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE SUGAR PRODUCTION AND EXPORT CONTROL BOARD

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to propose on behalf of the Government the hon. member for St. Michael West; the hon. member for St. George North; and the hon. member for St. Philip North, together with one member from the Opposition.

Mr. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the member on this Committee I propose is the hon. member for St. Lucy.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: I beg to second that.

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

APPOINTMENT OF FOUR PERSONS WHO MAY OR NOT BE MEMBERS OF THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY TO THE SUGAR INDUSTRY AGRICULTURAL BANK

Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: You must have one member of the House of Assembly.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to propose the hon. member for Christ Church East; Mr. Nigel Bert Reece of Society, St. John, and Mrs. E. E. Bourne of Belleplaine, St. Andrew, as the Government nominees together with one member from the Opposition as the House of Assembly members to sit on the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank.

Mr. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the Government's nominee on this Board is....

Mr. SPEAKER: The Opposition's nominee. That is understandable.

Mr. F. G. SMITH: I must be more careful, Mr. Speaker. It is a force of habit. The Opposition's nominee on this Board is Mr. J. C. King, Attorney-at-Law, of Harts Gap, Christ Church.
8 p.m.

The question that both members – the Hon. member of the House of Assembly and other member named constitute the Sugar Industry Agricultural Development Bank Board was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

DOCUMENTS LAID

Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the Retail Sales Tax (Rate of Tax) (Revocation) Order, 1976. This Order goes to repeal of the sales tax beginning today.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Labour, Welfare, Youth Affairs and Sport I beg to lay the Annual Report of the Labour Department for the year 1974.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend certain enactments relating to statutory boards. The Bill is entitled the Statutory Boards (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act, 1976.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution in the following terms:—

The House of Assembly takes note of the Speech from the Throne delivered by His Excellency the Acting Governor General on the occasion of the opening of the present Parliament but humbly regrets the absence from the Governor General's Speech of the measures which will be taken in the absence of taxation to provide for the services and increased recurrent expenditures which have been adumbrated in the promises set out in the Government's statement of policy, and particularly regrets the absence of any concrete proposals for projects to create an immediate impact on the employment situation in the country.

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill entitled the Statutory

Boards (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act, 1976, be now read a first time.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: I beg to second that.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, that concludes Government Business and I would like to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 12th October at 12 o'clock noon.

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

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