

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION OF 1976 - 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 1st March, 1977

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

PRESENT

His Honour W. C. B. HINDS, (Speaker); Mr. R. St. C. WEEKES, J.P.; Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, M.A., (Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning); Hon. F. G. SMITH, Q.C., S.C., B.A., (Leader of the Opposition); Dr. R. B. CADDLE; Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, (Minister of Health and National Insurance); Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, (Minister of Communications and Works); Mr. J. G. ODLE, (Chairman of Committees); Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Caribbean Affairs, External Trade, Industry and Tourism and Leader of the House); Hon. L. R. TULL, M.A., (Minister of Education and Community Development); Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW; and Mr. L. L. SISNETT.

Prayers were read.

Mr. Sandiford, Mr. Taitt, and Mr. Johnson entered the Chamber and took their seats.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, 22nd February, 1977.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes of Tuesday, 22nd February, 1977, be confirmed.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Prime Minister, I beg to lay the Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for the 9 months ended 31st December, 1976.

On behalf of the Minister of Labour, Welfare, Youth Affairs and Sport, I beg to lay the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Barbados National Stadium Corporation for the year 1st April, 1975 to 31st March, 1976.

On my own behalf, I beg to lay the Seventeenth Annual Report and Financial Statement of the Barbados Board of Tourism for the year 1975-76.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to grant the sum of \$123,314 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1976-77, Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1976-77, No. 39, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I also beg to give notice of a Resolution to fix the aggregate of direct and contingent liabilities of the Barbados Development Bank at a sum not exceeding five times the paid-up capital of the Bank.

Also, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to grant the sum of \$102,008 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1976-77, Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1976-77, No. 42, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Mr. Speaker, there may be another Resolution of which I would wish to give notice but which is not immediately to hand, and I

would ask the Leader of the House, if it can be obtained during the course of this sitting, to give notice or notices thereof in case there is more than one.

Mr. SPEAKER: Leave will be granted.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to grant the sum of \$80,000 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1976-77, Part I — Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1976-77, No. 40, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

On behalf of the Minister of External Affairs, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to grant the sum of \$10,914, out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1976-77, Part II — Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1976-77, No. 41, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to grant the sum of \$946,914 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1976-77, Part I — Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1976-77, No. 43, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Mr. Greaves entered the Chamber and took his seat.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Michael South West; his Question re the lack of Recreational facilities.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, to ask the appropriate Minister Question No. 26:

Is the Minister aware that there are no recreational facilities presently allocated by Government to residents in the constituency of St. Michael South West?

Will the Minister give urgent consideration to the provision of permanent recreational facilities for citizens of that constituency?

Mr. SPEAKER: The same hon. member; his Question re a parcel of land on the Northern side of Passage Road.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, to ask the appropriate Minister:

Will the Minister state the purposes to which the parcel of land on the Northern side of Passage Road, St. Michael was leased by Government in 1976 to provide a playground and other similar facilities for use by the citizens of the surrounding areas is now being used?

Will the Minister take action to ensure that that parcel of land is used only for the purposes for which it was leased by Government?

Mr. Speaker, I had submitted another question in connection with the C.B.C. automobile.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member will communicate with the Clerk.
12.20 p.m.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following questions:

To enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works —

Is the Minister aware that travel from Hope Road, St. Lucy to Pie Corner, St. Lucy and on to Boscobelle, St. Peter and the East Coast Road could be considerably improved by the construction of a bridge across the River Bay gully and a road connecting to Bishop's Tenantry Road, St. Lucy?

Will the Minister consider the feasibility of constructing the bridge and connecting road?

To enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works —

Is the Minister aware that at (a) St. Lucy's Church Corner and (b) Six Men's, St. Peter, there are dangerous bends which pose serious hazards to the travelling public?

Will the Minister initiate action to have those bends widened so as to eliminate the existing danger to the public?

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee to consider a number of Resolutions.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative and Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply. Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1976-77
No. 34

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of this Resolution, the Addendum is a reasonably detailed one. A breakdown of the \$144,210 is as follows: In the first place the sum of \$110,210 is required as additional funds in connection with the completion of the St. Philip District Hospital Extension Project. This extension is in the region of 100 beds. The extension is now complete and we are awaiting the arrival of the actual beds themselves, and we are hoping that the St. Philip Hospital Extension should be ready to accept patients not later than 1st April, 1977.

Of the sum of \$110,210 an amount of \$67,255 is required to make up the contract price for construction and the balance which is \$35,000 is the balance of consultant fees which are still due and owing. The remainder of \$7,955 will provide for the increased cost of furniture and equipment which is expected to be paid in the current financial year.

The balance of \$34,000 is money required by the Barbados Family Planning Association towards the cost of renovating and redesigning the buildings which they inhabit at Jemmotts Lane. These buildings were renovated and redesigned in 1975. The then Minister of Health gave an undertaking that Government would reimburse the Family Planning Association and in effect would underwrite the cost of these repairs. The buildings renovated are at Jemmotts Lane just off Bay Street and then there was another small building. That building has been redesigned entirely. The International Planned Parenthood Federation of London has guaranteed further sums for the further updating and improvement of that family planning clinic at Bay Street, and we are hoping that we will be able to offer training in family planning methods and techniques to para-medics and to general practitioners if they desire. We are hoping in these renovated buildings later this year to house an intensive in-service training programme at the Bay Street headquarters.

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

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I notice some improvement in the presentation of this Resolution by the Minister, and we are pleased about that development. We on this side are quite pleased to note that the building extension to the St. Philip District Hospital is now completed, and we are also happy to learn that patients should be admitted by the 1st April this year.
12.30 p.m.

This is of course the completion of a project initiated by the Democratic Labour Party Government, and it was part of the overall structural extensions for providing additional accommodation for those who need such services in this country. We are very pleased that the work is completed and that this Resolution is now before us to meet outstanding commitments in respect of that work.

As I had indicated on a previous occasion, and the Minister did show some unawareness of the fact that there were overall proposals for bringing improvements for the care of the aged, I did indicate that there were plans and proposals for providing additional accommodation for the aged who were in need of care at various district hospitals in this country, and I believe when I said that in relation to St. Andrew's District Hospital also the Minister turned to the member for Christ Church East and there was some doubt over her face. I believe she tried to give the impression that there were no such plans for converting the St. Andrew Maternity Hospital into a district hospital catering for the convalescent and so on.

We are dealing with the St. Philip District Hospital. The extension here is to bring about an improvement and additional facilities for the care of the aged, and this was part of the global programme for improving accommodation in these hospitals, because there was a waiting list not only at the St. Michael District Hospital but there was a waiting list in St. Philip and at other places, and hence the overall plan called for the extension of the St. Philip District Hospital by a further 100 beds to take care of those persons who were pressing to get into institutions and who at the moment could not be accommodated. Most of us who represent constituencies can think of cases of persons pressing to get into these institutions, but because of inadequate space that is not possible.

I believe right now there are cases in the constituency of the member for St. Lucy, I believe there are cases — or at least one case that was drawn to my attention about a day or two ago — in the constituency of the member for Christ Church West in which persons want to gain admission but because of the lack of accommodation this could not be done. (*Asides*).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No cross talking, please address the Chair.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I wish you would tell the member for Christ Church South Central to address the Chair. Why is the hon. member asking us to be ashamed because we started a project for extending the St. Philip District Hospital by 100 beds; that we had proposals for extending the St. Thomas District Hospital also to provide additional facilities, and that we proposed that the St. Andrew Maternity Hospital should be changed into a district hospital caring specifically for the geriatric patients, and that we said the St. Michael District Hospital should be developed for geriatric cases? These are all set out in the Minutes of the Health Planning and Development Committee, and I will have to ask the Prime Minister to tell his Ministers that before they come and give the wrong impression to this House and to their own members indicating when from this side we say that there were plans there for development, I think I am going to have to ask him to tell his Ministers — some of them, because there are some who do their work, but there are others who believe they know it all and would not listen — I am going to have to ask him to tell them they should master their briefs and read all the files. You will see it set out there, and tell the member for Christ Church East that he was wrong in this matter; I think we should be big enough to do this, so we are not ashamed of the proposal to extend the St. Philip District Hospital by 100 beds, and that is why we are glad that this Resolution is here, because it is the completion of a project initiated by the Democratic Labour Party. Not only for that reason, but it is something that is in the interest of the people of this country, and so we will support this particular Resolution.

What we did not hear about is the other one, Item 13 — Family Planning Association, was that the \$34,000? Of course the Minister knows this as well, I think she was, I am not certain if she still is, a member of the Barbados Family Planning Association. I believe when I had the privilege of addressing that body some time I think in 1976 I did see her in the

audience, and we knew of the proposals for improving and renovating the buildings at Bay Street housing the Barbados Family Planning Association, and on that occasion I indicated after hearing the cost for carrying out these extensions and the renovations in particular, I did indicate to the management of the Barbados Family Planning Association that I would entertain a proposal or a request for additional funds to help in the payment for those renovations at the Barbados Family Planning Headquarters. The information from the Barbados Family Planning Association came in too late for inclusion in the current Estimates, and when they did come in I did give an indication that we would make the necessary presentation to the Cabinet and so on, and this is the Resolution that is now before us. So our job over here is to fill in the blanks. There are certain things which will be left out for one reason or another and we are going to fill in the blanks, so I am just filling in the blanks here. Even though the Minister said the Addendum is full there are certain things which she has not said, and this Item 13, it is that this is a fulfilment of a commitment given to the Family Planning Association by the previous Government that we would give an additional sum to help in the renovation of the buildings which after all are the property of the Government, and the Barbados Family Planning Association in terms of its objectives and programmes, that Association is performing a reasonable job in this country as far as its objectives are concerned and we will therefore support this particular Resolution.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, when it comes to dealing with matters for the parish of St. Philip I have no doubt that you are aware that it would be nearest and dearest to my heart. There are some of us who feel that when we have to speak about a constituency which we represent that we are dealing with parish pump politics, but I want to say this, that I am not ashamed to speak on behalf of the interest of the people of the parish of St. Philip.
12.40 p.m.

Now, Sir, as regards the institution at St. Philip, I would like this Hon. House to know that I was associated with it for over 30 years. When I was a Vestryman over 30 years ago I came into direct contact with the inmates and the staff of that institution. After the abolition of the Vestry System I also served as a Councillor and also had the honour to serve for two consecutive terms as Chairman of the Southern District Council. You will therefore

see, Sir, that when it comes to that institution, I have a special interest in it; and therefore I want to say today that this Resolution has my wholehearted support.

Some hon. members may not be aware that there was a time when the number of almshouses, as they were then called, were reduced and there was an amalgamation with the parish of St. Philip and St. John. Therefore inmates from St. John are at that institution also. Now, in those days the conditions at that institution were terrible under the Vestry System; and while it is true to say that there was a little improvement with Local Government and the Southern District Council, I must say that it was a happy day when the Government decided to abolish Local Government so that funds could be made available to improve these institutions.

While many people have criticised the abolition of Local Government, I would say that if there is one part of the job which was done by Local Government and which has made an improvement which I consider fantastic it is the improvement at these various institutions. Now, Sir, having served in here — this is my fourth term — I am in a position to state that all the improvement at that institution was done during the period in which the Democratic Labour Party was in power; and I am very pleased to congratulate the present Government for carrying on where the former Government left off.

We as a Government, did a wonderful job and it is left now to the Barbados Labour Party to carry on and improve on what we have done. I do not expect them to criticise us at all times, and I would like to associate myself with the previous speaker who said that the Prime Minister should tell his Ministers that when we are discussing certain measures which were initiated by the Democratic Labour Party he should draw it to the attention of his Ministers so that they can divulge the facts to this House.

Now, in the days of the Vestry and the Local Government Council funds were not available; but since these institutions are being run by the Government, the Government can come from time to time and ask this Hon. House for funds; and therefore I am one who can vouch that the Government is in a better position to run these institutions than the former Councils and Vestries.

Therefore, it is a pleasure to hear the Government coming from time to time and

asking for funds for these various institutions which take care of the poor and especially those who have contributed to the economy of this country in the past. Now that they have reached the evening of their days it is our duty to provide them with certain facilities like proper housing. It is our duty to take care of those people knowing that it is through their sweat that has caused many of us to be here as members of this ancient and Hon. House.

Therefore, Sir, when a Resolution comes before this House for the benefit of the masses, it is nothing which one party should be proud of and another party should be criticising. It is a matter in which we all have something in common, which we share in common for the benefit of the people who have done so much for this country. (*Aside*). Mr. Chairman I would hope that you would draw to the attention of the hon. member that he must at all times stand and address you.

Mr. Chairman, you have called on me and told me that the time has expired; but I want to close by saying again that I appreciate the action of the Barbados Labour Party for coming here today and bringing this Resolution to the House and carrying on from where the Democratic Labour Party left off. Continue to do the good work. I am here to see that they carry on where we left off and satisfy the people of this island and do their utmost to meet the needs of the masses.

12.50 p.m.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, my colleagues on this side have spoken so eloquently and well on the question of the District Hospitals and the health policies of the former Government that I do not think it is necessary for me to do other than to endorse what they have said. But on the second part of the Head on the question of family planning, the Minister has been a member of the Family Planning Board, I believe, for some time and so, no doubt, she will be aware of some of the things which, in recent times, have been giving us cause for concern.

Mr. Chairman, the history of family planning in Barbados is a good history. For the first ten years of its life the Family Planning Association, with the assistance and encouragement of the Government, was able to affect a serious diminution in the growth rate in Barbados. I refer to the population growth rate. That together with the immigration possibilities, which were always available, meant

that Barbados was able to get on with its development, perhaps, at a rate more rapid than many developing countries and some developed countries in the world. For those reasons the subvention which the Government gave to the Family Planning Association continued to increase from year to year and, indeed, not only was Barbados successful in terms of its own citizens, but many of the doctors and other professionals connected with the family planning effort in Barbados have been able to make substantial contributions outside of Barbados in literature and philosophy of family planning as a weapon or tool for development.

I remember that one of the younger sons of Dr. Cummins had made a presentation on the insertion of the loop immediately after child birth or within a few days after child birth, and that technique has become an accepted technique not only in Barbados, but throughout the Western world and in many developing countries. For those reasons I hope the Minister and, indeed, the Government, will appreciate that the signs of disquiet which seem to be appearing within the Family Planning Association are signs for consideration and for concern not on any partisan basis. I believe that the question of family planning is not a partisan issue. I do not believe that there is any D.L.P. way for family planning or any B.L.P. way for family planning, although the technique may be different. I think it is incumbent on any Government in Barbados to pay special attention to this particular tool of development which we have so effectively used.

As you are probably aware, Mr. Chairman, in some parts of the United States it is popularly said that family planning is a threat to the black race. I, myself, do not share that view, but it is a moot point. Mr. Chairman, in recent months, perhaps, in the last year or so, and those who are familiar with the activities which were going on in the constituency of St. Michael West over the last four years will know that I have no brief for a young man called Mr. Walker. I have no brief for him or, for that matter, I hold no brief for Rev. Springer, but that will be dealt with in due course. (*Asides.*) The point is that Mr. Walker, a young man, who has been functioning in family planning has, I believe, made a substantial contribution in the short time he has been involved in family planning. I say that not on the basis of hearsay, but on the basis of, at least, on one occasion when in another role I was asked by the same gentleman to attend a seminar held at Combermere School Hall for a number of young

people in this country. I believe the psychologist, Dr. Browne, participated in this seminar, and I was pleasantly surprised at the rapport which had been established between Mr. Walker and the other young people working for the Family Planning Association and those young people who had come from secondary schools in this country. The quality and the level of discussion was high, and I am very certain that a substantial contribution has been made resulting from that seminar and the dissemination of family planning information.

Mr. Chairman, it, therefore, comes as a surprise to hear that that young man has been dismissed from the Family Planning Association. I would have to conclude that the reasons for which he has been dismissed would have nothing to do with his professional capacity, but I only raise it in furtherance of my view that there is a need, perhaps, for the Government to take a look at the Family Planning Association with a view to examining how it is being administered and whether it is still being administered in the interest of the people of Barbados.

As I said, Mr. Chairman, I am not a member of it and I have no brief for anybody, but certainly there is some disquiet, certainly in the area which I have the honour to represent. They complain that family planning information is being given to children 10, 11, and 12 years of age. I think due care must be taken of the fact that there are some young people in this community who find themselves in difficulty due to some of the attitudes of a number of older men in the community, and sometimes young boys who do not know as much as they should and, therefore, I am not against the idea of family planning being extended to the young girls even at the age of 11. What I am concerned about is the manner in which it is done. Mr. Chairman, I believe you will agree that it is a very delicate matter and, therefore, those whose responsibility it is to impart such information ought to be well trained and well suited for the task of giving information especially to such young people in the community.

I do not believe that family planning is a partisan matter. I believe it is something which we all should join hands together in getting things done in this community and, again, for those reasons I am suggesting that the time has, probably, come when the Government should give consideration to taking full responsibility for the administration of family planning

activities in this country. When we were in the Government.....(Asides.) Mr. Chairman, I wonder why the Minister feels that she has to be antagonistic in asides even on a matter as simple as this. When we were in the Government the then Minister of Health in 1976 said that the Government would give serious consideration to taking over the family planning activities, because we had examined it. It is a matter which needs examination.

1 p.m.

They should examine it and see if for any reason it functions as a Government Department it would not be more effective. I am not calling for it to be taken over by the Government *per se* or willy-nilly, I am calling on them to have a serious look to see whether it is desirable, because there are some disquieting things especially with regard to staffing and the arrangement of the Family Planning Association's activities in Barbados, and I think that any measure which they bring here which will improve the efficiency of the programme is bound to get the support of this side, and for these reasons as well as those adumbrated by my colleagues, I shall have no difficulty whatever in supporting this Resolution.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I am very glad of the opportunity to speak on these matters because this is an area in which I have given a lot of time, thought and study to the course of development in the last twenty years in this country in relation to providing basic amenities to people. I can say like the hon. member for St. Philip that I have had experience with the Vestry, Local Government and centralisation, and I can say that in my opinion over centralisation in these services has resulted in the people not getting that intimate contact with the people who have to administer as they had in the past.

It is my view that in Barbados, small as we are, we have got to be careful with this concept of the Government taking over all the services and destroying the initiative and effort from people who regard it as their duty to provide voluntary services to the community. Why I said to the hon. member in an aside that perhaps there is some reason for shame on the part of the previous Government is because they were the ones who rammed through centralisation and abolished all aspects of Local Government in Barbados, and I know that whereas before both in the Vestry system and in the Council system the Public Assistance Officer and those who administered the District Hospitals knew the circumstances of the particular people in the area,

they knew them because they had contact with them, and when the individual people who had to administer these services did not carry out these services in a humane manner, they had an appeal court in the form of councillors who used to see that the situation that developed in the Pine not so long ago was not in existence, and that for days and days in this country in the year of Our Lord 1977 old people can be in a house and not be discovered. The channel of communication between those who are in need and the services provided by Government is too tortuous in Barbados.

Long ago when they centralized these services I remember the hon. member for St. Joseph giving a warning to centralise the services but be sure that those who administered the services had the same kind of responsibility, the same kind of feeling as those people who used to administer in the past, because they had to account to them periodically by way of election. In my opinion some form of decentralisation for some of these services will have to take place in the future in Barbados. This Parliament that we have and the machinery that we have is totally inadequate for dealing with this kind of service, and I say that centralising of public health, public assistance and the provision of these services has resulted in certain deficiencies.

The hon. member for St. Philip gave the impression that this hospital being in St. Philip, he still regards it as a parochial matter, but I would hope that the extension in St. Philip would cover the whole of the southern area. That is the sort of centralisation I mean. I do not feel that people from St. Lucy should be put in St. Philip no matter what the experts say about Barbados being small, that you only need a certain number of institutions and that it can result in less administrative cost, I dispute it, not only on economics, but also on the question of humane consideration because we are dealing with people. I would like to see a very close study being made in Barbados of the impact of centralisation and its relative efficiency to the old system. I say that public health standards have gone down and I would argue that with the Chief Public Health Officer or the Chief Technical Medical Officer, because I have seen it with my own eyes that we have centrally administered public health law and a centrally administered national assistance law, and I say that the machinery is cumbersome. Of course they had fifteen years to correct it but they accepted the gospel of centralisation willy-nilly. They created a National Assistance Board which has no kind of executive authority over the district hospitals. All they do is to go and visit and look after the

structure. They have no administrative and directional authority over the individual people. It is all right to preach centralisation and say that Barbados has 250,000 and that is the same thing as a borough. That may be so but let us not forget that this Government that we have in Barbados and the machinery that we have is that the totality of powers we have is the same as the whole of Britain, and therefore all of us are being called upon to look after matters which can well be decentralised to a large degree and bringing in other people in the community to participate and help in running these institutions and ferret out the needs to see if the needs are properly attended to.

I do not know how to get a person into a district hospital nowadays. People come to see me and I have to ring the Ministry. In the old days I would ring the Public Assistance Officer or the District Medical Officer and they would be able to do it, but it is very difficult now to know how to get a person into hospital. Of course the hon. member for St. Michael South admitted that he knows of cases that could not get in because there was no space. It took him fifteen years to recognise that you needed 100 beds. That is what my complaint is. You abolished a large number of the almshouses, you have upgraded the services, but there is not enough bed capacity in Barbados to cater to the needs of these people. At least in the old days you had a number of institutions and there was some place for these unfortunate people to lay their heads and somebody to look after them. I want to see that intimate contact back there. I do not believe the civil servants would do it. I am not criticising the civil servants, but the nature of the position is very clear. An enquiring officer has thousands of people to deal with every day, and you need that intimate political contact. I do now know whether we will go into the question — this is a fundamental matter — of how you would run the country. I do not know whether we should have elective boards or something. Other countries have tried that because they say the Local Government is too cumbersome, but the basic position is that I still feel that our machinery is so cumbersome, and that centralisation in my opinion has resulted in a loss of contact. You may be able to prove that it costs less per bed or less per head; that may be so for those who are in, but I am interested in those who are out and ought to be in.

I do not agree with any idea of taking over the Family Planning Association. What is the point of taking over a non-profit-making voluntary body which is able to draw from talent all over the community? What grounds are you

going to take over on? What is the justification for taking it over? It is a voluntary organisation formed in the Fifties which received the butt of abuse from the Democratic Labour Party. There was no greater critic of the concept of family planning in Barbados than the former Prime Minister. The hon. member for St. Michael South West of course in those days was in the United States of America.

1.10 p.m.

The Labour Party was accused of trying to encourage people not to have children because they were black. That is a fact. We can look back in history now and say look how wrong we were to say these things, because we can look and see that the Barbados Labour Party when it started family planning was the pioneer in attempts to solve a great economic problem, namely, the population, and we started it with Puerto Rico long before any of the Third World regarded it as popular, and look what we have done. We have got the whole community orientated towards the need for family planning without having to adopt the methods that Indira Gandhi had to adopt in India and compulsorily sterilise the hon. members.

I do not mind who is against it in the context of Barbados with its natural resource and its land space, we must have a population policy as a matter of straight economic sense, and you must decide that family planning is an indispensable instrument in that.

The question of teenage pregnancies is a very big problem, but this is a matter that raises so many fundamental social attitudes that I believe that if you want to make it upon a bipartisan level, leave it in the hands of a voluntary, non-profit making organisation, utilise all the grants to ensure that it is administered in accordance with the overall concept, but do not seek to deprive the people of the opportunity to provide voluntary services in this country. We need far more of these people participating in the governmental process rather than trying to discourage them. Those are my views, Sir.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say a few words about the Barbados Family Planning Association. It has a very long and interesting record which is there for anyone who is interested to examine, and it is not my intention to go and rehearse the record of the Barbados Family Planning Association, but I think the time has come when a very critical review of the role and purpose of the Barbados Family Planning Association as regards its

implementation of a strong population policy in this country must be made. You find that it is necessary to review the whole thing, and we have to review it because there has been a lot of shift in the characteristics of the Barbados population.

Once upon a time you would find that many people at any age would be getting children. If you take a close examination of the Barbados population now you will see that generally speaking as soon as people approach 25 they become sold on family planning, very keen on restricting the number of children they have or go even further to make sure they do not have any more children, so it is not a problem of selling family planning to people 25 years and over. But under 25 there is a problem, and this problem is a very serious one because in Barbados we are finding that too many young people, teenagers, are becoming pregnant. When they become pregnant some of them have to produce the children if they are not so fortunate; those who are more fortunate resort to abortions, and as the Hon. Minister will find out sooner or later, if not already, pressure will be made upon her to legalise abortion in this country. That is a different matter, the point which I am stressing is that there is a bit of concern in Barbados right now about the role of community based distribution of contraceptives in this country, because there are some people who feel that these contraceptives are being put in the hands, willy nilly, of children 11, 12, and 13 years of age and lead to promiscuity and to a lot of other problems, the spread of venereal disease and so on in this country.

It is also known that some people who work in the Family Planning Association are a bit concerned with this, and I am drawing this to the attention of the Hon. Minister and that is why I am stressing that I feel that a review of the role and performance of the Family Planning Association is necessary at this juncture. I am not one of those people who are going to be so foolish to say that children at a particular age are not going to indulge in sex, because if one takes the history of mankind from its inception right down to the present one will find that girls as soon as they started to menstruate have been married off in some countries as early as 12 or 13, and this has been the practice and it is occurring now in some countries including Barbados. It is nothing new, it is something that has gone on, and for those of us who are particularly concerned about our religious protestations, if you read

the Bible carefully you will find that even on his dying bed David was given a damsel, a girl of 12 or 13 years old.

I think it is high time we accept certain facts, and one of the facts is that as girls reach sexual maturity there is always the probability that they will indulge in sexual activity. This is so, and we have to take a very intelligent and enlightened view about how we are going to handle the problems which may arise as a result of this indiscriminate indulgence in sexual intercourse. It is not a question to get up on one side and say it is wrong and people who do it should be punished, neither should we go to the other extreme and say we should start giving out prescriptions left, right and centre, because some happy medium has to be reached. There are those of us who may take up the position which was taken up in Trinidad some years ago when the Association in that country decided to distribute pills and things of that nature to teenagers, 12, 13 and a bit older. It brought a hue and cry with the result that the Association in Trinidad had to be scrapped. While there has been no publicity in Barbados about the distribution of these prescriptions to people at this early age, it has been going on, and some people have been taking up a stand on whether or not it should be done.

I think that we have to be very careful, and the point which I am trying to draw to the attention of the Hon. Minister is that, being a woman herself she is in a better position to articulate the feelings and the emotions of women, especially young women, who may find it necessary to indulge in this particular activity. Therefore I am appealing to her to make an interesting survey of the matter within the Family Planning Association whereby we can come to some definite conclusion as to whether or not there is going to be a policy adopted boldly to give family planning pills to children at that early age, or if there is not going to be a policy. What is going to be done to prevent this quiet distribution of family planning pills to people of that age, and at the same time to prevent these children who may just be experimenting, who may just be exercising a natural instinct, from becoming unnecessarily pregnant and presenting all other problems in the country?

If you check many of the secondary schools in Barbados you will find that every year a number of teenage girls have to leave school early because they have become pregnant, and although abortion in Barbados is

not recognised, if you check around Barbados carefully you will find that there are certain outlets where people can go and have abortions quiet easily as long as they are prepared to pay the price. These are things we have to examine. This is a very serious concern, because what you are finding in Barbados now is that the increase in population is more brought about by people under 25 than by people over 25, and therefore we have now to look and direct our attention and try to sell family planning very effectively to people under 25 as effectively as it has been sold to people over 25. Unless we do this we will have to continue to find that the population of Barbados will increase.

Looking at the demographic trend in Barbados there are indications which show that this population will tend to show a bulge in the eighties particularly due to this factor which I am now stressing, the tendency of people under 25 to produce children. It is not uncommon in Barbados to find a person under 25 who already has five children, and this is an age where all about the Family Planning Association is known, easily obtainable, subsidised by Government, can be obtained free sometimes, **but in spite of that you will find people, if you check with any doctor, there are many people** who you will come across under the age of 25 who already have five children.

1.20 p.m.

That is where the threat to this country really lies because if you continue to permit this increase in the size of the population, especially among teenagers it will be making it difficult for you to meet the demands of the people who require employment; because as soon as you create employment for a certain section, before you can do something else there will be another contingent crying out for employment. Therefore, we have to take a very serious look at this; and I am appealing to the Minister to have a review of the growth of the Barbados Family Planning Association as regards the maintaining of a proper family planning policy, and at the same time see what we can do to assist these teenage girls who love for a number of reasons which need not be stressed now. They follow their sexual instincts. They get pregnant. Their education becomes thwarted. **They have to leave school — money wasted — another girl could have gone to school in her place.**

In addition to that there is the spread of venereal disease as a result of promiscuity, and in addition to that there is the danger from the

manner in which abortions are often carried out on these young girls. I am appealing to the Minister because I feel that as a woman she must have some kind of empathy with people who are of the same sex as herself.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, there are two points I want to make on this Resolution. You will recall, Mr. Chairman, that only last week when we were discussing some aspect of the St. Michael District Hospital that the member for St. Michael South West alluded to the traumas which are experienced by shifting some people willy nilly. It is interesting that today we hear that same point of view expressed by the Deputy Prime Minister.

I am very pleased to hear, for example, the feeling which he has expressed that in this particular area it is a question of humanity rather than just a question of statistics. So it would seem that in some instances health problems which are very clearly related to people are dealt with more in terms of numbers and statistics rather than in terms of the human element of the particular matter.

I recall that about two years ago when the Chamber was considering centralisation — I believe that it was of the laundry service in the hospitals where they were all centralised at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital I made the same point which the Deputy Prime Minister has made about the difficulties which can be experienced by a rapid rush to centralise services and that this can create great difficulties from the point of view of people who are not near to the particular centre. I think that you are well aware of my particular plea on this whole question of consideration being given to people who live in the further parts of this island.

I would also like to refer to the point which was made by the Deputy Prime Minister on the question of family planning; and I am under the impression that he started off by saying that he was making the point that family planning should not be a political matter. In a way we accept this because as the member for St. Michael South West indicated, this is a matter which calls for bi-partisan concern. It is a matter which is of such importance to the national interest, national developmental plans, that we all have to take a very serious look at this whole question of the impact and the role of family planning in the entire context of a well thought out population policy.

Having said that, yet the Deputy Prime Minister went on by saying that the Family

Planning Association was started by the Barbados Labour Party. If you check the statement which was made by the Deputy Prime Minister, you will see that he is recorded as saying that the Family Planning Association was started by the Barbados Labour Party. What I am saying is that this is the sort of confusion which the Barbados Labour Party seems always to put into people's minds. The concept of family planning is a good thing so they want to associate its success with the Barbados Labour Party.

What I know is that the Family Planning Association was started at the time that the Barbados Labour Party was in power; but that is not the same thing as saying that the Barbados Labour Party started the Family Planning Association because it was then a private organisation. I want to get this historical fact very clear because we cannot afford to have the public misled on this particular matter.

On this question of the district hospitals, Mr. Chairman, I noted that the Minister in her introduction indicated the size of this hospital. I must confess that I did not realise that the St. Philip District Hospital was such a large hospital and this, therefore, brings me to an interesting point because I would think for example that a hospital of this size would require someone on the staff whose speciality or immediate concern would be the preparation of foods and giving directions for menu planning for the various inmates and what have you.

1.30 p.m.

We are dealing with District Hospitals and this, I submit, Mr. Chairman, is under the Head of the Ministry of Health and Welfare. We are dealing with District Hospitals which is an extension and which assist the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I am saying that we have to look at this matter very carefully....

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member is out of order and the remark should be struck from the record.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It must be struck from the record. You have plenty of time to talk about that on another occasion.

Mr. GREAVES: I want to find out the policy of the present Government, and I want to know whether or not the Government considers it necessary that a

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is not relevant. Please continue and speak to the subject. Have you completed your speech?

Mr. GREAVES: You have really floored me, Mr. Chairman. I am so flabbergasted. Mr. Chairman, it would seem that you are so much concerned with....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair will not allow you to do indirectly what you cannot do directly. My ruling stands.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I am asking whether or not the Government has a policy relative to the employment of a Chef at the Hospital.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Out of order.

Mr. GREAVES: How do you mean out of order? At a Hospital the size of the St. Philip District Hospital? Is that a question out of order?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for St. Lucy must take his seat and discontinue his speech.

Mr. GREAVES: Has my time expired, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair has ruled that the member for St. Lucy must take his seat and discontinue his speech. If there is no other hon. member who wishes to speak, I will....

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, may I be told under which rule I must take my seat? I have not yet finished my speech.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please be seated.

Mr. GREAVES: That is **not fair at all**.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I wish very much to draw the attention of the House in Committee to Standing Order 40 and to the conduct of the hon. member for St. Lucy. He has persisted in irrelevance and repetition, and I am asking him to take his seat and to discontinue his speech. Failure to do this will leave me with other alternatives.

Mr. GREAVES: If I did not want to speak on other things today I would leave.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, if I may get the debate back on an even keel, I just want to make a couple of references to the

Barbados Family Planning Association. I have understood hon. members on the other side to be asking for an inquiry into the Family Planning Association or a review of its policy. Let me see a review of which policy they are asking about. A review of its policy towards persons under the age of 25. I have followed, with a great deal of interest, the operations of the Family Planning Association ever since I returned to this country in 1959, and I know as a fact that the Association was started in the early 50s under the aegis of people like Mr. Cadbury, who was then the Adviser to the Government, and it had the blessing of the late Sir Grantley Adams and, indeed, his distinguished wife, Lady Adams, was one of the founder members and has been on the Association's Council for several years and rendered outstanding service to it.

It is a fact, as the hon. member for Christ Church South Central has said, that in those days the Family Planning Association was attacked by the Electors Association, the Conservatives, in the guise of the late Ernest Mottley, who said it was a way of getting rid of black people, and he was joined in this attitude by the hon. member for St. John; the Hon. E. W. Barrow, who then wanted power at any cost, and it did not matter. He was as reckless then as he is now in his statements. It did not matter what he said and how he said them, but this was his way of putting forward his case, and he wanted power at any cost as he wants it again and would have said anything then as he is saying anything now. One must come to recognise when one hears his statement in historical perspective what it meant.

History has proven that the Family Planning Association has performed a tremendous task in Barbados and, indeed, for those of us who read the news of the National Planning Federation, which is put out monthly as well as quarterly, our Family Planning Association has come to be recognised as a model Association throughout the world, and the United Nations population studies give great publicity to the Barbadian Family Planning Association. As Minister responsible for International Relations of Barbados, I am proud, indeed, when we can, on the international scene, offer a voluntary Association such as this which can give much needed technical assistance abroad to other countries and to show what a small country like Barbados, on a voluntary level, can do in the realm of family planning and population planning in general.

The Association has been dogged by two problems: essentially it has been dogged by the problem of change of management, and also by the disappearance of funds, and I believe that

both of those problems have now been taken strongly in hand and are being managed. The Association has managed to secure funds from the United Nations Agency dealing with planning matters and it is about, I understand, to start a programme for sex education in schools. The hon. member for St. Michael North Central did not refer to this, but part of the problem which we have with the under 25s in an educational problem and it is not a problem for the Family Planning Association alone. It must be a problem for the educational authorities to start within the curricula of the schools a proper programme for education in sex, and this does not mean what some people believe sex is limited to. It is not just a man and a woman, but all aspects of genetics and all aspects of the human body, the anatomy, and everything that is concerned. I hope the Minister of Education will take urgent steps to advance, and I use the word advisedly, his programme for the introduction at the primary school level as well as the secondary school level and, indeed, at the tertiary level of sex education as a compulsory subject for children in our schools.

The other point I should like to state is that the community must change its attitudes. Barbados tend to be too far behind progressive thoughts in the world. I see nothing wrong with the community distribution of contraceptives subject to certain safeguards.

1.40 p.m.

Anybody who reads the IPF news will see that in most progressive countries like Ceylon, India, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Britain, you can easily go and buy contraceptives or get them on the supermarket shelves, subject to certain safeguards, and nobody can allege in these countries that the youth have been corrupted because there is an availability of contraceptive material to people. We find too much of a religious argument creeping into this problem. It is really a sociological problem because it is not a problem of corruption of morals; it is a problem of trying to prevent unnecessary increase in populations and in the growth of the country as a whole.

The other subject of which I would speak and the hon. member for St. Michael North Central mentioned, is one of course that is highly controversial from a religious point of view, and it is how soon we are going to liberalise the laws dealing with abortion. Speaking for myself, I believe that the issue should be on a nonpartisan basis and should be subjected to a free vote in this House of Assembly, because one is apt to find that for short term political gain people may

vote against such a Bill. Despite the fact that I am a practising Anglican and a very strong supporter of the Anglican faith, I believe that the time has come for the legalising of abortion in a much better fashion than at present legalised under the 1868 law and I said so openly, and despite the fact that some of the people in the Church do not agree with my views on this, I think the statistics in other countries where this is tried and where safeguards have been built in have proven that it has done no damage to the community and it has saved unnecessary pregnancies. What is a man who has a retarded daughter to do where she is raped and has not given her consent, but look for a legal form of abortion?

These are the sort of questions that one finds being posed over this whole question; but it is a matter of education. We who are the civil leaders, the Opposition and those on the Government bench must set the trend and must be able to discuss this matter dispassionately. This is the sort of problem we should be discussing at a high level on our political platforms rather than getting down in the gutter and attacking each other as happened as recently as Sunday night. We should be able to raise the level of the debate rather than going down to that sort of level, and I am hoping that we will set this standard of debate for the young people, and then perhaps when they are debating issues like these and trying at their intellectual skills they will have less time to worry about producing children under the age of twenty-five that are unwanted babies.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to be long and I wish to limit myself to the first part of this Resolution in respect of the extension to the St. Philip District Hospital. When this Resolution was introduced, I was not in my place, so that if I ask any questions of the Minister to which she has already given answers, I would expect she would make this clear in her reply.

Mr. Chairman, I have my own views on the district hospital that may not coincide with that of the Minister. To that extent I would wish some clarification on this. It is my contention that in addition to providing services for those who have passed the age of being able to look after themselves and need a home in which they can be given comfort and the basic necessities of life in their own way, that the district hospitals in my view should perform an additional function. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital throughout the years has been the subject of complaints in so far as it is alleged that the

Casualty of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is overburdened by emergency cases. Very often, perhaps every day, there are collisions, motor accidents, industrial accidents in the various parishes of this Island. I am wondering whether the Ministry has considered the possibility of using district hospitals as mini-hospitals for the purpose of taking care of emergency matters which do not necessitate treatment at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Let us assume for example that an accident occurs in Oldbury at the junction where the former Government refused to put traffic lights — and there have been several fatal and other accidents at that junction — and people have minor cuts, abrasions and contusions; it seems to me to be too burdensome both on the hospital and on the patient to send him all the way to Bridgetown to wait six or seven hours before he is attended to, whereas if you had at the district hospital in St. Philip or if it happened to be in St. Lucy a doctor who would be on call and you have the nurses already and the basic mechanisms for dealing with emergencies, those persons could be treated in the area where the accident or injury occurred. I wonder if the Ministry has considered the decentralisation of these sorts of functions and their implementation into the district hospitals because I think this is a useful service that the district hospitals can perform and thereby alleviate the pressure on the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. That is my contribution on the question of the district hospitals. I know what is happening at the district hospital in St. Philip and I have no reason to speak either historically or in futuristic sense as the hon. member for St. Philip South spoke.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, this matter of the district hospitals distresses me. As I said here, there are so many misconceptions. The hon. member for St. Michael South was so right when he said that I did not say all. It is true I did not say all. I did not say that I came into office to find that there was no such thing as a health plan. I did not say that the whole concept surrounding the district hospitals and the service that they were offering to the public of Barbados was a haphazard and adhoc situation as I found it. The whole truth about the 100 bed extension at the St. Philip hospital, as I understand it, is that the former Minister of Health acceded to a cry that I hear all around me, that the answer to all problems in Government institutions is more beds. In truth and in fact the answer is not more beds, and I am saying here and now that there will be no further extensions to any of the buildings or institutions known as district hospitals. We do not really need more beds.

1.50 p.m.

We do not really need more beds, and this is what the re-organisation of the district hospitals is all about. We need a more efficient use of the beds that we have. The real misconception which not only lies in the public demand but right here in this Chamber — I have heard it voiced on both sides — about district hospitals is that too many people are bogged down with the old Victorian Colonial concept of the almshouse. The truth is that I came in to find that these district hospitals were not hospitals at all, they continued to be almshouses, the dumping ground for every sort and condition of illness and non-illness, and a hospital we understand is an institution which will house people who are ill. Members on both sides in here seem to find it difficult to distinguish between people who are ill and people who are not ill. There are people who are not ill, there are people who are indigent, not ill at all, who have no one to look after them, who have no decent homes, who are old and maybe beginning to lose their faculties, who are not ill, and these are the people who are clogging up the beds in the hospitals, who really ought not to be in hospital at all, people who are treated as derelicts in our community. You put a man who is fit in a hospital and you will make him think he is ill. In truth and in fact this man ought to be thinking of himself as a potential member of the labour force and not as a potential patient in a hospital.

What we really need in this country are homes for the aged, institutions for people who have no homes of their own, who are fit, not ill. That is a matter for the Minister of Welfare, and that is why I say again — I have said it already — it is to the good that welfare and health have been separated and are now in separate Ministries rather than the one. Welfare and Health have been going hand in hand for too many years, so that people think of them as one and the same thing. In other words, people go into district hospitals who are not ill, and because they happen to be scotching in the district hospitals they all think like sick people, and in truth and in fact they are not sick at all. The Minister of Welfare is now making it his business and planning for that sort of person who I must of necessity weed out of the district hospitals. A lot of these people can be rehabilitated, can be rid of the attitudes that they have grown accustomed to that they are sick when they are not sick at all and ought to be returned to our community and become useful citizens. I have sat down here today and I have heard it on both sides this misconception that a hospital is a place for every type and condition of person.

I have heard also suggested here today that the St. Philip District Hospital is going to continue to be a dumping ground. I have said it already and I repeat it again, the St. Philip District Hospital will shortly become a hospital for handicapped people. There are no less than 300 seriously handicapped people in our institutions today, not as the Advocate newspaper reported last week 30, 300, and a large number of them are going to be housed at St. Philip. The Deputy Prime Minister, talking about people who ought not be shifted from one parish to another, is talking not about sick people, because we do not have a hospital in every parish, and he knows that, and you know that he knows that. The Deputy Prime Minister is talking about these very people that I have referred to, the indigent and the aged. We do not have a hospital in every parish, we do not need a hospital in every parish. We do not want to encourage our people in Barbados to be drawing up in hospitals.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the member for St. Philip North asked a question about mini casualties and about decentralising.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If you are going to finish off now go ahead, but we are coming up to time.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: I can finish within the time, Sir. This question of mini casualties, the answer to that question is that this Minister and the Ministry have been very seriously considering the congestion at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the Casualty there, not on account of the emergencies which go there but on account of the non-emergencies, people who clog up the casualty with complaints which are not properly speaking emergencies.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. You ruled the member for St. Lucy out of order for talking about a Chef at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and you are allowing her to talk about the congestion at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, so where do we stand?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: But you ruled him out of order for talking about a Chef, but now she is talking about congestion at the same hospital.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the Hon. Leader of the Opposition take his seat?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: All right, I will take my seat.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, suffice it to say specifically to the member for St.

Philip North, the place in our opinion for emergency facilities around the country is not within the district hospitals, the place for these facilities will be within the network of polyclinics which is presently underway. Soon foundation will break at Litchfield; in due course we will have a polyclinic at Oistin, in due course we will expand the St. Philip Health Centre into a full blown polyclinic, and it is at those outlets that the emergency services for the outlying parishes will be carried on.

Mr. SANDIFORD: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, Will the Minister admit that all these are DLP projects that she is talking about?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: The Minister will not admit any such thing. The Minister will admit that the Barbados labour Party in 1961 left a network of health centres in this country and that in 1976 when this Minister took up office she found one extra health centre at Warrens. In 15 years one health centre. That is what this Minister will admit.

Let me take the opportunity to let this Hon. House know that before this year is out foundation will be broken for two polyclinics, one in Black Rock and one in Speightstown, before 1977 is finished, and everybody knows that the clinic at Warrens was an afterthought when the ex-Minister before this one made a botch of a job with the National Crematorium at the said Warrens.

A lot has been said about the Barbados Family Planning Association. I wish to answer in particular the issue of teenage pregnancies. The ex-Minister of Health, the member for St. Michael North Central, had much to say, and some of it was well said, about teenage pregnancies; but, Mr. Chairman, I am the only woman in this Hon. Chamber, sad as that is, and he takes the typical male chauvinist attitude. He speaks of teenage pregnancies; only the woman gets pregnant, so I will have to assume he is talking about teenage girls, who get pregnant.

2.00 p.m.

Education, very serious education for the teenaged boys who inpregnate these teenaged girls is all part of the programme of the Barbados Family Planning Association. I wish to take this opportunity in closing to make this announcement. Mention was made of the pill

not being on restriction in places like Trinidad, Antigua and so forth.

Mr. Chairman, Barbados is not Bangladash. Barbados is not Nepal or Fiji. We have an educated community, and I have no intention as a woman — I know better — I have no intention of putting the pill on the streets and in the shops so that any woman can go and buy it without first seeing a doctor. I would admit in here — I am the only woman on the floor of this House — that I was on the pill and had to be taken off of it; and therefore I am in a position to tell you from my own personal knowledge and experience that I am not going to encourage a situation in Barbados where a woman can prescribe the pill for herself. (*Asides*).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order. Be quiet please.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: I am not ashamed to admit these things which are things that have got to be said. It is not for men, especially those on those benches to talk and laugh about those things. (*Asides*).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: A lot of talk has been heard in here about abortions. Men cause abortion. Men pay for abortion. Men inpregnate women so that they are caused to go for abortions. I am not going to encourage a situation to give the men in here an opportunity to hide behind a conscience vote, and let them know that now.

In closing, I wish simply to outline the programme of the Family Planning Association this year. We are about to launch a great outreach programme where any woman in Barbados will be able to go to her doctor, and once he clears her and tells her that she is O.K. and that she can go on the pill — because not every woman can go on the pill — she can go to the Family Planning Association or a clinic across the face of this country and get a book of coupons. She can take these coupons to the supermarket or the corner shop and get her contraceptives. It means that she does not have to go to Bay Street or she does not have to go to a health clinic every time she needs a new month's supply. Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this Head do now stand part.

The question that Head 115 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair. Mr. CHAIRMAN reported and Mr. SPEAKER reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting now stands suspended until 2.45 p.m. today.
2 p.m.

RESUMPTION

On the resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Question Time. *(Pause)*. There being no replies to questions, it is now Private Members Business.

PRIVATE MEMBERS BUSINESS

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, on the Order Paper for today is a matter standing in the name of the hon. member for St. Michael North Central. I crave leave that this matter be proceeded with during the period allotted to Private Members Business.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Resolution standing in the name of the hon. member for St. Michael North Central is the instant order of the day.

RESOLUTION RE OPERATION OF SMALL BUSINESSES

Dr. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, at the outset I wish to make it quite clear that the purpose of asking for this inquiry is not to dig up any misgivings or undesirable activities, but primarily with a view of trying to identify the precise role which small businesses particularly small industries can play; and if that role does exist, and can be properly identified, what should the community as a whole do to ensure that small businesses in this country perform that role.

I believe, Sir, that this Resolution will find favour with a number of hon. members who at some time or the other operated small businesses. You, Sir, have been in the small business in the printing area, and you will know some of the difficulties encountered in that area when you

tried to develop your business upwards to make it more competitive. The hon. member for St. Joseph has also been operating a small business at some time and he will also know the problems that he encountered in trying to develop that business; and there will be others also who at some time have been operating small businesses either here or outside of Barbados.

Sir, there have been possibly more sentimental nonsense written about and talked about small businesses, and especially small industry as the key to development than about any other aspect of the subject. This is understandably so for the very idea of the poor, indigenous, enterprising industrialist starting a small business, making a success of it and leading this country to industrial development is warmly appealing to those who look upon economic development as progress of the people to a better life and preferably a more democratic one.

To be against such an approach would be seemingly to be against progress and democracy itself; but there is need to appraise what small businesses mean and the part they should have in the country's development efforts. The term "small business" is an omnibus title. Under its umbrella there are many businesses which would find a place; but I would begin by classifying small businesses in the first place as primitive small businesses and modern small businesses, the primitive small business being of a subsistence nature, serving an under developed and very poor local market such as tailoring, repairing of vehicles and repairing of shoes; and when we come to modern small business we think of manufacturing businesses and service businesses.
2.55 p.m.

What are the difficulties of the small business in Barbados? These would vary from country to country, and since we are dealing with Barbadian conditions, we have to be quite clear in our minds what we want to convey to people when we use the term small business. I am thinking of a business whose sales are less than \$250,000 per year, who employs 25 or less persons, whose equity is \$50,000 or less, and a business which is owner-operated. That is my conception of a small business. One of the types of small businesses in Barbados is that one will find that 40% of the small businesses in Barbados are in the service area, another 30% in the manufacturing area, and the remaining 30% comprise many others such as chicken farming, vegetable farming and other small businesses. On an average each one of these businesses employs about four persons. In addition to these small businesses one must also give consideration to the

retailers of which there are about 1,500 in this country. Closely allied to small businesses, one would have to think in terms of the locally owned industries, which have peculiarities that make them distinct and separate from industries which are owned by foreign enterprise.

When one looks at the problems of small businesses in Barbados, one will find that they are handicapped by a number of problems. I have made a list of some of the problems which face small businesses in this country:

1. There is a failure to maintain an adequate financial position.
2. Failure to plan.
3. Trying to do too much too soon.
4. False impression that products and services sell themselves.
5. Tendency to down-grade the need for skills in a business.
6. Overlooking the need for a good record or accounting system.
7. See every problem in financial terms. That is, they tend to feel that lack of adequate money or funds will be responsible for every problem that they encounter.
8. Discrimination on the basis of size.

They find that small businesses do not rate well with banks in this country. In the small business you will find that it is a man, who is usually familiar with his type of operation, who starts a small business. The man who is a tailor, the man who is a good cook will seek to start a small business, but what comes out of this operation is that his knowledge of business administration is poor. These individuals tend to believe that because they have some intrinsic knowledge of the operations of the particular business in which they indulge that that is all that is necessary, and proper business methods which will enable them to make a better performance in the business are overlooked, because they feel that they know things, they have come through the ranks and they do not need anybody to tell them anything. You will also find, Sir, that many of them are not in a position to follow trend or to collect trend information. They are unable to pinpoint what is a particular trend developing in the country surrounding a particular business or product that they are selling. Because of that inability they are very often not concerned that

this is important, and they are unable to appreciate when they should move into another area, whether they should expand, or whether they should quit or not. In addition to that they are unable to elicit and seek any environmental information which affects their operations. You will find that bare knowledge of how to cut a suit, or how to cook a particular meal will not be sufficient to make a business successful.

Now, what does a small business have to offer? This is the crux and this will be the determinate factor of why I want to have an inquiry into the small businesses in this country. A small business has a fair amount to offer. It is a good area for training managers who are needed in Barbados. The managerial skills that are necessary to ensure that we get proper and continuous development in Barbados are not there, especially among certain people due to a particular ethnic background.

When you look at the big businesses in Barbados you will find that certain people cannot progress beyond a certain level in those businesses. Very often these businesses are family oriented, or a particular ethnic group controls them, and they are only prepared to give opportunities beyond a certain level to people of that particular ethnic group, or people in that particular family, with the result that people of another ethnic group, who want to progress and who want to develop managerial skills, will not be given the exposure in those big businesses and, therefore, they have to fall back on a small business. By the proper development of small businesses such people would then be able to get an opportunity to expose themselves to this particular experience and to develop the managerial skills which are so necessary for a proper development in Barbados.

The small business, or business ownership, is a creative opportunity. If people in this country are to be encouraged to become creative, it is one of the areas in which we expect them to exhibit their creative ability. When you look seriously at the problems of unemployment in Barbados, which is something that still dogs us in spite of efforts over many years to reduce it, you will find that one of the reasons unemployment in Barbados continues to be what it is is due to the attitude, or the peculiar attitudes, of people who are more concerned in going to look for a job, or who are more concerned that somebody has a job to offer them, than in exercising their creative ability in this particular area and thinking in terms of setting themselves up in business, not only employing themselves, but maybe employing another three or four people. That is why an emphasis can be put on small businesses. It is in

this area that the less fortunate members of our society, if they are to be given an opportunity to share in the economic wealth of Barbados, and if we are thinking in terms of a good society, if we are thinking in terms of enhancing our reputation as a stable country, then we have to be concerned about the economic welfare of our citizens. We have to make sure that the wealth of Barbados, or the bulk of the wealth of Barbados no longer resides in the hands of a few families, but become as well distributed throughout the community as is humanly possible. Small business operations is one such operation which will go a far way in ensuring that the economic welfare of this country becomes meaningful.

In recent times there has been a talk about the adverse trade balance of this country, and here it is quite possible, after a proper survey has been conducted, that we could find out what small businesses could do to help us to reduce, or narrow, this trade balance. When you look at many of the things which are being used in Barbados and you take, for example, an object as simple as an electric switch, the amount of technology which is required to make such a switch is very small.

3.05 p.m.

Any boy that has gone to the Polytechnic and profited by his stay there should have good ideas about wanting to go into a small business operation where he can produce the type of switch which is so commonly used in Barbados nowadays and save us the necessity of having to import that type of thing into this country. I know that you can get a machine in big countries where you can produce 20,000 such switches in one day, but we would not need such a machine because we would only have to work one day in every three months to produce the amount of such switches that are needed, but we have to explore the possibility of getting a machine of the size that we require in Barbados to produce what is being used here or if we can find it possible to produce a lot more than we are using, then we would have to look outside of Barbados for markets to which we can export the surplus.

Unless we can get a survey done to really understand and appreciate what role there is for small businesses in the industrialisation and development processes of Barbados, it is difficult at this particular stage to talk of what can be done or what cannot be done or maybe to place the blame squarely on any particular one. I think the improvement of the small business is lost on the small businessmen themselves. I have been trying myself to get certain information from

some of them and I have to admit that up to this day I have been unable because I do not think any of them is really seized with the importance of this type of operation and what it can mean to Barbados.

When you come down to the question of retailers of which there are about 1,500 in Barbados, you have another interesting feature of Barbadian life, because many of these retailers are operating in the areas where they not only give a service in terms of delivering goods, but they also supply another social outlet in that people gather at these retailers, usually a rum shop, they have their social intercourse, they discuss politics, cricket and things of that nature, but one of the problems which these people have been confronting in recent times is that there will be development of the supermarkets and other big business going up in these areas. People have been moving away from these small retailers towards the supermarkets, and one of the reasons which is obvious or should be obvious to people who are interested in helping them is that structural modernisation of these retailers has not taken place. They have continued to operate their business in the time-honoured type of premises; they have continued to deliver their goods in a manner with which they are familiar and with which they can find no fault; they weigh their things out, they chop their meat or their chicken, but while they have been content to do that, at the same time not far removed from them one has been seeing a modernisation process taking place where things are pre-packaged, where goods are displayed on the shelves, and the consumer can go and pick up what he or she wants rather than having to stand and wait for someone to weigh it out and then package it. What has to be impressed very often on these people is that it is time for modernising their businesses. If they consider modernisation they may find that the cost of modernisation of their business is too much beyond them, and a survey may very well indicate in what way Government can assist these people in modernising their businesses.

It would be a pity to sit by and allow a feature of Barbadian life such as the traditional rum shop to pass away from the face of Barbados just because no one has shown any concern in trying to assist them. When we think in terms of promoting our culture, we have to think of culture in its entirety, because the traditional rum shop in Barbados is as much a part of the culture as some of the songs or some of the other things that we do and take a lot of pleasure in. For a long time there has been an outlet for people to expend certain energies when other people more

fortunate than themselves have been able to go to the hotels and other places and enjoy themselves. You would know very well of people sitting down or standing up in a rum shop and engaging in long conversations about politics, cricket and so many things. It is not just there for the idea of going and getting a drink, but more often for the opportunity of going and meeting your fellow villager or maybe someone from outside, and when you also recall that for a very long time in Barbados many of these unfortunate people did not have the opportunity to develop their homes in such a way that they could invite people at home and entertain them, they always had to have recourse to that type of shop to do their socialising. It is an interesting feature of Barbadian life, and when we come to think about culture in Barbados, we will have to pay due respect to this type of shop. I would repeat that it would be very sad to stand by and permit these things to disappear one by one due to the impact of modernisation which is taking place in certain areas. This must come. We are not trying to prevent modernisation taking place, but at the same time we want to involve these people in the modernisation process, and that is why I must stress that an enquiry of some sort, not necessarily using the umbrella of the Commission of Enquiry Act, but an enquiry of some sort would go a far way in indicating in what way help can be given to help preserve these people.

There is also another area which is of great interest at this time, but during this debate I do not intend to touch heavily on that because one will have maybe to discuss that in full detail on another occasion, and that is handicraft. This is another area which needs to be developed even further, because when you look around the world today, and if you have had the opportunity to travel and see some of the things which obtain in the shops at some of the airports, you become convinced that the developing countries such as Barbados have not yet started to make adequate use of the handicraft of their countries. There are two important aspects of handicrafts which have to be stressed, that is the quality and the artistic value. Quality control and quality improvement may result in volume production which could be marketed. As a person who has had the opportunity of living in India where a lot has been done and is still being done for handicraft, I am fully aware of the impact which handicraft can make in Barbados towards earning foreign exchange, but more importantly towards helping the unemployment situation in this country.

Sir, the prerequisites for real development in small industry is given as follows:

(1) the existence of industrial entrepreneurs with ambition and leadership qualities, strong motivation to modernise and grow and sufficient education and technical skills to make use of technical assistance;

(2) the existence of a market which can support prices adequate to cover the cost of factory type industry and to allow a sufficient margin for profit and wages attractive enough to interest investors, entrepreneurs and workers of some enterprise and capability;

(3) the existence of a market which is sufficiently protected at least initially from extremely low cost imported goods which otherwise come in at prices which perhaps do not cover the total cost of production including overheads.

Now, Sir, do these exist in Barbados. I am not in a position to say they exist, and I would like to know, and I believe a survey or enquiry like the one I am asking for can go a far way in determining whether or not these exist, because if they do exist, then those businesses which qualify under these three criteria, are ones fit for further development and can be adequately developed and will be a good asset to the industrial development of this country.

3.15 p.m.

Industrialisation is a very interesting topic. All over the world countries are seeking industrialisation, Barbados is not the only one, and I would be foolish to go on believing that we have the best climate when other countries, even if they do not have as good a climate as ours, are taking steps to ensure that their climate is no less good than ours. You find that the competition for the people from the developed countries is very keen, and Barbados is finding it more and more difficult to attract people into the country to invest, not because people are not interested in Barbados, but very often because the other countries are prepared maybe even to give a little more than you should give at the particular moment.

A lot can be said about industrialisation by the transfer of industrial technology from the big countries into the small countries. Usually if you follow recommendations of the experts from overseas, they always recommend that it is easier to call in the fellows from overseas who have the know-how and the money and get them to invest in your country other than trying to develop a small business or industry. In fact, a lot has been written again about that type of endeavour.

People have tended to think that money and effort used in the development of a small business can very often be wasted and could be better used in trying to attract people from developed countries. But one also has to bear in mind that when a business from overseas comes into this country and starts operating, and then due to certain pressures either created by the way they behave or due to political changes occurring in the particular country, they close down, pack up and leave behind unemployed people, and very often in trying to retrain those people who have lost their jobs you again have to spend a lot of money to retrain them and you may not even be successful in finding jobs for them after you have retrained them. It is on this score that it can be argued that it is feasible to develop your own industries, because they remain here, the people who run these industries are here with you and the chances of their pulling up stumps and going somewhere are very remote.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has two minutes during which to wind up.

Dr. CADDLE: Sir, a lot could be said, but in view of the fact that you have warned me that I have two minutes more I would like to move that this Resolution do pass, and I strongly believe that if it is seen in the light in which I have portrayed it people will find it very easy to support it and look forward to something good coming out of such an enquiry whereby we would then be in a position to do something about this nagging problem of unemployment in Barbados.

Your Honour, I would like to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second it and reserve my right to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is....

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, ...

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, Sir. When you reserve your right to speak again and sit down you can only speak after somebody else has spoken.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, it is not unreasonable under the circumstances.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please take your seat a moment. I am afraid the hon. member for St. Michael South West has forfeited his opportunity to speak, for the simple reason that when you

indicated that you were reserving your right to speak it was to be taken to mean that you would follow on and speak after others had made their contribution. In the present instance no other hon. member has made any contribution, hence you automatically forfeit the right which you thought you had reserved to speak on an occasion such as this.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I am obviously not questioning the ruling because it is absolutely correct. It is merely that I did not imagine that no member on the other side would wish to speak on a Resolution as important as this to do with the small businessman in this country.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right, we cannot entertain that at the moment. You are now making a speech.

Mr. TAITT: I am making a point to you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: You are making a speech which the Chair cannot entertain. Will the hon. member please take his seat.

Mr. TAITT: Certainly, Mr. Speaker. If you do not wish me to speak I do not have to speak.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the negative, the House dividing as follows:

NOES: Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, Hon'bles. H. B. ST. JOHN, L. S. CRAIG, H. deB. FORDE, L. B. BRATHWAITE, L. R. TULL, B. A. MILLER, Messrs. CHELTENHAM, SISNETT, JOHNSON, SIMMONS, BRADSHAW and ODLE — 13.

AYES: Dr. CADDLE, Messrs. WEEKES, SANDIFORD, GREAVES and TAITT — 5.
3.25 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: This brings us to the end of Private Members Business for today.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, when the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply to which I ask that it now returns.

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended earlier today the House was in Committee of Supply, and to that it now reverts.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair, and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1976-77,
No. 35

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, Head 13(2), Item 7 of this Resolution is for a supplementary sum for supplies of materials to Primary and Special Schools. During the past year there has been an extension of Agricultural Teaching in Primary Schools in Barbados; and it is consistent with the policy of the Education Ministry to promote education to meet the needs of the society. The sum that we are seeking is to provide materials for the carrying out of the Agricultural Teaching programme.

I beg to move that this Head do now stand part.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I notice that this Resolution was introduced by the Minister of Education. There is no argument on this. The former Government was committed to the teaching of agriculture in schools. If you check the files you will see that I instituted the grant of a sum of money for various schools for ploughing etc. and for one reason or another it was not met with the enthusiasm necessary for it.

In addition to that I also endeavoured to find out from the Primary Schools what land was available to them within the environs of the schools themselves so that we could either lease or acquire compulsorily to continue with the project. When I was growing up I remember that the kitchen garden section of the Primary School at the Annual Exhibition often brought great commendation from the visitors. As a matter of fact anybody looking at my forehead will see the mark which I bear permanently as a result of my commitment to gardening at primary school.

I think that all of the back to the land campaign will have to start with the primary schools. Unfortunately what has happened is that a lot of these schools, especially in the City, without any possibility of getting young people to learn about agriculture because the schools have not got near to them agricultural land which can be attached, either begged for, borrowed or stolen.

I think that the survey — the Minister can correct me — I think that the survey of the 118 primary schools will show that between 38 and 45 of them only had land which could be used for gardening. I think that it is a pity that

development in this particular area has not taken place so that the schools could have attached to them an area of land, however small, in which you could stimulate interest in agriculture in young people.

This extends not only to schools themselves, but to individuals in the community. When I pass through the Pine and other areas and see the grass and bush it surely shows that even though these houses are inhabited, there is not the love — I hope that the Parliamentary Secretary will not take umbrage on this because I used to pass through that area on my way to the Pine — and it used to hurt me to see that even in that area there was no interest in growing flowers or in agriculture which used to be part and parcel of our life 25 years ago.

So we will support the Minister and we hope that he will look around and find wherever possible an area of land within easy reach of the school, an area however small, in which he can get young people to dirty their hands and feel the soil between their fingers in order to stimulate in the young people of our country a love of agriculture. Whatever you talk about tourism, Mr. Chairman, whatever you talk about industrialisation, for years and years to come Barbados and the region must remain an agricultural community; and anything that the Minister does for the furtherance of the stimulation and appreciation of young people at the earliest possible age, in producing growing things, then of course he can rest assured that he has the support of the Opposition.

So we welcome this attempt to continue this programme, and we hope that he will put some dynamite into the Ministry of Education because he will find, as I found when I was Minister, that however motivated the Minister was, and however keen the Minister was, there were things left undone; because a lot of the subjects for which I had responsibility have now been syphoned off in other ways. He has got to make sure that when he seeks to carry out this endeavour of improving agriculture in primary schools, he has the wholehearted support of the Opposition. I hope that he will succeed in this endeavour.

The question that Head 13(2), Item 7 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 13(2) Schools (11) Secondary was called.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, this supplementary is for funds to finance leave

passages. You will notice, Mr. Chairman, that this whole head is for leave passages for teachers in secondary schools. Happily it is a declining feature, and this measure is to provide one leave passage for a teacher in a secondary school. I am asking that this Head of the Resolution do now stand part.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I do not know if the Minister is dealing with the Head as such or with the items. I am not quarrelling with the Minister. I am only saying that he should deal with the Head as a whole.

3.35 p.m.

Be that as it may, Mr. Speaker, I am glad to hear him say that this leave passage is a matter of the Colonial past, and we shall look forward to see what the new Government will do in dealing with it. I think in the last House, he will agree that the Trade Union members were very adamant and very strong in the abolition of leave passages and felt that salaries and conditions of work should be given, and that an independent country no longer had the need for leave passages.

Now, on the maintenance of property and maintenance of buildings and land, I think the Minister will support me in this, even although he did not deal with it in his introduction. He must be flabbergasted at the vandalism that takes place in this country in school buildings on school property. I think there is no day, if he looks at the correspondence coming in to the Ministry, when some report from one of our schools throughout the Island does not contain the wanton destruction of Government property in communities in which you would expect to find some degree of civilisation.

The Minister has just opened the new block at Queen's College, and he can tell this House that already they have broken into it; they have daubed the new furniture; they have done damage to the new block at Queen's College in a matter of a few months in this community. When a community has reached the stage where Government property is destroyed by the very people whose money built it, then it is a serious time for thinking of what is happening or what mentality those people possess that they can destroy Government property, daub filth, and actually desecrate the sinks in schools. They are animals; they are inhuman who can go into a school and sit down on a sink, where children wash their faces, and ease their bowels. This has happened, and he can support it. If he goes in he can find it. I am sure he will support me that every day at St. Leonards or some other school

they have pulled out the louvres; they have broken into the buildings to carry away the biscuits, they destroy the machines for Home Economics and other teaching. Now, this community must start getting mature; this community must understand that these things cost money, and that the money spent in replacing and repairing these things means that something will have to go undone.

I am calling on this community, the young and the old, to understand that the schools are the children's schools, and that their children are being taught there and the Island expects a higher standard of behaviour from those whose want it is to destroy Government property unwantonly. It has been happening for 15 years, but it has just been intensified. (*Asides.*) No Government will cause that. No responsible Government would tell the people to destroy furniture. Whether we were in for 15 or 11 years, we are condemning a sign or a symptom in our society which now takes it for granted that people should destroy Government property. Do not accuse us of being in power. We have been in power for 15 years. One thing you cannot accuse us of is telling the people to pull out the louvres, or to destroy the schools which we have built for the education of their children. That is not a good aside. The aside should be on something else — an act of omission or commission. I do not think any Minister, or any Government in its right mind, whether it was in for 100 years or 10 years, could condone the destruction or wanton destruction of Government property in 1977.

I would ask the Minister, in the speeches which he shall make from time to time and on visits, as I tried to do, to keep begging the community to safeguard these institutions and these buildings which are the community's schools and not the Minister, or the DLP Government, or the BLP Government. These are the community schools in which their own children will be taught. I think when he pays some visits to the schools, he will be amazed to see louvres torn out not from cricket balls or cricket bats, but they could only have been done by a deliberate, malicious, wanton act by people who do not have a good sense of civic responsibility. That is the price we have paid, and I think all of us as responsible citizens will have to talk bluntly and brutally on these issues, not only on schools, but on other matters.

Now I think the Minister of Labour, who has responsibility for Welfare, will find that at Community Centres in whatever areas there is a tendency in this country in these days to want to destroy wantonly, and without thought, property belonging to the community.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, I want to speak on this Head for a couple of reasons. The Head calls for funds to meet the replacement of furniture. I do not know if the Hon. Minister of Education has made provisions for furniture for the Parkinson School. Some time last year two huts were delivered at Parkinson School and up to this morning information reaching me stated that there was no furniture for these two huts. In view of the situation where we have lots of children in school and the capacity of that school, which is about 1300, I would be very glad if the Minister could take note, if he has not made provisions, and see at a very early stage whether he could have the furniture for these two huts which have been put up at the Parkinson School.

Now, on this question of replacement, I would like to throw out a suggestion that now there is the 14-year olds involvement of the trade aspect of education, that is, carpentry is now added to the syllabus, I would be very happy to learn when the Minister could ask the Heads of schools to have a programme whereby the children who are learning carpentry and joinery would be able to repair furniture that has been damaged or destroyed. This would help to reduce the cost of replacement because at schools, in particular, the schoolboys would be able to repair the furniture and, in future, we would not have to return to this Honourable House to ask for as a big a supplementary as we have been asking for today or in the past.

I would like to say that some weeks ago the hon. member for St. Michael South spoke about the Braddie's Cultural Group. What I would like to tell him today is that I am glad to report to this Honourable House that the Braddie's Cultural Group has helped to take care of the Parkinson School. The Acting Headmaster can vouch for this and say that three groups which I have supported have been very active in helping him preserve the school building and the furniture. I would like him to understand that. These social groups should not be brought to the House of Assembly and made a laughing stock of. If people are more community-minded, then the vandalism which now prevails will be eliminated. That is my little contribution on this Head.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, unlike the Leader of the Opposition, I would not seek to categorise any of those who may indulge in vandalism as animals. His reference to animals just a year ago in St. Philip contributed, I believe, to the loss of that seat.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of elucidation. I am not apologising; I say that anybody who goes into a school and desecrates in the sink is an animal. I say that, and I am not apologising for it.

3.45 p.m.

Mr. SIMMONS: No, Sir; I do not really believe that the Leader of the Opposition is afraid to say it; he has re-emphasized it, especially in the light that he is not seeking re-election at the end of this five years. Vandalism has got to be seen as an international phenomenon, Mr. Chairman, in which perhaps social deviants find a manner of expression. It is not to be welcomed nor am I encouraging it, but I well remember and I think hon. members of this House are well aware that in London the London Transport Executive and the British Railways which are nationalised industries suffered especially in the football season from vandalism. Football crowds rode on the coaches and destroyed the seats and the upholstery in the trains. That is England and Scotland; I know about that. It means that the energies of the young people have got to be channelled in more productive enterprises. Their leisure periods have got to be organised and therefore it is absolutely essential that Government plans carefully the better use of leisure time. It is all well and good to come and denounce them as acts of short term vandalism, but in the long term we have to plan to arrest the present trend that we find in Barbados.

Perhaps one of the problems is that several of the schools in Barbados do not have watchmen attached to them. It seems to me that the Ministry of Education and the Establishments Division could well find a means of providing work for people who would be willing to watch at some of these schools. There are about five I have in St. Philip North which have no watchman and which are an open sesame to people who are bent on breaking and entering or doing acts of vandalism. I believe that if a survey was done throughout the Island as to the number of schools without watchmen, then to fill those vacancies would be providing work for a number of people, and in the long term if we cut out or minimise the extent of vandalism, we would be saving money, and I would counsel the Minister to address his attention to the need for greater security and for better security at the schools in this Island.

Item 9 deals with the cost of repairs to furniture, and I am pleased that the hon. member for St. Michael East corrected me to some extent

when he urged that perhaps we could give in the primary schools greater emphasis on trades training. This is a personal view I am going to express. I would like to see, and I throw it out to the Minister for his consideration, the primary schools and the secondary modern schools being developed as centres at which the youngsters can be taught trades; they can build benches and desks and whatever else is necessary for the schools. The surplus can then be sold on the local market. To that extent we would be teaching productive trades within the schools, and then we would have an outlet.

I think it is in Taiwan that I read that in some of the schools the pupils build windows and doors and then sell them on the open market. It cannot be done now in Barbados; we have to plan for it, but I would hope in the future policy the Minister would consider an idea like this and see whether it is workable within the scheme of things in his Ministry. These are the points I would like to make on this aspect of the Resolution.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am going to say a few words in respect of this Resolution particularly since the Leader of the Opposition replied to an aside which I made. I am going to stand by my aside that it is within the last fifteen years that we have seen, as he said, an escalation of vandalism in this country. It is my belief as Minister of Youth Affairs that it has come about within the last fifteen years because of cheap politicians. I will tell you why. Around election time the Sports Shop in Marhill Street above here can sell all the cricket bats, balls and so on. The youths have not been told in no uncertain terms that they must help themselves and respect the things which they work for, so as long as you have a Government which is prepared to give you from the cradle to the grave without working for it, people must come to the conclusion that this is the Government's property and therefore we can destroy it. When the Barbados Labour Party was in power set about a self-help scheme in this country for building houses which the last Government came along and found and you only had to walk about with a passport, not even the rent, showing that you belonged to the Democratic Labour Party, and you had a house, with the result that we have inherited a situation where millions of dollars are owing to the Government of Barbados because of the wicked, vicious approach which the former Government had. Therefore if you find people going into schools, breaking off microphones, jumping over rails and coming in here, they never did it, and I am far from colonial-minded, in H. G. B.

Austin's time. It started under the then Prime Minister of Barbados, the member for St. John who only pays an occasional visit; and I am going to raise his presence on the floor of this House. He is now two Prime Ministers in two countries. I want to find out what there is in the Barbados Constitution that entitled him to think that he can only pay us occasional visits while drawing the money of the taxpayers of Barbados. They believe that Barrow did it so and therefore they can go along with it. It was the former Prime Minister who when the Marshal of the House tried to keep order in the Gallery got up and removed from him the power vested in him for the purpose of carrying out order in the Gallery, and now you hear the hon. member for St. Michael North Central talking about behaviour in the Gallery. It is not only bad behaviour outside, it is in here, for which the hon. member for St. John is responsible because he immediately removed out of the hands of the Marshal of the House the powers vested in him. So if you start it in the House, it will end outside, so do not worry to flay the young people.

I might be a very unpopular Minister of Youth Affairs, but I will tell the young people that they cannot get one red cent from my Ministry to do anything at all for themselves or for their clubs unless they can meet me halfway. I am going to give them the material but they must make the benches; I am going to give them electric wire, but they must bring along their skilled workmen and electricians; I am going to give them the architect to design, but they must try and get carpenters and help to nail some boards and stop walking about when the night comes with guitars and going into St. Michael's. (*Asides*) I do not know about Queen's College; I do not know up in there very well. You would know about that because it would attract you. I know about St. Leonard's School which is the worst school in this country. And the Reverend Springer! If I ever see him on the road, I would tear him apart. I only hope the Prime Minister gives me a piece if he has a meeting because I heard he is going to have a meeting on Sunday night. I do not know because I was not here. I hope I get piece because my theme will be "Springer and Craig". (*Asides*) I am dealing with vandalism in the schools and it is down at St. Leonard's that you have it. You are talking about Queen's College, but I am talking about St. Leonard's. I do not know about Queen's College. My daughter went there and I do not know the road in there; but I am dealing with St. Leonard's where I played cricket and football. That is where you get the bad behaviour, not only at Queen's College, and you have a man like Reverend Springer talking about wanting to be on

a Board. When he cannot have a proper school going, what Board does he want to be on; the Mental Hospital Board? That is the only one he should be on.

3.55 p.m.

He and Barrow are in the same company, madmen. Barrow and Springer; they are the two madmen, so do not worry to castigate the young people calling them animals, the animal is Barrow, not Nigel Barrow. That is the animal you had to deal with for the past fifteen years. I do not mean the Hon. Errol Walton Barrow, I mean **Errol Barrow**, El Toro Junior. That is the sort of behaviour you have got in here, and this is the type of thing you want to castigate the young people for. How are you going to castigate them overnight? I have the problem now and in my way I am going to approach it. You do part of the work and I will help you. In Carrington's Village between the member for St. Michael North Central and the member for St. Michael South Central put down two hard courts that cost the taxpayers of Barbados \$46,000. If they go and with a peck dig up the courts that you put down, would you call that vandalism? That would not be vandalism, it was vandalism on the part of the members who wanted the votes at the time. You are too cheap, that is your problem. For the past 15 years you were a bunch of cheap politicians.

I read in the newspaper about this person getting laid off, this Boo Spencer; why does the former Minister of Education not say he is one at the Community College? I want to see that in the Advocate, and Earl Glasgow working with Cameron Tudor. If I had my way you could not work, get that straight. All that is the viciousness of the former DLP administration and you can now see it in the 18 and 19 year olds, because they were age 4 when you came to power and they were indoctrinated by you all, the vicious, wicked approach to the society.

At the stadium all the lights have been broken down, the young girls cannot walk the road in peace. In my day I used to like girls too, I still like them, I had a respect for them then and I have a respect for them now, but you do not get that today, you find the schools are afraid to have athletics at the stadium because the young boys outside have no respect for anybody at all, and the young girls in a similar vein too, so do not worry to condemn them now, you have to condemn yourself first and we are going to retrieve them. That is why the Prime Minister said it is the ugly past that forced itself upon us, we did not go looking for it.

They talk a lot of nonsense about getting on with the people's business. This is part of the people's business, correcting some of the things that you have done and now we have to start working on them. You will call us miracle men at the end of the Session; take it from me.

The question that Head 13(2) stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 13(3) – ERDISTON COLLEGE

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, this is a provision for repairs to the van at Erdiston College. Over the past year there has been a lot of money spend on the van because of constant breakdowns, and it is part of the rationalisation of the Ministry to bring under review all the transportation there is in the Ministry – from the Ministry's point of view Erdiston College, School Meals Programme and so on – because we have been finding that the van which was ordered in the past is totally unsuitable for the needs required day by day. We are therefore asking for this money to repair the van at Erdiston College and bring the whole system in relation to our transportation into one of unity.

I am asking that Head 13(3) stand part of the Resolution.

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

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

HEAD 13(6) – HOUSECRAFT CENTRE

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, this is another supplementary request for a number of Items. It relates in the first place to Personal Emoluments at the Housecraft Centre arising out of the revision of salaries last year, and it also relates to the question again of maintenance of furniture, and I will say at this point that under the earlier Head the question was raised over the use of the children themselves to repair furniture, and I would like to assure the hon. member for St. Michael South East and the hon. member for St. Philip North that already existing in the system we have schools with technical wings, and we have the Polytechnic, and we are already using the technical wing of the Polytechnic to do a lot of repairs to furniture in the school programme.

It is also important to point out at this stage that a lot of the damage that was done to property and in the schools is not due, as my friend from St. Philip North has said, because of the fact that there is no watchman, because there is a watchman assigned to each elementary school. In fact, all the schools, but the fact is that it is part of a malaise in the society where people are indifferent about what they are paid to do, and we know that quite often we have reports of damage to buildings and when the police are called the police cannot find the watchmen.

Mr. WEEKES: On a point of order, Sir. Mr. Chairman, I would just like some clarification on a point. The Hon. Minister has stated that there are watchmen at all primary schools. I would like him to investigate this matter fully before making such a statement. It is my information that the statement is not authentic.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please be seated. That is not a point of order.

Mr. WEEKES: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. L. R. TULL: As I was saying, Mr. Chairman, the vandalism and the damage to schools is part of the continuing malaise in this country and the attitude of people, not as the Hon. Leader of the Opposition said animals, people do not show any respect for other people's property. As the hon. member for St. James said, this is part of what the Democratic Labour Party Government has sort of inculcated in the society by their very attitudes, but we are concerned about the problem of this vandalism.

I take the point of the Leader of the Opposition about the incident at Queen's College, and I think it is one we should very seriously take a look at, because it was a new building just opened, and the type of damage that was done to it, the people who did it should really be ashamed of themselves, but I am not going to be drawn up with the Leader of the Opposition and call the people animals. There is a lot of frustration in the society because there has been no co-ordination between education and jobs, therefore the old Government was turning out a number of people out of school who were not equipped to do anything in the society, and it is part of our programme.

When I came before Parliament on a Resolution for reabsorption of the 14 years old into our school system I set out on the floor of this Chamber the new curriculum that was devised for these children that would adapt them

for the needs of the society, and if there is a great deal of frustration in the society and the young people are expressing themselves in the form of vandalism, the Opposition has nothing to do other than blame themselves for the type of training, preparation and orientation that they have been giving them over the past few years.

I am now asking, Mr. Chairman, that this Item stand part of the general Resolution.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, once again I have to speak on this Head, because a couple of week ago I attended a function at one of the secondary schools, the Parkinson School, and what I noticed there was that the Speech Day was held in the large hall and after the Speech Day there was an exhibition in a smaller hall in a smaller part of the building.

4.05 p.m.

It was brought to my attention that there was no light in the large hall, and therefore the people had to assemble in that little portion. Now what has happened is that last year there was some lightning which actually caught afire the building; and nothing was done, and up to this day nothing has been done to rewire the building and the Chief Electrical Engineer has refused to allow juice to pass through that school.

Therefore you will find that the Parkinson School, a big school with 1,300 odd children, is without proper wiring. That is a very serious thing at this stage because at any time defective or faulty wiring can cause a fire. You only have to have another lightning contact and the school goes up with some 1,300 children.

I do hope that the Minister, my colleague — I do not know if he has this in the Supplementary Estimates — I do hope that he realises the seriousness of the situation at the Parkinson School, and that something will be done in the near future to see that that school is completely rewired as put forward by the Chief Electrical Engineer and that at least on two occasion the Electrical Department had to run current from a main pole outside the school; and that there is an organisation now seeking permission to use the place. I am calling upon the Minister to issue instructions through his ministry to prevent the usage of this school because if you continue to use the school without proper wiring it seems to me that the school will go up in flames. Then the Minister will have to come here and seek to replace the school after a tragic situation.

I hope that the Minister bears in mind what I have said, because we cannot afford at this stage when we are looking for school places to have a school with a capacity of 1,300 places going up in flames. I hope that urgent steps will be taken to have the situation rectified so that children can go in safety to that school.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I take it that the Parkinson School serves as a centre for the Housecraft Centre.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, having listened to the hon. member, I wonder why he did not speak to the Minister rather than using up the time of Parliament. Here we have a Parliamentary Secretary coming here and asking the Minister about something of which he should have been aware when he was campaigning.

Mr. BRADSHAW: On a point of order. When lightning struck the Parkinson School I was not campaigning. If you do not know why don't you ask? It happened after the election.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The elections were in September. Today is the 1st of March, and furthermore he was acting Minister in this very House only a few weeks ago. So one would understand that if he was interested and considered this a priority and if he was not sitting down keeping the chair warm for his colleague, he would have initiated some kind of step when the Minister was away to get this school rewired. (*Aside*). He could have started it, and you would not have to call on the Minister today. Were you warming the chair then?

Do not come in here now and ask your colleague to do this and do that, when you have had several opportunities both as a Minister acting and as a Parliamentary Secretary. Do not come here and ask the Minister to do something as if he and you are not on speaking terms, so that you cannot talk with him and ask him to do something.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, just a few words. I think that we have got to keep the voice of reason into these discussions because there is no point talking about a matter concerning the Housecraft Centre or schools and trying to attribute a political reason or motivation to acts of vandalism. What happens is that there is destruction of public property or property that does not belong to the individual,

whether it may be schools, government buildings and sometimes even churches.

Sometimes I am sympathetic to those politicians who try to believe that politics is the be all and end all of life in the society, and that politics can solve all the problems of the society. What we have to do is to get behind these facile and easy explanations to certain situations and find out what is happening in the society; and think that if we do that we will find out that we cannot so easily ascribe political motivations or political sources for certain things that occur in the society.

Now vandalism, the destruction of public property, whether schools public buildings or whatever you like, is not a phenomenon of life in Barbados alone. Destruction of public property such as the ones that I have indentified occur in other societies, occur in other countries of the Caribbean, in North America, Canada in Britain and in European countries whether of the western or eastern variety and you get it in Asiatic countries.

So, there is something else that we have to look for. I believe that we must not go and look for the easy explanations to score cheap political points on matters like this because I am aware that in this society there used to be destruction of public property before the Democratic Labour Party came into power, before the Barbados labour Party came into power; and it exists not only in this society, but in other societies; and we must get to understand that the explanation for this must go beyond because there are other explanations, sociological factors operating not only what happens as far as a political party is concerned, but what is happening in the society at large.

If Barbados was the only country that had this type of phenomenon, then may be this type of political explanation could be given; but I think that it is too easy an explanation and what we have to do is to try to get to the roots of the problem: because it is a wide sociological problem and we have got to get at that and initiate a programme. It has to do with parents. It has to do with the work situation, it has to do with the curriculum, it has to do with religion, the place of religion. It has to do in fact with what constitutes those factors that make certain people behave as they do, to make certain people behave in a way that is not considered lawful. The political explanation is certainly not the key, certainly not the only key to this particular problem.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Democratic Labour Party, as constituting the Opposition, finds itself in a very serious position when they try to talk about vandalism in Barbados. The hon. member who has just sat down said that vandalism in Barbados cannot be isolated, but one must look at all the other countries of the world where it exists, and that it is some sociological problem spread over the entire world and that you must solve that sociological problem and not pinpoint it to Barbados; but I remember well when the Democratic Labour Party placed him in the position of Chairman of the Party for a year.

4.15 p.m.

Therefore he has contaminated the thoughts of the former Prime Minister, the member for St. John. I saw in the *Advocate* last week that he is supposed to be the best speaker on that side, but if we begin to look at vandalism in this country, Mr. Chairman, I want him to remember that his Leader, the former Prime Minister, the hon. member for St. John, got in King's Park and said he would like to see the day when he can drive about Barbados and do not see a cane blade. From that time until now we had cane fires in Barbados burning down everything including St. Philip Church. Ask him where that came from? Go back and look in your political history, and ask the former Prime Minister if he was not the instigator of vandalism in Barbados.

As far as I am concerned, the development of any country can be geared to the leadership it has and what examples the leadership puts forward. If you have bad leaders you will have bad followers, and if you have good leaders you will have good followers. Do not worry to let us talk about Europe, Africa, or anywhere else. When we talk about the destruction of people's property, let us ask where did it come from? How did it originate in Barbados? That is what we have to look at. Do not talk about going outside of Barbados. Let us look and see what your political party did in the last 15 years to tell the people how to respect other people's property. I do not mind the Leader of the Opposition grinning. (*Asides.*)

I remember last year, when he was the Minister of Education, I raised the issue of the use of school buildings. I said that they were closed down and that there was vandalism because the people could not get inside them. Ask him what he said about it? (*Asides.*) Try and get the *Hansard* and you will remember. He will always seek to excuse himself. Last year he was the Minister and he said that he closed the schools because of vandalism.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I did not say anything. That is an untruth. I never said so. Why do you not tell the truth?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: You never said a lot of things.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No cross-talking!

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: You have already said this is your last term. You can do anything; you are like a dying horse; you can kick anybody left, right and centre and wild, too, so you would always get up and say so. The records will prove that you were part and parcel of the vandalism in this country.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I am not dealing with vandalism. I am dealing with only a statement which the Minister made. I am sure that the Minister was given that information, but I want to draw to his attention and to request him to investigate the matter because I can vouch that all of the schools in the Island do not employ watchmen.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have made your point. Please be seated.

Mr. WEEKES: I said that, but the Chairman told me it was not a point of order. Consequently, I want to clear the air and to draw it to the attention of the Minister and to implore him to investigate the matter to see if the statement which I have made is authentic.

The question that Head 13(6) stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 13(8) – SCHOOL MEALS DEPARTMENT

Head 13(8) Schools Meals Department – was called.

Item 6 – Maintenance of Property – \$10,000

Item 9 – Maintenance of Vehicle and Plant – \$22,000.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, we have been experiencing a great amount of difficulty in the School Meals Department for a number of reasons, not least the condition of the vans for transportation of school meals from the Centres to the schools. There are other issues. Another

one of major importance is the fact that the school meals system has been politicised to such an extent that difficulties that one would not normally have expected in a system as integrated as this one exist. For instance, we have under the old Government people who were put on the School Meals Programme for purely political reasons, and the Leader of the Opposition has admitted it on the floor of this Chamber on several occasions.

We have people living at one end of the Island and having to travel to the other end of the Island to get to work. The result is that there is a great deal of absenteeism and a very high proportion of late attendance in the Service. As a result the system is undergoing a number of difficulties which I hope, in due course, will be ironed out. In respect of the vehicles, there are 23 vehicles that are in working condition in the School Meals Programme and each one is required daily for delivery of food to the schools. It means that when one vehicle breaks down it is a dislocation of the whole system. We are seeking in this supplementary to get funds to put these vehicles in better conditions. It will involve cannibalising some of the old vehicles that have not been in use for some time, but we are hoping that for the future we will be able to design, and I believe the people in the Opposition will be glad to hear this, something new. We are looking into the possibility of having the bodies made to chassis in Barbados, because we find that the old Bedford Vans already in the system have a very short life span — I refer to the bodies. The excessive heat in the vans is responsible in a large measure for early rusting, and they are not suitable for the transportation of a large amount of food from Centre to school. We have taken a close look in the Ministry at getting a type of body built in Barbados that is suitable for the needs of this programme.

Now, some months ago, I believe it was last October, I went to Rome and had some talks with the Directors of the World Food Programme with a view to securing additional assistance for the School Meals Programme. At the end of the School Year 1977-78 the Programme comes to an end, and we are benefiting at the moment from something to the extent of \$2 million a year (US) assistance from the World Food Programme to the School Meals Programme in Barbados.

4.25 p.m.

We are benefiting at the moment to the extent of something like \$US2 million a year in assistance from the World Food Programme to

the school meals programme. As a result of the talks we had in Rome last October or November, there is an evaluation mission coming to Barbados some time in June this year to take a look at our system and see whether in the circumstances they would wish to make a further input into their assistance to the programme in Barbados.

Perhaps at this stage I should also mention that I have had talks with the High Commissioner from New Zealand in this area and they themselves are thinking in terms of increasing the assistance they have been giving to Barbados in meat, corned beef, corned mutton, biscuits and so on. As I said this Resolution is further designed to provide the necessary funds for the maintenance of the vehicles so that we might at least for the moment improve to some limited extent the operation of the school meals service.

I beg to move that Head 13(8) — School Meals Department — stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that and reserve the right to speak.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, when I hear the Minister speak about having talks in Rome and talking with the New Zealand Commissioner, all that was done. You went in in October. Do you think you could have talks to get school meals for September, October and November? That was done before you went in; you found that going, so do not come fooling people that you had talks in Rome. You could only have gone to Rome to beg them to extend beyond the time that they say it is coming to an end, and you could only be asking for more like *Oliver Twist*. But do not give anybody the impression that this suddenly started with you. That was going on long before you went in there. What I am saying is that the Democratic Labour Party is not apologising for making the school meals system political, because when we said we were going to make it possible, we were hearing that you would mash up the pots and pans. It is our scheme and if we make it political, we have a right to do it; so do not feel we will come in here apologising for making it political. When we talked about free secondary education, the Opposition said it was not possible. When we said we were going to give every child a hot meal, they said it was not possible and that they would take the pots and pans and bore holes in them and sell them to Victor Chase for old iron. So do not come with this foolishness. Many of you over there and over here hire a maid to cook for you; do you think serving food calls for magic? Do you mean you must have a B.Sc. in diatetics to

serve food in school meals? You only have to be clean and willing to learn, but do not tell me that because the Democratic Labour Party appointed Barbadians to the school meals service that there is any magic in serving food to school children. The same women who were appointed by us served food to their families every day; they know how to cook it. I agree that you need in the school meals system a code of discipline, and when I was the Minister I asked the Permanent Secretary as well as the school meals' officer to draw up a code of discipline by which they could be disciplined; that is, if they were late, or rude, insubordinate or refused to obey orders, they should be disciplined like any other person, but the mere fact that they were appointed by a Government that created the system does not mean that there is anything wrong with that. We started it and make no apologies for it. You are getting on as if a Government which started something that was said not to be possible should come in and say we are sorry. Sorry for what? Sorry for appointing Barbadians to the school meals system?

Mr. Chairman, appointing attendants for service is no magic. You only have to be clean, pass a certificate and know how to hand out food properly. You are talking as if serving in the school meals call for some B.Sc. from Oxford or Cambridge. It does not call for that. Do the maids and servants that we hire in our homes have any housecraft certificates? Do you pay them for housecraft? We pick up some domestic who is prepared to learn and in due course teach her whether to pick up the plate from the right or the left. All you have got to do is to make the system more efficient, or if you are not happy with them, fire all of them. This would be in keeping with the pattern since you all got into power. If I appoint them and you do not like them, send them home. The B.M.C. is doing it, Transport Board is doing it, M.C.W. is doing it; let the school meals follow. You do not have to hide to do it because you are firing right, left and centre. Either my colleague or I appointed them and you can continue in the firing process. If that is your way of creating employment opportunities by firing one set and appointing another set, keep it up; but do not come in here pretending that you suddenly went to Rome as if Rome suddenly appeared on the horizon. You went to a meeting and naturally if you want to use the taxpayers' money properly, you have to talk with the directors and the people concerned with the West Indian aspect of the world food programme.

I talked to the New Zealand Commissioner too. I did not get the food here. So do not come now giving the public who are unsuspecting the idea that your sudden trip to Rome brought food from New Zealand. The food was on its way before you went in as Minister. What you have got to do is to argue with them and try to get them to extend it beyond the period when it comes to an end, possibly to increase it, and what you should try to do if it is possible is to extend it to secondary schools in this Island, because when a boy leaves at 11+ from the primary schools where he gets a hot meal and goes to Harrison College, Combermere School or Lodge, he still needs a hot meal. That is what you must work on.

I came in here one day and I hinted at it and the Hon. Minister of Agriculture was ready to cut off my throat. I suggested that in a certain area it might be possible to consider whether schools fees should not be paid by certain people who can afford it in order that you can give a hot meal to the poorer boys in the same schools, because you have at these schools.....

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order, as usual the Leader of the Opposition is speaking untruths. You said in no uncertain terms that you have to consider making certain people at the secondary schools pay for their education, and I asked you to openly declare that you no longer believed in free secondary education and you refused to answer.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: He nearly ate off my head for saying that I would like to see the poorer children in secondary schools getting a hot meal.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order, now that you are in Opposition, would you state clearly that you believe people should pay for secondary education, or bring a private member's Resolution. Say it now that the public can understand.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: What I am saying is that the idea of extending the hot meals to secondary schools is worthy of deep consideration and if it means after mature consideration of the scheme that it is possible by some means to get hot meals into the secondary schools, it is worthy of it because a child who goes to primary school and passes the 11+, when he goes to Harrison College, Lodge, or Combermere is suddenly cut off from a source of sustenance and learning nucleus which is vital to his continued education, and I think you all ought to be concerned with

this aspect rather than pretending that you suddenly got food from the World Food Programme or something. You should be considering three things: to try and get it into the secondary schools to continue the programme of nutrition for the poor members of our society by whatever means it is possible; to try to get the World Food Programme to extend it beyond the period of time when it is scheduled to come to an end, and thirdly to go around and as part of your alleged external affairs usefulness and try to get other developed countries to contribute certain commodities to meet the needs of the community. You should not come fooling people who were in the Government. That is where your mistake is.

I am glad to see that you have used the opportunity of going abroad to keep the scheme going, to extend it and to get more etc. That is laudible, but do not give the impression that you had any talks in Rome as though you are the only one who had talks in Rome. My predecessor had talks in Rome. The Minister of Agriculture had talks in Rome. I talked with the New Zealand Commissioner too. I admit that you are doing your best to continue what you consider a worthwhile scheme which your former party said was not possible, and I wish you the best of luck in it, but do not come pretending you had talks in Rome: Rome was not built in a day.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, Rome was not built in a day, but old age and stupidity come on overnight. That is true, because the Leader of the Opposition as I said has reached the age when nobody can take him on any longer. He is a man who has complimented the Minister of Education for going abroad and having talks to expand the school meals programme. He is the man that put a Resolution in this House trying to make the public believe that this Government was travelling more than the last Government in order to carry out its duties.

4.35 p.m.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: He cannot tell the truth by accident. Why do you not produce the Resolution? If you can find the Resolution I am a turkey. I asked a Parliamentary Question to say how much was spent, I did not pass any Resolution, why do you not tell the truth?

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Yes, I cannot tell the truth by accident, it was a Parliamentary Question, a question that rebounded to show him that although we spent less money in the time we were in office we have done more than they have done. Now he wants to show the public that we

were travelling at the expense of the Government and doing nothing, now he blames the Minister of Education for going abroad on the taxpayers' money and securing an extension of the school meals programme. Now, how stupid can he get?

Let us take it a bit further, Mr. Chairman. He knew whilst they were in Government that the school meals programme was drying up, but he did not have guts enough to come out and say so, what he said when he was Minister of Education was that he was considering making those children at secondary schools who can afford to pay pay for their education in order to extend the school meals service. I challenged him, I said, "are you now saying you are abandoning your Party's decision on free secondary education and that some people must pay?" Even today in Opposition he has not got guts enough to represent the statement. He never had guts, he was in Parliament already and when the lashes were tight he ran to Jamaica. He came back when he was appointed in the Senate, He has not got guts to take the lashes, he has not got guts to tell the public the truth.

I cannot tell the truth by accident, he cannot tell the truth when the people put him there to tell the truth, far less, but he looked at the Minister and talked about Rome not being built in a day, but the ignorance of the DLP was such — when he talks about the Minister of Agriculture went abroad, the Estimates are coming up and I will tell him the story — I will tell you now what I found in the Ministry. Six beer glasses, eight half pint glasses, two bottles of water, ice and ten rum bottles stuck up in the corner, if you want to know about the Minister and the Ministry of Agriculture. He went abroad and talked what? So when you want to talk remember to whom you are talking this time.

When he talks about the school meals programme and when we said it could not be done, they have always misinterpreted, they have always said that Mr. Miller who represented St. George talked about pots and pans. There is nowhere in history which is properly recorded that you can find Freddie Miller talking about selling pots and pans to Victor Chase, but that was typical of the DLP regime. You know, I heard the other one talking the other night about how he is adviser to Burnham, he is adviser all around the place. They think they can still fool people; the end of the fooling time came on September 2, we do not have to fool anybody, we are not fooling anybody, the public at large can judge what this Party is doing when in office, so he knows full well he is talking about not telling the people he went to Rome. He went to

Rome because they did such bad work they had to send somebody immediately on assuming office to repair the damage done by the Democratic Labour Party. (*Asides*). I will leave the Minister to handle you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No cross talking please.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: The public must know the truth.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The truth is that on his way from Nairobi he stopped in Rome. Does he belong to FAO? You should be going to Rome; what foolishness are you talking? Does he belong to FAO? The Minister did not go to Rome specifically.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, he even wants to send me to Rome, he does not even understand his position as yet. He told me I should have gone to Rome. I do not understand this, he wants to rule from that side, he could not even rule when he was on this side. I sat down over there and heard the former Prime Minister tell him to sit down and shut up; he is over there and if the former Prime Minister comes in he has to get up and go outside. He cannot rule those over there and he wants to rule me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is beside the point. Let us get back to the subject.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: As I said when I began, Rome was not built in a day, but senility creeps on overnight. That is all I have to say.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I want to be very short, Sir. In the noisiness of the intervention of the Leader of the Opposition we perhaps are being battered so much by irrelevance, nonsense, that we are ignoring one or two serious charges which I think the whole House should take seriously and listen to. He is accusing the Minister of Education, in effect, of lying to the House about the fact of his having had to carry out negotiations to obtain the renewal of World Food Programme supplies for the school meals service in Barbados, and he is accusing him in some great depth than perhaps he realises, because at one of the earliest meetings of the new Cabinet the Minister of Education brought before us the documentation indicating that the supplies from abroad, the milk, flour and other items, which enable us to meet a very substantial part of the cost of the school meals programme had only been negotiated up to a certain point, and the Minister indicated that he was going to attempt to renegotiate and obtain further supplies. Today as I heard, he was able to

carry this out in talks which he had in Rome in connection with the Food and Agricultural Organisation, and I believe also that negotiations which he carried on with the authorities from New Zealand, and we are asked in here to believe that the Minister of Education, the hon. member for St. George South, a young man of quite outstanding integrity and total truthfulness, in my experience, is lying to the House of Assembly about his having had to take steps to obtain a renewal of these supplies without which the school meals service could not be carried on. I am going to say this, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of elucidation. Nobody is accusing him of having these talks and of lying when he says he had them, all we are saying is that those talks were going on long before he went into the Ministry, and therefore as the new Minister he was expected to follow them up. We are not saying that they did not take place, we are not accusing him of they not having taken place, all I am saying is that those talks were going on, he had talks in Rome and he had talks with the Minister to continue the scheme, but he is giving the impression that it is the first time the continuation of this scheme came up, when he was in Rome. That is all I am saying.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I must say that the Minister of Education has never given me the impression, nor could he give any reasonable person, the impression that the extension of the food talks was something taking place for the first time. The World Food Programme has been going on in Barbados I believe since 1963 and it has been extended before now. What I would like to say is I am satisfied that the initiatives which he took, and which he took in a hurry, are responsible for our being able to carry on the school meals programme in its present form.

It has to be remembered, Mr. Chairman, that this programme was introduced by the Democratic Labour Party in 1962 in pursuance of a promise to provide free school meals for every school child by the school term beginning in September 1962, and in all the 15 years when the Democratic Labour Party was in power it never gave free school meals. A charge was imposed for the school meals, it never gave every child free school meals. For the first time since we are in power the service has been extended to embrace the whole school population, so we are the first Government to have the entire problem. (*Asides*).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There must be no cross talking.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: You see, Sir, I once in here had to remind an hon. member of what is really said about lies, damned lies and statistics, and now I am going to have to add to that equation. There are lies, damned lies, statistics, statements by the hon. member for St. John and statements by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. He is the first item raised out of the fifth column.

It is well known that the complete intake of school children in the school meals service did not take place until now. It is only at this stage that the service is completely covered. I am not saying that we were in power in July to take this decision, I am merely stating as a fact that the previous Government never had to administer a school meals service which covered the entire school population. That is a fact, a straightforward, ordinary, everyday fact. Perhaps the former Cabinet have been so accustomed to trafficking in lies and untruths that they cannot recognise a straightforward statement for what it is, and I am going to suggest something. They are doing themselves a great disservice and discourtesy if they do not realise that the former regime carried so little credit with international agencies, including those responsible for the World Food Programme, as well as international lending agencies, that they had lost the power to renegotiate extensions on terms as favourable as have been obtained by the Minister of Education. 4.45 p.m.

It is in exactly the same way as the Inter-American Development Bank refused to advance any more money to the Barbados Development Bank as long as they had the Bath Plantation scandal. You will find that every agency, however temporarily, put Barbados in cold storage, into the dog house until a Government that could bring a little decency to the job of administering the affairs of the people was given power in this country.

When we hear absolute, thorough going nonsense, when we hear the slanderous remarks for which damages have already been paid in the Law Courts about Mr. Freddie Miller, let it not be forgotten that Freddie Miller's action against the Advocate arose out of statements made in here by Cameron Tudor. When we hear the continuous remarks and slanders about pots and pans etc. which were never true, they formed the basis of slanders on this party's attitude towards education for years; and I can only regret that the loss of confidence in the Leader of the Opposition by members of his own party have

forced him into avenues of irresponsibility of which he should be ashamed.

I would suggest to the hon. member that the way to recover the confidence of his colleagues is to hold his political head up straight again instead of increasing and enhancing his reputation for political bufoonery, and not to come here making misleading accusations against people who are trying to do their decent best, but to sit down instead and apply the political experience that he must have acquired in 20 years in public life to the job that he has to do as the Leader of the Opposition. Barbados deserves better than what it is getting from the Leader of the Opposition up to the present time.

As far as School Meals Service and the method of employment in the service is concerned, I was present in the House many years ago and heard Mr. Cameron Tudor say that it was necessary as far as possible to employ supporters of the Democratic Labour Party in the School Meals Service because they might otherwise attempt to sabotage the service. I have made inquiries from the then Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education and he has confirmed what I have long suspected, that of a team of persons picked to open the School Meals Service, persons were excluded on political grounds. Specific persons were described by Mr. Tudor as supporters of the Barbados Labour Party and therefore as persons impossible to employ.

We come down the line to 1976 and we heard the now Leader of the Opposition without that understanding of political morality which, again, I would have expected from him after all these years in politics, glorying and exulting in the fact that he was able to put in 32 persons from his own constituency who would be rejected by the Selection Committee as unsuitable for employment in the service and thereby contributing to his winning a seat by 20 votes.

Where does that leave those responsible for administering the School Meals Service? Where does that leave us in the Barbados Labour Party who are now the custodians of the health of our children in serving them meals at the various school centres? The Service cost about \$7 million or \$8 million. I cannot remember the gross cost overall. It is obvious that as soon as you employ these people in the Service for their political affiliations you must encourage them to believe that they must not co-operate with a Government of a different complexion.

You are doing employees of the School Meals Service a world of mischief. Some of them, as the Minister of Education told me, live in fear. They expect primarily to be fired. Some are just holding on, but making other arrangements for employment because they know their sins, and they know that their sins will eventually find them out. You are having strife and contention in the centres. I really think that it is unfortunate that hon. members opposite have spent so long a time out of the Opposition, because there are questions to which they are not sensitive.

I will illustrate this by indicating that when parents, or a fellow school meal worker or someone informing for the sake of informing, the person does not get in touch with the Parliamentary Secretary or me to tell me that so and so supervisor of such a centre is carrying home such and such in her bag everynight, or to tell me that such and such a centre in St. Lucy is used for cooking food for a Democratic Labour Party fete. Such and such a servant when the children complained of the food said that Tom Adams said that you should not get any more.

Every week you hear this. Why? Because by politicising the School Meals Service you have made it virtually impossible for these poor people to give of their best in the new political situation. Notwithstanding all these difficulties which we have, we are appointing over 400 persons who have unestablished posts in the School Meals Service. I want to give the House the pledge that there is going to be no unwarranted discrimination or putting out of people when it comes to these posts. This very week I intend to appoint the remaining supervisors and the remaining school meals assistants whose posts were created a year or so ago and for which no appointments were made under the previous regime.

In one instance I am going to appoint a supervisor outside the ranks of those already appointed and this is a lady with training and experience in supervising a large staff at one of the industrial estates. This supervisor was downgraded during the term of the hon. member for St. Michael South from a potential supervisor to a potential servant. That is how you treat people with talent. (*Aside*). I cannot tell you what her political views are. She is the wife of a very respected sergeant of the Royal Barbados Police Force. That is all I know about her.

4.55 p.m.

I am going to go outside the ranks of the recommendations to appoint another lady who

has acted as a Supervisor, who has worked very satisfactorily in the School Meals Service, but who, again, did not get the nod of recommendation from the former Government. I do not believe that anybody will tell me that, in appointing her, I am going into the ranks of the BLP, because she is the wife of your predecessor, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for St. George North. These are the examples that I want the public to understand when we are accused of political victimisation, that where Mr. Hoppin's wife could not get an appointment from her own party, we can recognise her talent and appoint her to one of the senior positions in the School Meals Service, and yet the night air will be rent by foul and wicked accusations of political victimisation against the Barbados Labour Party.

We are trying to do our best on the basis of talent where it comes to dealing with appointments that fall within our grasp, and over and over again all we can hear is that we are victimising people. From the grand victimisers we hear of a new victimisation. It is as if the Concentration Camp Guards, when being tried at War Criminal Trials, are saying that they are not getting a fair deal, and they are only getting one lawyer when they should get two. Honourable Members on the other side gave no mercy to their political opponents where it came to distributing the plums of Government, and they exult in the fact that they gave no mercy. They invite us to be like them, and by God we will not be like them. We will try to restore a little political morality into this country.

I know that some day like all things, Mr. Chairman, the regime of this Party is going to come to an end. I am certainly not going to be scratching to hold on here for 20 years in power like the former man, foaming at the mouth on platforms talking foolishness night after night. Nobody will ever see me have to come in here under the influence of sedating injections to stop me revealing myself as a mad dog. I am not going to hold on for so long, but this Party will go on. But some day we will be out of power. I am saying to you, Mr. Chairman, we are not going to be out of power in disgrace. When we go out of power we would go out of power because our ideas have ran out, the people are tired of us, young people have come along and so on.

In the United States the Republicans can go out of power, the Democrats can go out of power, and in Britain Labour and Conservatives

can lose power, but very, very seldom in disgrace, and it says nothing for the political system sought to be instituted by the former Government that they should have left power in disgrace, could not understand that they have left power in disgrace, and continue to exult in their disgraceful behaviour as, unfortunately, we have to see so often in the House of Assembly. I hope that the House will support the Minister of Education on this Resolution. I very sincerely hope so, and I am confident that when he replies, if he feels it worth while replying, he will repudiate the nonsense uttered against him and the challenge to his integrity uttered against him by the same Minister.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I am glad that the Prime Minister has put the debate in perspective, but I am a little bit worried that he should get up and steal my thunder because it will be a very sorry day, indeed, when I need somebody to defend me against the empty fulminations of people like the Leader of the Opposition. It was a speech of so much trivia, so much foam, so much uselessness, that he should be ashamed of himself when he gets up in here, a man who has such an aversion for the truth, that if he were travelling at 1,000 miles an hour he would still be able to jump out of the road.

I said nothing on the Floor of this House to suggest that I was the first Minister who ever had talks with the World Food Programme about giving assistance to the School Meals Programme in Barbados. All I know is that the Leader of the Opposition was my predecessor in office, and that the programme was running out and he did not take any initiative to make sure that the assistance of \$2 million a year was brought to Barbados. He ran about employing a handful of people, who were incompetent and who were failed by the Committee in his very Ministry, as suitable to work in the School Meals Programme. He was too busy employing them, instead of going around the world and getting help for the School Meals programme. He has the colossus gall to get up in here and make a speech reeking with foam and empty of content, but I can take the Leader of the Opposition on for myself. I am sorry that the Prime Minister got up because I do not want him or anybody on this side to think that I want them to defend me. He sounds impressive when he is shouting — an empty vessel, a lot of noise, but he has not said anything so far.

You should have talked about the School Meals Programme. The Prime Minister made an

allusion to it, in that you have carefully planted Democratic Labour Party people in the programme who are daily sabotaging it. They say, "Louis Tull has not given them a job. Sleepy Smith gave them one, and they can do as they like." They even got to the point where they said that they are going to poison the children and the leaders of the Government who go to the schools. You put them there, and everyday they are sabotaging things. It is not going to work; they are serving sub-standard meals, and you get around here and, instead of trying to put things in their true perspective, make a lot of stupid and facile statements. You will hear more from me. I am serving warning on the Leader of the Opposition. Do not come into my Ministry and seek to undermine me. That is the sort of man they have leading over there. You would not keep out of the Ministry of Education.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am saying that you are telling an untruth. I went into the Ministry one day to your Secretary to see if any mail was there, and you can ask Mrs. Roach. Do not come into your Ministry? You are talking nonsense.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. Be seated.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am not standing for an accusation about undermining you. I do not want any Ministry. I was a Minister before you. You did not get anything that I did not have.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please be seated. Can you hear me? I believe the Leader of the Opposition is not hearing me. Order, please!

Hon. L. R. TULL: The Leader of the Opposition has been into the Ministry of Education on more than one occasion since he got kicked out. He came into my Ministry and went among my staff to undermine me. If he had any decency he would not have done it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Carry on with the subject, please.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am not going to stand for this accusation. Name the officer and tell me what I did to undermine you because you are a liar.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is unparliamentary, and I call on the Leader of the Opposition to withdraw.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I will withdraw it, but he is not telling the truth. Name the officer, and say what I did to undermine you. Do not make these dishonest accusations.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Be seated. Will you please take your seat!
5.05 p.m.

Hon. L. R. TULL: It is part of the bad manners of the Leader of the Opposition and his lack of integrity. He would have got up and called the names of the officers were he in my position, but I have no intention of calling the names of the civil servants. And you must make sure that you do not come back in my Ministry any more. (*Asides*)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the Leader of the Opposition understand that his voice is affecting the debate?

Hon. L. R. TULL: Now the Leader of the Opposition got up in here and said repeatedly and asked that I get up and deny it, that it was not planned for me to go to hold talks with the World Food Programme in Rome. How can the Leader of the Opposition say that? Again this is an indication of the demonstrable lyingness that is associated with the Leader of the Opposition. It was specifically set up and if he had any information on how Ministries are run, because he does not seem to know how these things happen, he would know that you do not walk into Rome one day and start talking to the Directors of the World Food Programme. You have to communicate with them, you have to write back and forth and set something up, and then go and see them, and it is the height of folly and profound stupidity in the Leader of the Opposition to get up and give the impression that I was on my way from point "A" to point "B" and I passed casually through Rome and went and talked with the directors. You should be ashamed of yourself. As I told you last time we had an education debate in here, I am going to live on your back, because the files in the Ministry of Education abound with the sort of double standards exhibited by the Leader of the Opposition when he was Minister.

There is one other point I would like to make before I sit down, and it is in respect of the location of the people who work. This has got to be reviewed by the Ministry. It would only take somebody like the Leader of the Opposition to pick up people from Halls Road and put them to work in St. Peter. It would

take people like the Leader of the Opposition to take people from Carrington Village and put them to work in St. Lucy, and all this two weeks before the general election. This is causing problems in the school meals system in Barbados, because people cannot get to work, all because of him, and then he gets in here and tries to make out that he did everything in the Ministry under the Government of the Democratic Labour Party, left a good system, and now I have only got to approve it. I spend a long time in the Ministry trying to correct a lot of the mistakes, and many of them deliberate, made by my predecessor.

I am not going to deal with the Leader of the Opposition any more on this particular Head. We have time in another two weeks' time in which we will be able to juck each other's eyes out.

The question that Head 13(8) – School Meals Department – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 13(11) – LIBRARIES

Head 13(11) – Libraries – was called.

Hon. L. R. TULL: This supplementary provision is for a small sum of money to meet the payment of utilities for the Public Library for the current financial year.

I beg to move that Head 13(11) – Libraries – stand part.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am not going to sit down here.... I can take licks and I can give them back. I have been in politics for donkey's years..... and hear the Minister say that I went in his Ministry to undermine him. If you are honest now, name any officer I spoke to, what I spoke to him about and how I tried to undermine you. I am prepared for the public to judge between me and you if I tried to undermine you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are out of order. Talk about libraries.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: There is a library in there too. If the Minister has an ounce of honesty, after that serious accusation that I tried to undermine you, tell the public and this Honourable House what I did to undermine

you, and if you do not do it, you stand condemned as the worst coward I have ever come across. All these mouthings and foolishness.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will you please stick to the subject?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Name the officer and what I asked him. And let me tell you this now if you do not know it; you cannot stop me going into the Ministry. I am a citizen, I pay taxes and I have children at school; so you cannot stop me from going into any Ministry.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will you please take your seat and discontinue? Does any other hon. member wish to speak on this Head?

The question that Head 13(11) – Libraries – stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 13(12) – ARCHIVES

Head 13(12) – Archives – was called.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, this supplementary is for funds to meet certain expenses incurred in the Archives Department.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have heard a word which is rather unparliamentary, even though it is in aside, and I ask the Hon. Leader of the Opposition to apologise and withdraw the remark.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I withdraw it.

Hon. L. R. TULL: If he calls me a lying bastard or whatever it is he called me, I would have to tell him what he is.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I cannot have this behaviour in here.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I am prepared to put my reputation with the people of Barbados next to his and see who comes out better. You sat down over there and called the name of one of the officers you talked to and now you are asking me to call names.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This cross talk in here must cease.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Sir, during the year the Archives Department has spent some money in photocopying of these and other articles which

were otherwise unavailable and this money is to satisfy expenditure in that respect.

I beg to move that Head 13(12) – Archives – stand part.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 14 – ECCLESIASTICAL

Head 14 – Ecclesiastical – was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is to grant a sum of money to assist Codrington College in the present financial difficulties that confront that institution. I think all hon. members are aware that Codrington College has made a significant contribution to the education and religious development of Barbados and the Caribbean as a whole. Unfortunately the finances of the College have not been too rosy during the last couple of years. An approach was made to the Government and the last Government agreed prior to this subject being transferred to me under Ecclesiastical to make a grant for this financial year. It is the intention of the present Government to increase that grant subject of course to the House's approval in the Draft Estimates which will be coming down to Parliament as a regular feature.

I wish to go on record under this Head "Ecclesiastical" as making a few statements. The Church in Barbados and not merely the Anglican Church, is a very important part of the social, cultural and religious life of this community and it certainly deserves the respect of the population as a whole. I believe that the Church has a very important role to perform in helping Barbadians to recognise the proper quality of their life as it should be lived out on earth and I hope afterwards in the beyond. I want to say that I regretted last week that I myself was not in the House to talk about the question of a fire station in St. Philip, but I regret the circumstances which have led to the destruction of the St. Philip's Parish Church.
5.15 p.m.

None of us can be happy when a building that had so much architectural, aesthetic and religious beauty is destroyed by the act of wanton destruction or wanton vandalism, no

matter who started it or who encouraged it, and I would like to use this opportunity to appeal to the public at large to restrain themselves from setting fires which are doing untold damage to some of our oldest buildings as well, of course, to the economic livelihood of the country, and to themselves, as the hon. member for St. James has reminded me. I will be holding urgent conversations with the Commissioner of Police in an effort to set up the police patrols, and I will be recommending to my Cabinet colleagues an increase in the penalties for cane fires and an increase in imprisonment under this Head as well, particularly where destruction occurs as a result to buildings.

I will be taking urgent steps to have aerial surveys done to spot out the people who are setting fires to buildings. I regret very much that the Leader of the Opposition, under whose portfolio this subject once came, has got to the stage in the evening of his political days where he is using a rather, if I may say so, cheap way of referring to an event such as the destruction of the St. Philip Parish Church. It hurts me when a man whom I recognise as having many qualities should refer to an event such as this as God's retribution to the Dean of St. Michael's Cathedral. Not only is that sacrilege but it is a statement unbecoming of a member whose career I would like to think should be among those of leading public figures in this country. It does no justice to the Opposition, and indeed it does no justice to the Democratic Labour Party if they are going to take this type of attitude to people in religious life, simply because the Dean disagreed with their brand of politics or their brand of governing the country. After all, one of the things about democracy is that Governments come and Governments go and are changed, and we must accept this, and I was pained as the Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs when I listened to the tape recording to hear this statement coming from the hon. member.

It is the sort of statement I have come to expect from the hon. member for St. John who of course happens to be one of the most irresponsible people we have had despite the high office he has had, the sort of statement he always makes, but I was deeply pained that this should be so, and I hope that the hon. member will use this occasion to withdraw the statement like a man and show his deep humility by apologising for it and saying that it was done as a political aberration. I have given him the opportunity to do it if he is a man, to really

withdraw the statement and not to set it as a standard which one would expect on issues such as this.

I have no doubt that hon. members will vote for this Head, and I have pleasure in moving that this Head stand part.

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

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I would like as Leader of the Opposition to extend my sympathy to the people of St. Philip on the loss of their historic parish church, but perhaps the Attorney General does not understand that in one's life, if you are a firm believer in God, incidents and misfortune befall you in your personal life and you have to decide whether it is a warning from God or something to test you in the fire of life. If a misfortune like this befalls the Church that they lose their 141 year old historic church, all I am saying is, God moves in a mysterious way, and I cannot presume to know what God intends for the Church, all I am saying is that the Church itself must begin to worry and to wonder whether in truth and in fact by the very destruction of this historic building God is not sending a message to them or giving them a challenge, and that is all I have to say. I am not God, only Almighty can tell you why it was burnt down, all I am saying is that not only in your personal life but in the life of an organisation, in the life of a nation there comes a time when things befall that nation and the nation itself must begin to think and wonder what is the purpose, why me? In your own life, why me? In the life of the Church, why the Church? In the life of a nation, why that nation?

I have nothing to apologise for. If the Attorney General thinks he will get me to apologise for something I had to say, my salvation does not depend on anybody or any individual high or low in the Church, my salvation is my own personal concern and my Creator and my Maker, so I have nothing to apologise for, so do not come asking me to apologise for something. Apologise for what?

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, speaking under this Ecclesiastical Head I refer to the Sunday night statement by the Leader of the Opposition, a man who I had a great deal of respect for, and still do, but he continues to amaze me by the utterances that come from his mouth. He just uttered another amazing statement. He just said that he is not God, he would not know why the tragedy befell the

Anglican Church in St. Philip, but in Blades Hill, St. Philip during the second to last bye-election the Leader of the Opposition was heard to say that his former leader, the hon. member for St. John, was Jesus Christ and he was John the Baptist, so I am surprised now, Sir, to learn that he has to get up in Independence Square to ask the Archbishop of the Anglican Church whether he is a prophet. It seems to me that the hon. member for St. Michael South Central would be in a position to prophesy, being John the Baptist, and tell the people of Barbados whether the tragedy at St. Philip was because the Anglican Church supported the Barbados Labour Party in the last elections.

Mr. Chairman, I am appalled at the sacrilege that goes on in this community, sacrilege that is perpetrated by men who have distinguished titles behind their names like S.C. I am not a member of the Bar, I do not know if S.C. is Senior Clown or Senior Counsel, but I notice that the Leader of the Opposition, the member for St. Michael South Central, has a perfected propensity for clowning which can only be called senior in its rank, or senile I am told, and I would like to see the sacrilege that goes on, particularly coming from that side, stopped. It calls for a degree of callousness, a degree of disrespect for the Church that can only be matched by the member for the wilderness, Idi Amin, a man that kills Archbishops. That kind of callousness that lets a man get in Independence Square and on an occasion when tragedy strikes, a historic building in the first instance and a religious sect of leading repute in Barbados, when that kind of tragedy strikes for a man who is in high public office to get up and make fun at it. A Lay Preacher in the Methodist Church who said that he had just come from Church himself, underlined it by saying "I have just come from my Church, not the Anglican Church," serving a Methodist God, I suppose, the hon. member for St. John perhaps.

5.25 p.m.

The hon. member for St. John, perhaps, because if he is Jesus Christ, and if the Leader of the Opposition says that he is Jesus Christ, and if the Leader of the Opposition is a Lay Preacher in that church, I wonder if it is the hon. member for St. John that he serves. I am calling for an immediate end to this kind of sacrilegious behaviour by members in our public life who should know better.

I would have thought that the hon. member would have taken the occasion in

Independence Square to extend deepest sympathy and condolence to the people of St. Philip, to the laity and ecclesiastics of the Anglican Church, the Bishop and everybody else concerned for the loss of a historic building, and not only the building, but a symbol of worship in this community; but he did not do that at all. He let that opportunity slipped and castigated members of the Anglican Church because he believes that they supported the Barbados Labour Party. If they did it is a tribute to their wisdom and to their understanding in that they know which party and which God they serve; and that God is not the hon. member for St. John as has been declared by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, when I sat in the Opposition I once said that one day the member for St. Michael South Central who said that he is a Methodist Lay Preacher will go to one of the Churches on a Sunday and get up in the pulpit and start to preach. The Church will tumble down around him. Everybody will escape and he will die in the ruins. I repeat it now that one day the Leader of the Opposition who is a masquerading Christian and a hypocrite will go to church.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. That is unparliamentary. He must withdraw it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Go on, please. That is no point of order.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: The Church will crumble around him. He is going to die and everybody else will escape because it is people like that that the populace will hold up by two legs and strip apart.

The time will come when the people will realise the hypocrisy of those who try to lead. Mr. Chairman, two or three years ago a man called Compton Frazer bought Vineyard Plantation. He set aside to refurbish the plantation house. The night the interior decorators left the house completed. The next morning as a result of a cane fire in St. Philip the house burned down completely by a spark on the wooden roof. Today the ruins are an example of irresponsible behaviour.

Last week the St. Philip parish Church suffered; and one would believe, Mr. Chairman, and one would believe when you hear members of the Church like the Leader of the Opposition

talking about unity in the Church — Anglican, Methodist and the various religions coming together — one would have thought that he would have been the first to get up and condemn this wanton the vicious act of destruction of Church property. Instead of that, the statement that he made on Sunday night was that it was God's retribution to the Dean of St. Michael's Cathedral.

That is nothing more than encouragement, Mr. Chairman. He would want to get up in the Anglican Church and preach under the supposed coming together of the Christian faith. In the Constitutional Debate in this Parliament he sat down and heard the former Prime Minister lambast the Bishop and the Leader of his Church and he did not dare open his mouth; and then two weeks later when Father Cayless came here he was the first to jump up and say that he congratulated the Anglican Church. That was after abusing Father Cayless, the Dean, the Bishop and his own Church Leader. An old double tongued, forked tongued person like that. (*Asides*)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: He cannot help it. A few weeks ago he met me at a service station in Collymore Rock and he challenged me on the BMC debate. You know what he told me? I sorry that you did not look up Ken Knight instead of saying that he was redundant. That old hypocrite over there.

Then you talk about people outside in vandalism and you hear a person who is supposed to be a responsible person in the community getting up in Independence Square and talking about God's retribution. It is the Church above anything else that was responsible for his education. Ask him which school he went to as a boy. Ask him who organised and set it up. He went to Codrington College, a School of the Church and now we see the behaviour of the Leader of the Opposition.

The people must remember that when you are ungrateful you are bound to be ungrateful to everybody including yourself. I said before that he ran out of Barbados and left the people. He will run out again before long because he is not true to himself far less to anybody else.

Mr. Chairman, to burn down the Church they had to set fire to canes. The Sugar Producers Federation spoke out. I have not heard the Leader of the Opposition or the Trade Union

come out and condemn the burning of sugar cane in this country. Why is it when CBC is open — when they were in power the Opposition could not get any time on it. They recorded a speech from the then Leader of the Opposition and they never broadcast it; and I am sure that the now Prime Minister, under whose portfolio CBC falls, will never stop the Leader of the Opposition or the Trade Union. Not one of them has ever got up yet and told the people of this country that the destruction of the sugar industry is destroying the very economic base of this country.

The Leader of the Opposition calls it God's retribution on the Dean of St. Michael's Cathedral. It is time that this foolishness stops. I would not be surprised if one of these days after talking stupidity in here, when he walks down stairs some members in the gallery grab him; because a lot of people are watching his actions and the actions of the Opposition. It is time that they be honest to the society in which they live; because they thought that their rule was in perpetuity and would never come to an end. They thought that the people of Barbados could have been fooled for ever and ever Amen; but now that this has not happened they are adopting the tactics of Idi Amin.

5.35 p.m.

I say that the same God you pray to, we on this side pray to, and the God above will deal with people like you. (*Asides.*) My colleagues say that they do not pray to the same God. (*Asides.*) I am not saying that he has a pagan God. I am not saying so. I heard somebody say, "Barrow is his God." Therefore, Mr. Chairman, he will be dealt with. If you saw the Nation, and saw Barrow when the election results were coming out, he will suffer the same fate, too. Before long the people will be finished dealing with all of you.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I did not want to enter into this debate, but I just thought that this debate had a slight twist to what I would have liked to see it have, and I just want to bring it back into perspective. I really rise to support this Resolution which is to make a contribution of \$6,000 towards Codrington College. Codrington College is certainly a very noble institution and, of course, the Leader of the Opposition can attest to that since, I am sure, he can boast of the fact that it has given him learning. Throughout the length and breadth of the West Indies and as far as Africa there are many Barbadians and non-Barbadians who can boast of the educational training which Codrington College gave to them. Codrington

College is certainly a bequest which Barbados has received from a very noble man, the late Christopher Codrington. In his bequest he has made a lot of noble conditions for the training of people and the consideration of the slaves at that time. It is certainly painful to me, as a Barbadian and an Anglican, when I hear people attack the Anglican Church. Had it not been for the Anglican Church, I do not believe that the 70% of the people in Barbados, who can today boast of an education and a literate rate over 98%, could so boast.

As a matter of fact, it is on record where the first Anglican preacher, I think it was Bishop Hart, who at the time was the Rector of St. Lucy, administered confirmation to the slaves at his church. I feel that when it comes to a contribution to Codrington College that we should be at one in the consideration of such a contribution. I, personally, would like to see the day when this area of consideration of a contribution of this type will certainly be removed from the arena of the political football and some Head could be found whereby there would be no discussion on the floor of the House on a matter of this nature. Probably I am thinking in terms of utopia, but I hope that that utopia will come in my lifetime. I do not only think in terms of the Anglican Church as such, but I would like to see all Churches considered in the form of a decent contribution towards them. Why I believe we are particularly concerned with the Anglican Church is that we have for years made a contribution to that church. That church was until lately the established church in this country, and since the disestablishment of the Anglican Church it has certainly found itself in evil days, financially speaking.

I feel that the Government, despite the fact that we have severed our links with the church, should seek to make a worthwhile contribution towards the maintenance of the church and the properties of the church in this Island. I have noticed a situation and a tendency throughout the Island whereby very poor people are called upon to pay very expensive fees for burials and weddings. I feel that Government should make a contribution to the churches in order that such an expenditure may not fall so heavily upon the poor people in this Island.

In the constituency that I have the honour to represent, there is a priest by the name of Father Gatherer. I am told that if you want to have a service of burial on a Sunday and the fee is normally \$100, you have to pay him \$300. Now this is certainly making commerce out of

the poverty of people, and this is what I do not expect of christian-minded men. I would like to see a change of heart in this regard, and I would like the Government to take into consideration the idea of giving a generous subsidy to the Anglican Church because they have to bear the brunt of the burden by way of burial of the dead, and in this regard take all churches into consideration.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I want to make an appeal to the Leader of the Opposition. The hon. member for St. Joseph did it in some respect when he said just now that C.B.C. and Radio were open to the Leader of the Opposition and the Trade Union as well, and he was quite sure that the Hon. Prime Minister would not object to their making an appeal of a worthwhile nature to the nation on any matter of public importance. I want to appeal to the Leader of the Opposition and to the Leader of the Trade Union as well to lend their voice to reason and support the Government in its call that cane fires should be stopped immediately, that the economy of the country should not be destroyed, and that politics should not play with the economy of this nation. Governments will come and Government will go, but Barbados must remain for all times. We must not see Barbados in terms of cheap political consideration, but in terms of what Barbados means to us all as well as our children and children's children. Mr. Chairman, that is my small contribution to this Resolution.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of elucidation, Mr. Chairman. I think the Attorney-General will agree that this Resolution was taken to the Cabinet by me, heathen that you say I am. You are only bringing down what I got approval for. I am the heathen that still got Cabinet to approve the money for Codrington College.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I might have been inclined in other circumstances to deal with the Leader of the Opposition with christian charity, but in view of the fact that 2,500 or more christian people in this country voted for me at the last election, I believe that I have a duty to get up here and denounce the blasphemous remarks made by the Leader of the Opposition at the meeting over there. The word that comes to mind — he went up to Codrington College, so he should have heard a lot about it. It is a word that comes to mind whenever I hear something like this. The word is "profane", and the conduct and the words of the Leader of the Opposition are positively profane. What can you

expect from him? Two Bishops called him a liar. You call that a consecrated liar. What can you expect from a man like that? He has the gall to get up in here and question my honesty and my integrity. That is why I am prepared to say that I am willing at any time to put my honesty and and my integrity next to the Leader of the Opposition before the public of Barbados and see who will come out on top.

5.45 p.m.

A Church burnt down in St. Philip and a petty little man sets himself up as the apostle for God to talk about his retribution. I rose not so much to let it go on record that I am in sympathy with the people of St. Philip, and I want to join with the other members on this side who got up and said how they feel about the incident in St. Philip in expressing my deep sorrow at what has happened, not only because a Church of God was burnt down, but because an important historical building in Barbados was destroyed, and it only takes a man of total insensitivity, a man of outright callousness, a man who has no Christian precepts or concepts to get up and make the type of remarks that the Leader of the Opposition made in Independence Square last week-end.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, if this debate has generated some heat, I think that hon. members would consider it understandable. It is not often that a debate on a subject such as this leads to a profession of Christian principles from members on both sides of the House even although they may differ as to the God they serve. I should like to say something in reply to some of the points made. The Hon. Minister of Communications and Works made what I would like to describe as a very rational and well-argued speech, one which as Minister responsible for Ecclesiastical Affairs I shall bear in mind. I would like to assure him that in the Anglican Church Act the State has a duty to make an annual contribution towards the Church. It is true that it is on a decreasing scale and perhaps this year will be the last full year that there will be any payments towards the Church.

We are also considering in my Ministry ways by which we will repair some of the church buildings which have been used as schools for several years now, and I believe that the Draft Estimates will request some token vote in this respect until I have had the opportunity of an adequate survey.

In so far as members of the Church may be charging exorbitant fees for burials, I have already drawn this to the attention of the

appropriate authorities. I wish to state that the Evangelical Council of Churches which represent the churches other than the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Methodist Church and which represent a very sizable section of the God-fearing community of this country, have drawn this to my attention and I have taken the opportunity to write to the appropriate Ministers including the Minister of Health about the lack of burial grounds and facilities in Barbados, and I have been assured by her that her department is looking into the possibility of finding additional burial grounds particularly within the St. Michael area. That is one of the matters which the hon. member has raised.

In so far as the cane fires are concerned, I believe that every hon. member in this House, including the Leader of the Opposition should be forthright in denouncing cane fires from whatever source they come. It is a double tragedy I repeat, not a matter for condemnation in the sense of condemning the Church, but a tragedy to Barbados with a chance or a negligent or a deliberate and wanton act like setting fire to a cane field can bring in its wake destruction to a church building and at times destruction to human life. I would like again most strongly to repeat on the floor of this House for the benefit of the public that anybody who has the slightest inkling of his duty to the public and on whom the public has placed any bit of trust has a duty to condemn cane fires or house fires howsoever started, and I think the media as well has a duty to speak out strongly about this.

As I said, unfortunately I was ill for a little while and have only now returned to the Ministry, but I will be recommending speedily to the Cabinet increasing the fines and the terms of imprisonment in these circumstances, because one has to be brutal with dealing with reckless and thoughtless people in a regard such as this, and I hope when I bring the Bill before Parliament that the Opposition will cooperate with us in passing the Bill through all its stages so that we can deal with pyromaniacs, people who think they have a duty to go around setting fires and destroying their own livelihood without even thinking about it.

I said and I repeat that as a result of the St. Philip tragedy in particular and in general because of the representations made by the Minister of Agriculture, I am asking for and will be holding a meeting with the police and if necessary we will step up extra police duties, and I can assure you that legislation will be rushed through in time. I am talking about imprisonment now; I am not asking for anything like penalties and fines for

anybody; so a word to the reckless is enough from this quarter. I can only hope that Barbadians will show commonsense.

I think, Mr. Chairman, you would like to know that the Government now has a member on the Board of Codrington College and together with the reconstituted Board which is now constituted of West Indians in USPG we are looking to see in what ways Codrington College can continue to play its role as an important institution in the livelihood of the Caribbean as a whole, and I am hoping that from time to time I can make more reports to the House on the role which Codrington College will play. I am indebted to hon. members for voicing their support for this Resolution.

The question that Head 14 – Ecclesiastical – stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 15(1) DIRECTION AND POLICY FORMULATION

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, this is a supplementary Resolution under Item 17 seeking to authorise the provision of \$29,219. This goes towards the increased salaries and wages to the staff of the Family Planning Association for the period 1st April, 1976 to 31st December, 1976.

I beg to move that Head 15(1) – Direction and Policy Formulation – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Resolution for the sum of \$135,219 do now pass.

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

The Question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.
5.55 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1976–77 No. 36

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, this supplementary Resolution is to make provision for the sum of \$180,202.

The purpose of this Resolution is to meet a number of expenses such as overtime in the Post Office during the Christmas period, the employment of temporary staff, payment of substitutes, unestablished staff, casual labour and overtime as I mentioned earlier on. The deficit in that regard is \$27,130.

The other Item is to make provision for the payment of travelling and subsistence to officers in the Post Office as a result of the revised travelling allowances mainly paid to those workers. The deficit in that regard to take us to the end of the financial year would be \$15,588.

The other Head of \$137,484 is to meet a number of expenses such as commission on the payment of stamps, the purchase of stamps and stamp albums, amount due to the Crown Agents and to pay for commemorative and Tenth Anniversary stamps, Silver Jubilee stamps and items of that kind. Also clothing and uniforms.

I beg to move that this Head stand part.

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

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1976–77 No. 38

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, the purpose of this Resolution is to provide funds to meet the cost of certain acting officers who acted while others were on leave. The remainder of the vote was inadequate for the total period and as a result the deficiency has to be met. The sum of \$14,700 is required.

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

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

HEAD 20(1) – DIRECTION AND POLICY FORMULATION

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, the object of this Resolution is to increase the allowance granted to the Director of Petroleum and Natural Gas. This officer is a temporary officer and he performs the duties of advising the Government and the Ministry of Trade on its petroleum policy. His salary was \$7,560 per annum and it is proposed with effect from 1st April, 1976 to increase it to \$9,180. In order to effectuate this increase the sum of \$1,200 is required to meet the increase expenditure.

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

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman. I beg to move that these Resolutions do now pass.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, seconded by Hon. H. deB. FORDE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of four Resolutions in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, seconded by Hon. H. deB. FORDE, the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE GUARANTEE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF LOANS TO BE MADE TO THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK BY THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, as the passing of the decade of the late 1970's the international agencies which exist to assist in the transfer of technology and resources from rich countries to poor countries are extending their activities in many directions, and I am glad to say that Barbados has been, and I hope increasingly will be, a recipient of such aid. This Resolution now before the House deals with the World Bank, the International

Bank for Reconstruction and Development is the official name, but is popularly known as the World Bank, and the Resolution provides that the World Bank will be able to advance money to the Caribbean Development Bank which will then lend it out to Barbados as it will to other islands of the Caribbean.

However, the international lending agencies have been bitten, one may say, in many countries in their dealings with former projects and have been unable upon occasions to satisfy themselves of the entire viability of loans advanced to intermediaries, indeed I believe in some cases of loans advanced to Governments. In this particular case the World Bank requires that the Government of Barbados guarantee all the funds which are advanced to the Caribbean Development bank for on-lending in Barbados, and this Resolution, Sir, seeks the approval of the House of Assembly and of the Senate in this project.

6.05 p.m.

It is a very straightforward matter on the face of it, but if there are any questions that hon. members wish to ask about details of World Bank activities in Barbados I would be glad to assist as far as I am able. The Resolution comes after some years of negotiations on these particular questions which have arisen, the so called double guarantee and other matters which have arisen; but after two years we have at long last been able to finalise matters and make it possible for World Bank projects to be promoted in Barbados through the Caribbean Development Bank.

The whole amount which will be lent to the Caribbean Development Bank will be \$17 million (U.S.) and a further subsidiary loan of \$3 million. This is in fact the first bank operation for regional projects in the Commonwealth Caribbean, and it is very much hoped that we can get some funds distributed at an early stage.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, this particular Resolution is for the Government of Barbados to have a guarantee for the International Bank to make funds available to the Caribbean Development Bank. We are pleased to see this Resolution before this hon.

Chamber because the more funds that are available, either from international agencies, or indeed on a bilateral basis, the more projects, hopefully economic projects, we will be able to enter upon in Barbados and in the Caribbean generally, thereby hopefully, stimulating employment and the economy generally.

In relation to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, I wonder if the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the hon. member for St. Thomas, would care to give us some information on this. I do not believe that this will be specifically related to the Caribbean Development Bank, and I doubt whether these funds will be coming from this particular source, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; but there were some proposals being developed to obtain funds from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for school building projects in Barbados. I believe that through the Ministry of Education we were able to develop an *aide memoire* seeking funds hopefully that as result of that *aide memoire* funds might be forthcoming for the construction of six additional secondary schools. In that connection we had a mission from U.N.E.S.C.O. in connection with the possible financing of such a project through the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

I am conscious of the fact that Jamaica has had the benefit of loans from the IBRD for school building projects at the secondary level. I am also conscious that Trinidad and Tobago did benefit from loans from that same source for school building projects; and I am also conscious of the fact that Guyana also benefitted from that source. We in Barbados were trying to develop projects to receive favourable consideration also.

I am wondering if the Minister of Finance could give us some information on this. I did read in another place that some discussions were held with officials of the World Bank and some reference was made to the possibility of financing from this particular source. I am wondering if the Minister of Finance can give this hon. Chamber any details of this matter.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, the subject of educational loans by the World Bank, and indeed by other developing agencies has a long history as far as I can judge. The former Ministers of Education will be only too aware, I think, that their ministries were as active as any others — in fact I think that

outside the Ministry of Planning they were more active than any others in putting forward projects for consideration by international agencies; but apart from the Community College and the Polytechnic it does not seem that they were so successful; and a part of this, I believe, rests with the same UNESCO investigation which was carried out in the time, I believe, of the hon. member for St. Michael South. (Asides) Hon. members could perhaps give me more assistance by ceasing to interrupt. If they sit in their seats and interrupt I cannot entirely grasp the replies.

In particular, Sir, the UNESCO report says that the educational problems of Barbados are not those of developing countries, but have more in common with the educational problems of countries in Western Europe and North America; and this has been a bugbear in the way of getting international assistance for the construction of secondary schools.

I think that what the hon. member for St. Michael South perhaps is trying to say is that the Ministry of Finance in former days assigned different priorities, and did not encourage the submission of secondary school projects to the World Bank. The first Paper that I have been able to find, and which goes back to April, 1976, and which refers to possible programmes for Education for the World Bank, does not entirely bear out such an interpretation; because Mr. Charlie Skeete who is an alternate director of the World Bank for Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela and with whom I am in frequent touch both by telephone to Washington and when he visits here, indicated to me on many occasions that the bank had abandoned any further consideration of programmes for Education — I am quoting from the file — in favour of immediately productive projects. It went right back to 1974. In the end the only projects which the World Bank was able to identify and which were under active consideration by the former Government were projects relating to a cement project between Guyana and Barbados and related to Tourism. Both of these have run into difficulties of one kind or another — with respect to the cement plant difficulties posed by conception and the prospect of co-operation; but those are difficulties which I hope will be solved.

6.15 p.m.

There are now the subject of study, and the Tourism Project has also excited some exhaustive attention based less on its immediate viability than on the circumstances in which the

choice of site was made and other matters relating to payments which have excited, may I say, less than satisfaction in the breast of the present Minister of Finance when he looks at the files. Nonetheless, I think that this second project is one which may be expected to be off the ground when some of the initial bugs have been ironed out.

On the present status of discussions with the World Bank, is that I spoke last week or week before to the team which was currently visiting Barbados and I raised the question of the Cement Plant, indicated that a feasibility study was proceeding at the end of which the Government would be able to take decisions on the size of the Plant, whether the joint venture should continue, whether it is wise to plan so large a Cement Plant as to call for substantial exports, whether the sum of \$80 million, which seems to be about the cost, is a sum within Barbados' capacity to enter into and so on. All of these matters are going to be considered by the Government in due course.

The discussion which I held relating to the Tourism Project were basically that we would not wish the Tourism Project undertaken as though you could isolate Heywoods from the surrounding districts in St. Peter and St. Lucy. I think I may have said it elsewhere but not in the House, Sir. The extensions of the scheme, which I have indicated to the World Bank representatives, will be to do some infrastructural development at the northern and southern ends of Heywoods, particularly an adequate Speightstown by-pass road, some restoration of Speightstown in the interest of tourist facilities, preservation of the historical value of the main streets of Speightstown, perhaps, indeed going so far as to close Queen Street to vehicular traffic and make them use the by-pass road and keep the main road of Speightstown as a pedestrian mall; also, I have mentioned proper execution of the drainage works in Speightstown, building of a new bridge in the area of Church Street Gardens. All of these matters we are pursuing, of course, providing the means of allowing Speightstown to have substantial commercial development to cater for the expected expansion of tourist facilities in the cluster blocks, because we do not consider that you can meaningfully develop a scheme at Heywoods and put down an entirely new shopping plaza and everything and ignore Speightstown already developed commercial possibilities. It is towards the development of Speightstown generally that the Minister of Communications and Works, for

example, has put a bus to run from Bathsheba to Speightstown. You can see the direction, Mr. Speaker, in which we are going, and in which we are hoping to associate the World Bank.

To the north of the cluster project, what I have been suggesting is that fishing facilities be developed. I expect ultimately it will be urged on me to put to the World Bank to build one or more piers; one in the direction of Six Men's and, perhaps, one in Speightstown itself. We would expect to expand the fishing facilities in the north and to contemplate for the future a proper scheme for the development of Six Men's by which persons who now enjoy the facilities of the beach may be able to enjoy them just as fully, but with better sanitary outlets and not having to squeeze themselves in their houses on the 800 square feet of sand. I am only envisaging, of course, crossing the road on lands of their own. All of these matters have been canvassed with the World Bank representatives and are matters which are in hand for the future development of the area.

Now, the hon. member would want me to come home on his point. I made as strong a plea as I was able to in the circumstances for assistance for the building of further secondary schools. I emphasised that the Government has a target. I do not think the Minister of Education would want me to say how many, but certainly a target as far as possible during this term of office to complete the provision of reasonable secondary school places for those that want them. This will necessarily involve the building of several more secondary schools. Very soon, I imagine, the Minister is going to tell us when building of the new schools will start and how soon he expects the pupils to be in the school, but I did not meet with a favourable reaction from the World Bank representatives. I did not meet with it. I cannot hide from hon. members that, so far as I can judge, all the International Agencies expect us to build our schools for ourselves. I put to them the necessity for the expansion of secondary education. I mentioned that in the short term it is very necessary to do something because if the construction project that we expect will be going by the end of 1977 to 1978 all come on stream at the proper time, there is going to be a serious shortage of trained artisans in this country next year and the year after. There is no doubt about that. All of these matters I have put to them.

We cannot afford to have bottlenecks in our manpower supply, if we expect these

productive projects of which they are so enamoured to go forward as planned. We indicated that we are expanding technical education, but that the need is greater than the need for mere artisans training and that we need to upgrade our educational facilities at secondary level. A well-educated population produces better, builds better, votes better, I dare say, in the fullness of time. All politicians ought to be glad to see that. I have put this to them, but I have not been able to obtain any clear commitment. What they have said is that they would be prepared to do a programming study and, as they put it, to up-grade the UNESCO Report. These are the aims which they have.

Mr. SANDIFORD: On a point of elucidation, and you will permit me, Mr. Speaker, to say that, normally, you have to prevent us on either side from making asides, but I notice you yourself, Mr. Speaker, did make an aside while the member was speaking.

Mr. SPEAKER: Speightstown, the sooner the better.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I notice your deep interest in matters relating to Speightstown development. I wonder if the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Member for St. Thomas, did get the full import of the question I was asking. It was whether the Ministry of Finance was prepared to give the high priority to developing a project for the construction of secondary schools because, as he indicated, it was a question of the Ministry of Finance not placing the highest possible priority on this particular project. The problem was really priorities within the Ministry in putting forward the project.

6.25 p.m.

So the point of elucidation I was really seeking was that particular point, and we must bear in mind that Jamaica with a higher per capita income than Barbados.....

Mr. SPEAKER: This is your second speech.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I am not really speaking; I am elucidating the point, and I am seeking some further statement from the Minister. Trinidad and Tobago with a higher per capita than Barbados were both able to obtain financing from that source for secondary school projects which they call junior secondary schools. So I am wondering if the Ministry of Finance is prepared to give this the necessary priority in its scheme of things.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: It seems that there is a trade union of Ministers of Education and former Ministers of Education and they all speak with the same voice whatever political differences may temporarily appear between them on other subjects. Jamaica and Trinidad are slightly different cases. According to the World Bank itself there is virtually no difference in the per capita income of Barbados and Jamaica, \$20 a year. The two countries stand at practically the same level, and probably in Barbados there is more disposable income because we do not have the extractive industries that go to assist in the making up of the gross domestic product of Jamaica; but it is undoubtedly a fact that the rich in Jamaica are very much richer than the rich here and the poor very much poorer and the poverty of the poor includes poverty of education. Jamaica needs primary education perhaps more so than secondary because there are still many areas in Jamaica out of reach of primary schools, and the little tiny primary schools to serve 30 children of all ages in a village is falling out of fashion everywhere in the world I believe, except where absolutely essential. Jamaica needs primary education. It may very well be that in Jamaica the International agencies take pity on the Government. They see that the Government has to build primary as well as secondary schools and they feel that in respect of capital expenditure on education, if the Government takes care of primary that an international agency may assist with secondary.

In Barbados the need for the building of primary schools is by no means so well defined. There is I think an over all capacity in the primary schools in Barbados now to educate all the children even though there may be dislocations in areas such as North Western St. Michael, Cave Hill, Eden Lodge and so on where you have a large number of children and the only schools to hand are relatively old schools like Grace Hill, Buxton and so on, and therefore you would want to balance transportation as against school cost. It is not a question of needing the physical plant in the urgent way that it is needed in Jamaica.

The same, however rich Trinidad is, is also to some extent true of Trinidad. I would recommend hon. members to read a recent study of the position of Indians in Trinidad society written largely by Indians as it happens, but indicating how deprived the rural population of South and South Eastern Trinidad is compared with the population as a whole, and this includes a figure which astonished me for over-all illiteracy in Trinidad of, I think 27%, and therefore there

is clearly a need even in Trinidad for expansion of primary as well as secondary education.

Now neither the World Bank nor the Ministry of Finance is going to place a capital works programme in Education in quite such a prominent position in Barbados as would be necessary for a Ministry of Finance and Planning in Trinidad or in Jamaica, because our primary school children are well provided for as primary school children according to UNESCO in Western Europe and North America. Our secondary school children are not by any means so well provided for, and there are still some gaps here, but there must be more secondary school places in relation to population in Barbados than there are in Jamaica. I have not got the figures to hand but I would be astonished if this were not the case. Therefore our priorities cannot place so great a weight on this aspect of affairs as we may place on trying to find something for the product of secondary education to do when they come out of school. These are the things that we look at. Nonetheless the Ministry of Education has put forward schemes for three more secondary schools. We have selected one to be built in the forthcoming financial year. With good fortune we may be able to make a start with all three before the end of 1978. We are also going to do something towards the expansion of primary schools, but we are also going to expand some of the existing secondary institutions. At the moment we are planning to do this within our own resources, but the hon. member for St. Michael South will be happy to hear that I have used every argument to try to get some outside money to build schools. The latest argument which I have put up to the International Development Bank is that the building of schools itself gives employment, promotes the construction trade in these days when we are not needing the same expansion in hotels as we had ten years ago which fuelled our boom then.

In the Ministry of Planning we are hoping to create our own construction boom and make sure that we take up all the slack in the economy of construction workers and potential construction workers, and this in itself is a useful aim, and therefore any projects which can be encouraged to keep construction at a high pitch will be contributing towards the destruction of unemployment in Barbados and the maintenance of job opportunities at a high level. The Inter-American Development Bank is considering this argument, an over-all programme of construction being a good thing in itself, in their review of our requests for assistance in that direction. I have not so far put this to the World

Bank, but I think that those few remarks will indicate to the hon. member the lines along which this Government is thinking about capital works involving substantial constructions at Government expense over the next few years.

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

THE GRANTLEY ADAMS INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT (EXPANSION AND IMPROVE-
MENT) (EXEMPTION FROM DUTIES)
ACT, 1977

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, the general object of this Bill is to provide duty free concessions in respect of materials imported and to relieve contractors and others responsible for the expansion and improvement of the airport, namely, in building a terminal building, from duty. This is a customary type of Bill and not so long ago this Chamber passed a similar Bill in respect of the building of the Deep Water Harbour. The terms of the loans under which one receives aid from the various international and bi-lateral aid institutions are that no duties or taxes are to be paid upon the imported materials and equipment. Since as a result this is a project which is partially financed, indeed to a very large extent financed by CIDA, this Bill must be passed.

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

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

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

6.35 p.m.

On the motion of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, seconded by Hon. H. deB. FORDE, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

The clauses of the Bill were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, seconded by Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, seconded by Hon. H. deB. FORDE, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

THE EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN, YOUNG PERSONS AND CHILDREN (AMENDMENT)
ACT, 1977

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I do not think, and I hope, that this Bill will cause much anxiety to members on the other side, since it is a carry-over of the provisions to amend the Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act.

The purpose of this Bill, however, is more or less to relax the restrictions which for many years have been placed upon the employment of women in industry, and to more or less introduce the shift system which is already in force and to make sure that persons who are working, and in particular women, and men, will have the right to certain privileges such as making sure that they get home at night, transportation wise, proper facilities, and also to make sure that they have adequate intervals for rest and meal time as granted by their employers.

As far as young children are concerned, this Bill would make it clear that a child would be under the age of 15 and a young person under the age of 18, and it would be within the power of the Ministry through the Chief Labour Officer to give a certificate to make sure that these regulations which take care of this amendment will be carried out.

It has been before the Cabinet of the last administration some time in 1976. The Barbados Workers' Union, the Employers' Confederation and the National Union of Public Workers have all made their comments, and all that we have done is to make a few modifications to the Bill. It has already been looked at very carefully by the Attorney General's Office — and I have great respect for the present Attorney General — and I would think that if any of the members on the other side would like to ask anything or make any contribution to this Bill they are quite at will to do so.

There is also another point, Mr. Speaker. Many years ago a parent or guardian would force a child under the age of 15 to go out and work. We have protected that child by including a penalty clause, because there are people who can be ruthless. We are not saying that they are going to do this, but it is a matter of protecting the child, because we feel that a child under the age of 15 should be in school preparing itself for tomorrow's adulthood and therefore we have put in that penalty clause to protect the child.

The Bill would therefore repeal the Act which since 1938 was brought to Parliament, and then in 1967 when International Scientific Limited came into Barbados they were the ones who more or less drew to the attention of the former administration the necessity for having this type of legislation, because it was on the introduction of ISL working the two shift system where they had drawn to the attention of the Chief Labour Officer that they were employing women at that time, and under the Act of 1951 women were not allowed to work.

The International Labour Organisation Convention 89 provided also, Sir, that any woman working at that time did not have the protection the Act at that time had required. I think this has been thrashed out in the last parliament, it came back to us and we made a few amendments. There is a letter which is signed by Mr. Greaves on behalf of the Barbados Workers' Union, and I am quite willing to assist the hon. member with anything I can help him with.

I know the Leader of the Opposition is not in his seat now, but his back may be a bit sore from the blows which have been delivered today. That is the mood of Parliament, sometimes it is like the turbulent seas and other times as still as the waters of a lake, and I do not envisage any problems with this Bill. If there is anything that the other side wishes to know about, I have the file and I am quite willing to assist them.

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

6.45 p.m.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I second the Bill and reserve my right to speak.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to make a brief comment on the Bill. In his introduction of the Bill the hon. Minister made reference — I think he said that you refer to a person under 15 years as a child. I think that there is a conflict there, because what is the objective of raising the school leaving to 16 and then you define a child as a person under the age of 15, making it possible for those both between 15 and 16 to go out and work. I want you to bear in mind that the need for making that attendance at school age compulsory, and if it is pursued....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: If I could assist the hon. member, the compulsory age is defined in the Education Act, and I do not think that this

should pose any problem. If there are any fears you can surely be relieved of any such fears since it is defined in the Education Act.

Dr. CADDLE: I am only drawing to your attention that the school leaving age was raised to 16; and judging from the trend of recent discussions on Education, it seems obvious that at some time you would have to make the school leaving age compulsory. One would presume that if you make the school leaving age compulsory you will have to do it not only at the primary level, but also at the secondary level. If that is the case, you will expect that you will make it compulsory for children of the age of 16 to attend school.

So therefore, what is the necessity for defining a child as someone under 15 and not under 16? You have a gap there between 15 and 16, where a child may want to go out to work. We have to rationalise the situation. Let us have an age of 16 either for employment of children or as the compulsory school leaving age. If you have two ages which are not identical, you will have problems at some future time, and you will have to come back in here and amend either the Education Act or this present Act.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, you will remember that when we were in Opposition we always criticised the Government for not bringing down an appropriate Bill to ventilate the employment of persons generally in Barbados. I believe that we in developing countries have taken too much from developed countries which is now restraining our development; and it is time that we take a new look at employment and certain other factors in Barbados so that we can as quickly as possible become a more developed territory.

I welcome this Bill. I have had several thoughts about such a Bill for many years. The Bill requires that you attempt to remove certain strictures which were placed on the employment of persons in Barbados. It will now be possible for the clothing industry and other industries to operate 24 hours a day. I have always said that because of these strictures — the last Government was blind to what they were doing. You cannot invite industrialists to Barbados, you cannot talk about industrialisation, about the bringing in of machinery and using it for only eight hours a day and letting it lie down for 16 hours a day. The depreciation cost of the equipment is the same whether it is worked for one hour a day or 24 hours a day; and therefore the final output must bear a price factor equivalent to the depreciation cost.

If you can operate a factory for 24 hours a day, the ultimate position is that the product out of that plant must cost less because it is spread over a greater area than if you have a working period of only eight hours out of 24 hours. This brings me to something which has been burning my heart for a number of years. In Barbados I believe that we lose too many man hours through what I call innocent dishonesty. That is a complicated term. When we look at what happens in this country, girls employed at the Harbour Industrial Site or at Wildey have to get to work at 8 o'clock. She has probably three quarters of an hour or an hour for lunch. Where she is working the factory closes at 8.30 so she catches a bus to get to St. Joseph some time in the night.

The stores in Bridgetown open at 8 o'clock, employees have an hour lunch and they close at 4.30. So for the girl who works at Wildey to go into Bridgetown to buy something, she has to be out for an hour; or the girl working in Pinfold Street or Roebuck Street has to tell her mate to cover for her. Do not let the boss know where I have gone. I have to run into town and buy a pair of shoes. So she loses an hour. The same thing happens to the woman working in Broad Street. If she has something to buy she has to run out for a little time to buy something from the supermarket.

Now, it is time that people in Barbados regulate their business, and I would like to see many services regulate their business so that people who have to work between 8 and 4.30 can leave work at 4.30 and go home and have a bath and come back and shop at 8 o'clock, 10 o'clock and 11 o'clock at night. I would like to see the business places in Bridgetown using two shifts and employing more people. I would like to see the industrial estates employ three shifts and run their machinery 24 hours a day. I believe that it would be for the benefit of the whole of Barbados. I believe that we would increase employment in Barbados and that there will be no justification or excuse for anyone to say that they had to run out and buy something because the stores and supermarkets close at the same time that their work places close.

I think it is time that we begin to look at developments which are not appropriate in Barbados instead of copying things from developed countries. As you will well know, places like Jamaica and Guyana have closed their exports from Barbados, and we have to look for business from Europe and elsewhere the only way

we can do that is if our production costs are equivalent to places like Singapore and places like that. Then I believe we will be able to compete.

I would wish to hear the union's views on this development because it affects the development of Barbados; and I believe that the Union itself should think of conditions in the factory and join hand in hand with the Government and try to extend work production in Barbados because the more people are employed, the bigger the membership of the union should be.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, sometimes it is good to listen to the hon. member for St. Joseph because, as I have indicated, it would seem as if he is one of those members who the more he talks the more he demonstrates his lack of knowledge of what he is talking about.
6.55 p.m.

When you take, for example, the point which he made about the workers in the industrial estates being guilty of innocent dishonesty, to use his words, and indicating, for example, that they take time off, or ask for time off to go into town to shop, I think this displays a crass misunderstanding of how a factory and how the industrialisation situation operate. I believe that the Minister who has responsibility for that and who, I believe, has gone into factories would be able to give some enlightenment on this. When you are on a factory floor it is extremely difficult – it is not a question of hopping out and hopping back in, it is not the kind of clerical work situation where you can beg for five or ten minutes to step out and come back. This would throw the whole operation of things out of gear. I am sure that the Minister should be made aware of that.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of elucidation. I wonder if the hon. member for St. Lucy understands what I have said?

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Lucy must take his seat.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: I said, Mr. Speaker, that the question of somebody working in Pinfold Street or elsewhere having to beg for an hour to run to town to shop, the person in town has to beg for an hour to run somewhere else.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your point has been taken.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: I have not specifically with factory workers alone.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minister's point has been taken.

Mr. GREAVES: Okay. The records, I am sure, will show what you have said. Mr. Speaker, when we further listen to the hon. member for St. Joseph, and this is going to be the last point I will pick him up on, I think that we are operating under a misconception here. It is a fallacy which, I am sure, is going to be proven and established in the process of time. To say that a factory which is open 24 hours a day will necessarily bring down production cost, in my view, is a fallacy.

Mr. Speaker, when one looks at this Act that we are seeking to amend here, there are a number of features to which, I think, we should pay attention. You would appreciate that this Act seeks to repeal the employment of women, young persons and children Act. That is an Act which, I believe, was on the Statute Book from about 1938. We are now putting in its place an Act which is called the Employment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1977. This is significant. It is significant because in the new legislation which is before us you will see that the Act deals not only with young persons, children and women, but the employment of persons generally. This is something that we should look at very carefully. It, therefore, throws open this whole question of employment. I think it is time that the Government state a definite policy on this particular matter because this is of a general nature, since we are talking in terms of the miscellaneous provisions under employment.

Now, let me demonstrate a number of areas that I am talking about because this is fundamental, and it is going to introduce, probably, some important changes in the whole system of employment in this country. I would just like, Mr. Speaker, to make the point which has been made, and it is a criticism which we made against the last Government that sometimes the haste in which parties as a whole generally seem to rush in to bring down legislation with a view to satisfying employers to bend over backwards to accommodate industrialists without paying as much attention, as we consider should be paid, towards the human element. I am speaking now, Mr. Speaker, as an individual and as a representative of a workers' organisation. I am sure that you are aware that our voice has never been silent on this particular matter

comes to the question of
ad of employment relative
y in this country.

we have to examine this matter very
from the point of view of what it is
mean for people who will be called upon
work whether it is at night, right through the
night, late in the night, as the case may be. As
has been provided for in this Act, there is
provision here for an employer ensuring that
adequate transportation — at least the Chief
Labour Officer ensuring that adequate
transportation is made available for transporting
employees to their workplace and to their homes
within a reasonable time after work.

Now, the original draft which came talked
about adequate public transportation. I would
take the point that to have adequate
transportation is, probably, an even wider
provision than adequate public transportation
because we have seen very clearly, for example,
that the public transportation system is unable to
cope with the very serious demands which are
placed on it now. It cannot even handle the
problems which arise in the day, and this would,
therefore, bring me to the point, Mr. Speaker,
that we have to look at this in a very serious
manner from the point of view of ensuring that
not only should we try to have a transportation
system, public or otherwise, which will cater to
the needs and to the desires of the people who
have to get to work, whether it is in the morning
or at night, and to get from work whether it is in
the evening or late at night.

Mr. Speaker, as you are undoubtedly aware,
and I am sure that the Minister of Labour is
aware of this, at present the people are
experiencing tremendous difficulties in getting
public transportation from work in the evening.
This is very important. I am saying that the
transportation system should be improved and we
should ensure that proper provision is made for
this. I have made the point that when we are
talking in terms of adequate transportation it is a
greater concession and a better provision than
was in the original draft.

Now, the Chief Labour Officer has fairly
wide powers under this Act. I would like, Mr.
Speaker, to make what I consider to be a very
important point relative to that Department,
because if the Chief Labour Officer is going to be
vested with the powers to deal with the kind of
problems and to issue the certificates for an
employer to operate, then we have to be sure
that that Department is properly staffed and that
it has the kind of staff with which it will be able

to cope with these problems and to appreciate
the difficulties which workers will experience, so
that they will not just rush off and give a
certificate willy-nilly. I would hope that the
Minister, in addition to ensuring that the Chief
Labour Officer exercises as much care and
attention as possible in this, would examine the
matter very carefully to ensure that adequate
provisions are made to ensure that people are not
taken advantage of and exploited in this
particular regard.

7.05 p.m.

It is quite possible that in the absence of a
very careful analysis and a very careful check and
balance in this particular situation, that it could
get out of hand. There is no doubt, Mr. Speaker,
that the Labour Department is badly understaffed
in a number of areas; I have indicated this on
more than one occasion and so has the hon.
member for Christ Church West. It is such a
crucial department that it is a pity that
Governments have not seen the necessity for
building up a corps of highly trained people who
are capable of dealing with the problems with
which this department has to deal, because if you
are going to talk in terms of industrial relations
and what it means for the stability of this
country, we have to recognise the crucial and
pivotal role which this department and which an
adequately trained staff which is aware of the
problems can play in dealing with the problems
which will arise from time to time, and the value
which this means for having a stable and
industrial relations climate in this country.

If I may go on a little further in my general
observations on the Bill, I would like to make the
point that when the Barbados Workers' Union was
asked to make comments on the Bill, we did so. It
is true that we have seen some alterations which
indicated that some of the comments which we
made were taken into consideration; but there are
others which were not taken into consideration
and we would like to suggest to the Minister that
some consideration should be given to those
suggestions. In the section which deals with the
Labour Officer or one of those people with
authority to go and examine the business place of
an employer who might be employing people at
this time, where at present the law says that within
forty-eight hours the Chief Labour Officer or any
person authorised by him should go in, I am
suggesting that this should be amended and should
be reduced to 24 hours, because we know the kind
of situation we are dealing with in Barbados where
people sometimes have a way of covering up any
kind of mistakes or problems which might be
complained of, and this I submit is an amendment
which should be looked at very carefully.

I would further want to underscore the point, Mr. Speaker, which was made by the hon. member on this side who preceded me on the question of fifteen. As has been pointed out, the Act makes provision for a child under the definition which says that the age is fifteen, and yet you have a situation, and I think the Minister should take this point, where the school leaving age has been raised to sixteen, and it might mean a consequential amendment to the Education Act, because as I said, a child is defined as a person under the age of fifteen. (*Asides*) You might have a different Act, but I am talking about page 2 which has a definition of a child as a person under the age of 15. I do not know if we are using the same Act.

However, Mr. Speaker, the other point I would like to make is on this whole question of the approach to employment and the creation of employment in this country, and to make the general point that we should in our industrial relations drive ensure that people who come into Barbados are told in no uncertain terms that they have got to pay workers proper wages.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has more time, but he must stop at this point.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting now stands suspended until 8.00 p.m. today.

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed. On the suspension the hon. member for St. Lucy was addressing the Chair.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I will not be long in winding up. If I remember correctly, when we took the dinner break I was on the point of the Labour Department and the staffing and I was indicating the need to upgrade the staff at that department. I would like to reiterate the point which I had made in here already, that is, that the Labour Department it would seem has been the dumping ground for a lot of useless people within the Civil Service, and I would want to underscore the very crucial role which this department has to play within the whole industrial relations situation.

I would like to point out that as far as this Bill is concerned one notices that on page 9, in section 18(1) there seems to be some very far reaching responsibilities which are going to be placed on Justices of the Peace, and I was trying to get some idea of the scope and powers of Justices of the Peace under our particular system

which we have operating here, but I have not been able to get it from the Clerk. I really wonder whether or not some of the Justices of the Peace that we have will be able to cope with this particular responsibility. I am not trying to cast any aspersions on the quality of some Justices of the Peace, but I think you will appreciate that both parties have appointed Justices of the Peace who might not be able to deal with certain problems which might come before them as the occasion arises. I just thought I would want to indicate this is a very serious piece of legislation, and I would hope that the people who have the responsibility for policing this kind of legislation and for taking action will definitely take action. I do not think that the Labour Department, the Port Manager or any of the people who are charged with the responsibility of hauling an employer before the Court if he contravenes any provision of this Act should allow opportunities to go abegging, because as I said, we have got to have a situation where employers are made to understand in no uncertain terms that they cannot take advantage of that situation, and I would hope that the teeth which are written into this legislation will be taken into consideration.

I would also refer, Mr. Speaker, to the whole question of employment and a policy or rather a lack of policy which one sees on this whole question of employment. This is crucial for our development and I think we have got to sit down very carefully and analyse and try to work out a strategy for solving the unemployment situation in this country. We heard for example recently the Chairman of the Industrial Development Corporation calling for powers to allow him as Chairman of the I.D.C. the power to appoint to certain positions with responsibility people at a particular salary range without having to be confined by the salaries that exist within the public service. I would like to get a definite statement from the Minister or from the Government on the attitude to wages, whether or not the Government appreciates the point that workers should enjoy proper wages, and every effort should be made to ensure that employers and investors who come to this country are made to understand in no uncertain terms (1) that there is a Trade Union movement which operates here; (2) that there is a collective bargaining which takes place and it has got to be recognised; and (3) that proper wages which would enable people to enjoy the basic requirements of living are the principles on which our industrialisation and employment policies and programmes will be based.

8.05 p.m.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I am very glad to see that it appears that this Bill will be completed tonight. This Bill is a Bill which has a long history, and for the life of me I could not understand why it was not brought before the House and the Other Place before, because it is an essential piece of legislation to do away with an outmoded idea about women in our society.

There is no restriction, as I understand it, at the present moment relating to men and it has been well accepted nowadays that the fairer sex does not need any extraordinary protection by virtue of the fact that they were the fairer sex. It is therefore not surprising that so early in the regime of this Government, and in consonance with our acknowledged policy to remove discrimination between men and women, that this Bill was brought. There is no doubt that we have an unemployment problem in Barbados, and the problem has been compounded in recent years by the fact that we have been unable because of immigration restrictions abroad to take advantage of the opportunities for our young people which hitherto we were able to take advantage of. It means therefore that within this community we must redouble our efforts to create employment opportunities in Barbados.

It is known also that part of the strategy of leaders in the developed countries in the world is to see to it that industrial development takes place in their respective countries, and this is a movement that has been going along for a long period of time. Of late, as a result of the pressure put up by Third World Countries, more and more opportunities have been created in respect of certain types of industrial projects to export to the more developed countries. As part of the ACP/EEC/Lome Convention additional opportunities have been created here in Barbados, as part of the under developed world under the generalised system of preferences more opportunities have been given to export some products to other countries who acceded to that Convention, but, Sir, in the areas in which we have these opportunities it is recognised that if a real breakthrough is to take place our industrialists face the challenge of being able to fulfil orders in quantities far greater than hitherto they were accustomed to producing. These are facts and it behoves us therefore to look at the manufacturing constraints that we have in our country.

I am a firm believer, and I always have been, in the fact that the Barbadian is an intelligent person, a trainable person, and a person who with proper motivation will indulge in production as

equal to any other country, and I am glad to see that many people who have come here not only during the former BLP regime, but also during the regime of the Democratic Labour Party, have been able to say that it is their experience that the workers in this country are as productive and as capable of being trained as workers in any other country.

One of the principal reasons, other than the one spoken of previously, for bringing this Bill is to enable manufacturers to work within a system which permits them, as the Minister of Agriculture has said, to take advantage of the best utilisation of their machinery. That is one of the principal objects of the Bill. In view of the fact that we do not have at the present moment an ideal, although an improving, transportation system, and in view of certain observations made as to possible problems surrounding the working conditions of workers, certain protective provisions have been included in the Bill to ensure that the workers receive adequate protection in relation to any problems that may arise from transportation and things of that kind.

I have not heard anybody criticise the principle of the Bill, nor have I heard anybody criticise the protective provisions. There have been one or two comments on certain aspects of the drafting, so to speak, of the Bill, but I want to assure the hon. member that we recognise on this side that one of the primary functions of this Government at this particular time must be to do everything possible to create more employment opportunities, and I believe that is the view of the other side. I believe that we are really working along a consensus of this. Every time we move from our homes we see people sitting down, people standing up, people in groups who could well if given an opportunity be employed, so what we have to do is to continue this analysis or constraint, continue to try to motivate people who work to increase their productivity and at the same time I do not think the hon. member need have any fear, this Government when it was in Opposition, when it was previously in power, has always made it clear that it is the policy of this Government to accept Trade Unions, to recognise the importance of Trade Unions in Barbados. Indeed, this Government has a long record of participating in the establishment of Trade Unions in Barbados, and a proud history too, and in addition to that our policy has always been clear that we do not accept the view that in the year of our Lord 1977 workers can be exploited; and therefore it has always been our policy to see that just and fair wages are paid to workers, so do not let us have any argument over

that, because nobody is going to believe anybody if they say that the Labour Party is in favour of people coming and hiring people and not paying them adequate wages.

In addition to that, as to the question of the recognition of Trade Unions, part of the forms that have been devised under the Industrial Incentives Act, part of the questionnaire makes it very clear that the Government of Barbados' view, both the last Government and this one — and we have not changed the forms — that it is our view that a person has a constitutional right to belong to a Trade Union.

8.15 p.m.

I do not know of any case where it can be said that at any time we have done anything to give the view or put forward the view, or lead anybody into the view that trade unions are not part and parcel of the society of this country. I think that this Bill will help create additional opportunities for the reasons which I have given. I hope that our manufacturers will recognise that there is a limitation under the terms of the CARICOM Agreement, and because some of the other territories have balance of payments difficulties.

As I have said publicly, CARICOM is something more than a trade relationship; and we have established our protests against restrictions. We have gone further. We have arranged meetings with the manufacturers and the Ministers of Guyana and Jamaica. I have circulated a list of the specific products banned by Jamaica, and we are trying to establish a dialogue to see how the licensing requirements within the parameters of the balance of payments problem that they have can be applied so that CARICOM manufacturers can get avenues for their exports.

I am very glad to see that in a speech that Sir Arthur Lewis made in Jamaica, as reported in the "Gleaner", he pointed out that one of things that the developing world must remember is that they must do everything in their power, particularly those countries which are members of the ACP, to take advantage of the opportunities which are there by the existing treaty. For after all what are we talking about? We are talking about a market in terms of remains.

We also have to remember that we are competing in textiles and things of that sort with countries like Taiwan, Korea and other areas, and also with some African territories where trade unions are not as strong a base in these territories as it is in ours. Therefore what we have to

remember is that our productivity has got to be increased to keep up these costs.

I am not saying that the trade unions are wrong; because you have got to negotiate your wage rate in this community in the context of the cost of living in this community, and in the context of standards that can be accepted. We can compete with them by our productivity and greater utilisation of our plants and things of that nature. So I do not say that because they pay lesser wages that we cannot compete with them. I say that we have to make ourselves more efficient. That is the point I want to stress, and that is the point I want the hon. member for St. Lucy to remember, that whatever we do in this world, whether we are socialist, communist, conservative or anything, if you are in the export market you have got to compete; and therefore our efforts have got to be directed, and so organise our business, and so motivate our manufacturers and the people in the factories themselves to produce so as to be able to compete.

I hope that all of us will lend our hand towards this simple economic fact. This is a hard world that we are living in and there is hard bargaining. There is fierce competition. There are competitors who claim to have a different philosophy, but who as a fact have conditions in their country which we would not tolerate in ours, which we will not tolerate in Barbados because we believe in the right to dissent and the right to have a trade union. So those are the matters that we have to take into consideration and to get our people to understand simple facts.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, as I understand the principle of this Bill, it aims at the greater maximisation of plant and machinery, with a view to the greater maximisation of productivity. It aims at removing some of the discriminatory practices where women were discriminated against in this country in terms of their not being able to work at night — women and young people.

There are, in my view, several aspects of this Bill which extend the Parent Act which originally had seven sections. I have no doubt, as the hon. member for St. Lucy said, that it takes into account representations made by the Union. I am particularly happy to see that in Clause 8 (2) the principle of consultation has been enshrined in the Bill. I am perhaps somewhat concerned that it gives the Minister a discretion to the extent that he "may" consult. One would like to see in the future legislation of a more mandatory nature where the Minister will have a duty to consult.

It is, I think, a step in the right direction, but there are one or two aspects of the Bill that I am not clear about; and I would like the Minister to give me some clarification. In Clause 4 it says that the Chief Labour Officer — and I endorse the opinion of the hon. member for St. Lucy...

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that the hon. member for St. Philip North will have ample opportunity when the Bill goes into Committee to speak on the aspects which he has now mentioned.

Mr. SIMMONS: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I was commenting on Clause 8. Without going into specifics, it provides that the Chief Labour Officer must satisfy himself that there are three conditions that are specified. What I am a little concerned about is the burden of having adequate transport facilities placed on employers. I wonder if we can look forward to perhaps an extension of the transportation facilities of the Public Transport System to supplement this so that the workers at night would be assured of either public or private transport as a means of getting home. I am not calling for all night buses, but will we see an extension of transport facilities, let us say, until 2 o'clock in the morning, and whether or not the Transport Board can take care of that?

In terms of Clause (b) the employer again is asked to provide facilities for meals. For someone working until 2 o'clock in the morning it is all right to have a meal; but what about the cooking facilities for providing the meals?

8.25 p.m.

What provisions will there be for shops and snackettes and so on to be opened at a time when the workers at that hour can get something to eat? These are only things that have come to me from a reading of the Bill, and it seems to me that they will have to be further co-ordination of other aspects of labour legislation. This is one part, shops and snackettes, and whatever legislation deals with them will have to be co-ordinated to ensure that beyond the provision of the physical structure for a rest room, or for facilities for eating, the actual eats are available to the worker at the hours in the night when he is asked to work.

Let me begin by saying that I am satisfied with the provision of the Bill which calls for the keeping of a register in Clause 9, but what happens if the man does not keep a register? There appears not to be any sanction. The Act is deficient to that extent. I have searched the Bill

to find a sanction and I cannot, and it is brought to my attention because of a recent case I had with the Hilton Hotel. They are supposed under the Companies Act to keep a register of members, directors, and so on. We called on them to produce the register of members and they refused to do so. There is a provision in the Companies Act to take them to court, but there is no provision under this Act for failing to keep a register. There is a mandatory duty here, "shall keep a register." If they do not keep one, what can the Government do? Not a thing. It seems to me that that may be a lacuna in this law, and I draw it to the Minister's attention at this stage in case it can be amended later on.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I thank the hon. member for his comments, but I must say there are misplaced. I do not think the duty of the Legal Officer to the Government is to explain these little matters in details. It is not possible in an Act to make provision for every eventuality that every hon. member may think about. We can provide that the employer should provide for buns, but one night there may not be buns available to feed the staff and it would not be possible to feed them. Any legislation must contain what is obviously reasonable conditions, and it must be within the realm of commonsense to understand that a Chief Labour Officer will not, of course, issue a certificate, or continue his certificate, for an establishment that is not having adequate facilities for feeding workers. The three conditions laid down have been laid down at the request of the Barbados Workers Union, after representations which they have made on these particular issues, and the legislation has been clarified in keeping with model legislation in Canada and elsewhere, and I assure the hon. member that the points he has made under Section 4 have been taken into account.

In so far as Section 9 is concerned, the hon. member must also look at the provision of Section 15. There are two sanctions: one is that at any time it will be open to the Chief Labour Officer to withdraw his certificate, if he feels the Act is not being complied with, and, secondly, if you fail to register in those circumstances you are guilty of an offence under the Act and liable on summary conviction to \$1,000 or imprisonment. The hon. member may not agree with my interpretation of the legislation. He is quite entitled, if he ever gets the opportunity, to test it in court. That is the interpretation which my Department puts on it, which the Chief Parliamentary Counsel puts on it, which I, as

Attorney General, put on it, and I am satisfied that it is adequate. If the hon. member could do a better job, then become Attorney General and draft the law.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, surely you can see when the legal luminaries come together the danger all the time in these bits of legislation. The Learned Attorney General has offered his Ministry to anybody who needs it, if he thinks he can do the job as well. This is how we operate on this side. This is democracy at work. We are here to differ. That is how we operate on this side. They may feel on the other side that this is a clash. It is not a clash of personality, but a clash of brain.

Mr. Speaker, I have taken note of the comments from the hon. member for St. Lucy, but I must confess that I am not satisfied with his comment when he made reference to the Labour Department as a dumping ground for the dregs of the Civil Service. I am not going to accept that coming from any hon. member in here that any civil servant is a dreg and that there is a particular area where there is a dumping ground in the Civil Service. No more can you say that the Court is the dumping ground for the Ministry of Legal Affairs. I think the problem is that at the Labour Department the persons who originally administered the Labour legislation in this country saw the Labour Department as a place where they did not recognise the workers. I believe it was the bounden duty of the Union to have kept any Government in power at that time on their toes to make sure that there is proper policing of the Labour Department by having proper civil servants working there. You cannot come in here and tell me that Mr. Frank Odle, who was a Permanent Secretary, was a dreg in the Civil Service. Neither would I accept that Professor Don Blackman, now Ambassador to the United Nations and who worked in the Labour Department, could be dreg in the Civil Service. You must find places for people to work in the Civil Service, but what happened is that the former Labour Minister never saw the Labour Department or the Labourers as a whole as people who were worthy of their salt. That lies squarely on the shoulders of the Union.

Now, the Barbados Labour Party will have to take credit for being the party who fought the battle and were the champions of the workers in this country from 1938 until this very day. This legislation was hanging around on the desk of the former Minister of Labour for almost seven years. It was in 1967 when International Scientific Limited drew this to the attention of the former

administration and they should have brought in this type of legislation long ago.

I do not want to hold up the House much longer, Mr. Speaker. I know that we have to go into Committee, and I dare say we can do a number of things Clause by Clause. My colleague on the back bench made reference to meals. I will have to differ from him on this. If I had to come to work at eight o'clock at night — they say you must provide somewhere for them to rest and an eating place. I would go at Gwen Workman and buy two ham-cutters and a Ju-C and carry to work. Do you think I would wait until somebody came there to decide who would cook and who would serve the food to me? Barbados is a small country, and we cannot run away with these fancy ideas that we are a highly industrialised country; we have a 24-hour shift with people working behind the canteen counters all the time, and so on.

8.35 p.m.

When this legislation gets its passage tonight, there is provision in the legislation for a place to rest and a place to eat. There will be proper transport not only with the advent of the buses which the Minister of Communications and Works set out to bring to this country, but the people who employ workers must make sure that they provide adequate transportation, not public transportation. If they decide to rent a bus to carry people home, that is a matter entirely for them. It is the Chief Labour Officer who must make sure that before they do this they are certain beyond a shadow of doubt that these provisions are well taken care of.

On the comments about attitudes of workers and employers, I want to say this squarely off the bat. Many people run down employees. I know there are some ruthless employers in this country. I know one who is coming up to me just now with the Union, and I can tell him that I will run him out of my office. I have a bull pizzle for him. I know he is a ruthless, wicked employer. In the meantime you have some very bad employees. (*Asides*) You bring him up to my office. You don't worry who it is! I may lick you too. I want to say there are some employees who are not prepared to work. I have heard this problem about unemployment in Barbados. I know there are a number of jobs in Barbados that can be done by Barbadians, but they would rather go to the United States of America and harvest apples and canes rather than harvest their own products, because there is a social stigma to work in farmlands. Now you would not find an American come here to cut canes, but the

Vincentians would cut canes in their home town or in Barbados. I met some Vincentians in the States posing as Barbadian farm workers. I went into the camp and asked to see the Barbadians and when they were shown to me I heard names like Monzanzoon, Venalilable and so on. I said these were not Barbadians. People from St. Vincent are getting on the scheme and Barbadians refuse to do the work, and you talk about high unemployment. I agree there is high unemployment here, but there are a number of jobs that can be done in Barbados that Barbadians refuse to do because of this old time stigma that a person went to Combermere School or to Kay's Academy, and the mothers telling them a lot of nonsense about having gone to secondary school and that they cannot do this. I am not in that. I have worked about Bridgetown and I am now serving in the highest office in the land, and I am proud of them; but this fancy idea that you must work with a pen is foolishness.

I offered a job to a particular man and he told me straight off that he was not in that. I asked him what he wanted to do and he told me I would know, he wanted something cool. I asked him when he said cool what he meant, and he said like selling gas, so that if you do not come to buy gas he does not have to get up and can play his transistor. That is a man thirty-five years old with a wife and two children, and he wants something cool. I offered to send him on the farm labour programme to Canada and he said he was not interested in that, but his girl friend has got a job at a hotel in St. Lawrence, paying 25 cents bus fare which I know is not a realistic figure, and let the public understand this now, that any time the Minister of Communications and Works comes down here — and I hope he brings it soon....

Mr. SPEAKER: All right! We will come to that later.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, do not tell me about coming to that later. This has a provision for adequate transportation, so do not try to throw a spanner in my works. I have to come to what later? I am dealing with the provisions of the Bill, and you are telling me about coming to something later. Do you want to get into the debate? I was in here with you from 1966; this is no child you are dealing with!

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the hon. member please take his seat and discontinue his speech.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I will discontinue my speech and take my seat.

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

On motion of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN seconded by Hon. H. deB. FORDE, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to deal with this Bill in parts.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If there is no objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted.

Part 1 was called.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Part 1 stand part.

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

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I understand that you are dealing with this in parts. Is it necessary for the Clerk therefore to be saying "Part 1, Clauses 1 and 2"?

Now under Clause 2 there is section (d) that I would like some information on. Since we are dealing essentially with industrial undertakings in this Bill, and I was assuming all along that the Bill seeks to upgrade provisions for people who are working with industry, section (d) seems to be rather wide-ranging and talks about any undertaking the Minister prescribes. I believe we are due for an explanation on this section, and I am a little worried because it would seem that if we are taking into consideration and bearing in mind that the Act when it is passed will be entitled "The Employment (Miscellaneous Provision) Act, 1977", then one could reasonably interpret this section to include any area of occupation; so I was wondering whether it would not be necessary to again indicate in (d) any industrial undertaking which the Minister prescribes to at least reflect the nature of the legislation we are dealing with and try to indicate the parameters of this kind of legislation.

Mr. TAITT: Before the Attorney General replies, there is one point here. The descriptive clause in 2(b) bears out the point my colleague from St. Lucy made. You will see, Mr. Chairman, that section 2(b) talks about any undertaking in which articles are manufactured, altered, cleaned... I think in industrial terms we know

what they mean, if in fact there is a cleaning process as part of the manufacturing or processing, but in the context of what my colleague said, you might wish to pay particular attention to this nomenclature used here, because technically it now means that anyone who is working in an enclosed area who might be doing nothing else but cleaning could still fall under here unless you have some provision, but I am sure the Attorney General will explain it.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The construction of the words "industrial undertaking" is expanded in a way by using the phrase "includes" rather than "means" and it includes various things; but the phrase is governed by the words "industrial undertaking" and the construction of clause (d) falls under the legal rule of what we call the rule of *eius dem generis*, they must be of similar undertakings as have gone before, and therefore there is sufficient safeguard within the legislation here for the objections raised by both hon. members. It would not just be a cleaning exercise unless it is part of an industry as such.

8.45 p.m.

It would not just be a cleaning exercise unless it is part of an industry as such, and likewise it cannot be an undertaking prescribed by the Minister unless it relates to industry itself.

The question that Part I stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Part II, Clauses 3 to 6, was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Part II stand part.

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

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I think I will take this opportunity to clear up a misconception of the Hon. Minister when he indicated, at least in his reply to some points which I made about the Labour Department, about the responsibility which he considers the Barbados Workers' Union had for drawing to the attention of the past Government the general low level of performance of the Labour Department.

I am sure that the Hon. Minister during the time that he sat on the Opposition benches — and I believe that as the shadow Minister of Labour would have been following very closely comments which were made by the Barbados Workers' Union on the Labour Department, and if he were not I am sure that his friend and colleague, the hon. member for Christ Church West would draw to his attention and indeed remind him — that the Barbados Workers' Union has constantly been pointing out the problems which we saw as existing in the Labour Department, and we were constantly pointing to

the urgent need to upgrade the Labour Department, because we considered at that time, and we still consider now, that the Labour Department is a crucial department and should be staffed with in our view some of the top civil servants, because it is a very important department. When, for example — and this is not meant to be any criticism of the Chief Labour Officer — but when you get a position where the Chief Labour Officer has the responsibility not only for administering this Act but other responsibilities in the area of safety and health and welfare under the Factories Act, and other responsibilities which he has to perform from time to time, you will see that there is required for an effective and efficient carrying out of the legal duties which are required, that you need a high calibre and a high level of well trained staff for that department, and I would not have allowed this opportunity to slip without reiterating that very important point.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, there are two questions in this Part. Clause 4(3). "The Chief Labour Officer may at any time revoke his certificate issued under this section." One assumes that the Chief Labour Officer will be acting under ministerial direction, or will he be acting in his own right? As it reads here he is acting in his own right, and I am wondering if the Minister does not see the possibility of some friction. Under the Incentive legislation there are certain things which are given. The incentive legislation, as I remember it, is not specific and clear on all the requirements. This applies to an industrial undertaking and I understand that, but I am asking the Minister of Industry if from his recollection he can see a problem.

Let me tell you what I am talking about. A certain amount of discretion is involved here on the part of the Chief Labour Officer. He is going to be making a decision based on his professional experience and his knowledge. I can foresee a situation where a company which employs seven or eight hundred people finds itself in breach of this Act, according to the interpretation of the Chief Labour Officer, but according to the interpretation of perhaps the Minister of Industry or the IDC the breach is not one that would merit a withdrawal of the certificate. When the certificate is withdrawn you have a problem of a different magnitude and a different kind, and I just wondered if this has been taken into consideration when this broad power was given to the Chief Labour Officer.

Secondly, it says here "persons holding responsible positions of a managerial or technical

nature." Now this is a very broad and loose statement to say it does not apply to persons holding responsible positions of a managerial or technical nature. There are a number of new industries or new processes which will come into Barbados, the entire process of which will be technical in nature. Does the Bill intend to mean that those persons will be exempted? I think not, I think that they mean that persons of a managerial or a high technical level, in other words, those persons who will be designing, those persons who will be creating. I am sure that is what the Bill would be intending. Again you can run into problems where an industrialist will say to you, "well, my whole process is of a technical nature and therefore I am exempt from this." and I would like the Attorney General and/or the Minister or anybody else who has the answer to give some indication of what it means.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Chairman, I rise to support this piece of legislation under discussion. I have just been informed that we are on Part II, and in an attempt to be very relevant indeed I thought I would just keep my Bill before me to make sure that I have Part II before me at all times.

I particularly welcome the legislation and welcome to the fact that it is preceded by a lot of discussion by the interested parties, the Trade Unions and the employers, because we will need the full co-operation of the employers and indeed of the Trade Unions too in ensuring that this legislation is implemented in the spirit in which it was intended. It is an area that can be subject to considerable abuse, it is an area in which employers can literally exploit workers, and to that extent it was very necessary that we have safeguards written into the legislation.
8.55 p.m.

The particular safeguard that I welcome relates to the fact that before a certificate is issued that Labour Department must be sure that the facilities are available at the work place so as to make work by night tolerable; and I support fully the call made by the hon. member for St. Lucy that the Minister of Labour ensured that the Labour Department is properly staffed. That cannot be over emphasised.

Mr. Chairman, part of the difficulties in the present factories is not so much that facilities are inadequate; but the Act is not properly policed because the Labour Department is not properly equipped. Another major weakness there is that the responsibility for bringing prosecutions is a divided responsibility under the Factories Act. In

some cases the Chief Officer of Health must bring prosecutions and in other areas the Chief Labour Officer; and there is doubt as to who should bring prosecutions. We have to ensure that the Minister puts at the disposal of the Labour Department a well equipped staff so that they can go around and ensure that this part of the legislation is properly policed.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is now 9 o'clock.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I am asking that the sitting be extended for a period not exceeding 45 minutes. (*Asides*).

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. I get the feeling that it is the opinion of the House that this Bill is controversial.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I am quite sure that hon. members on this side are well aware of the fact that it will take more than 20 minutes to get this over.

Mr. TAITT rose.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House resume Committee.

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

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN resumed the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Christ Church East was on his feet. If he wishes to continue he may do so.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a few other points. One is that I hope that this legislation to permit young people to work at night will change the attitude of people to work — people who are prepared to work only from 8 until 4 o'clock but who go to the USA and work all hours of the night. I hope that we will have a change of attitude to night work that in the same way that they can work by day they can work by night.

I share the concern of the hon. member for St. Michael South West about Part II, Section 6, that this may in future provide a difficulty in its interpretation. The words used are subject to the most elastic meaning. The word "responsible",

for instance. What is responsible? Even a Clerk's job is responsible. Where does management begin and end? That too is subject to interpretation. Also what is of a technical nature is likely to provide considerable difficulty in interpretation. I hope that before we make this Bill law we can rephrase Section 6(8) so as to make it more precise and less flexible.

9.05 p.m.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I really wish to reply to the hon. members, and if I do so with a certain amount of vehemence it is because I think it is about time members of this House on both sides do their homework. The hon. member who has just spoken has pontificated like the hon. member for St. Michael West as though the phraseology of Section 6A is something new in this House. It is a phraseology that has existed in the legislation of this House....

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The member for Christ Church East, Mr. Chairman.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: If the hon. member will give way, Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The fact that it is nothing new does not mean that it is correct or it is the best.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The hon. member must know that this has come out of the International Convention and the history of that legislation....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Johnny sit down. (*Asides.*)

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: When I come in here, after spending time drafting a law and looking at it, I expect hon. members would take the opportunity to, at least, look at the past legislation, see how it has been interpreted, look at its history and genealogy, before making cheap points. The wording and phraseology of this has come exactly from ILO Convention. It is contained, for the benefit of hon. members, in Chapter 346, it existed in the legislation of Barbados already, it is well recognised in International law, it has been interpreted by many more jurisdictions, and if the hon. member will take the opportunity to do his research and homework he will understand where he can understand it. The legislation needs no change, and I do not intend, as Attorney General, to recommend any change at all whatsoever on that Section to the Minister responsible for the legislation.

In so far as the other point raised by the hon. member is concerned, I will deal with that point. The hon. member has taken a point which I think is a valid one and needs explanation as to the discretion of the Labour Officer under subsection 4(3). Now, so far as that is concerned, it is a discretionary quasi-judicial power, and he has to exercise it according to natural justice. There is always a realm for problems and difficulties, but I give the hon. member the assurance that my Department is hoping to bring down to Parliament a substantive Bill dealing with administrative justice and regulating the powers where officials have administrative discretion that they must go through the process of following administrative justice. He can only revoke it if those conditions under (a), (b) and (c) are lacking. It is a substantive criticism, but I am not listening to cheap criticisms that have no substance when you do not do your research.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I must rise on this particular part for two reasons. In the first place, the member for St. Lucy wants to tell the Minister of Labour about up-dating the Labour Department. Now I join with the Attorney General in saying that the member for St. Lucy, who is a member of the Trade Union of which he and his associate were members of the Democratic Labour Party and sat in this House for five years supporting the Democratic Labour Party, have not been able to get their political party to do anything with the Labour Department.

Now the Barbados Labour Party and the present Minister of Labour have only been in office for six months. We have tried in the limited time that we have been in office to update the laws of Barbados to create a situation whereby we can move the labour force of Barbados into action. This Bill is a Bill which is designed to get industry moving in Barbados. When his political party was in power he was not able to get the Labour Department updated.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I must rise on a point of order. My understanding of a third reading speech is, at this point, that you must confine yourself not to the general principles of the Bill, but to the details of the particular Bill. That is what I would like to get clear, Mr. Chairman, because we must have order and procedure. I ask Your Honour for a ruling as to whether that is a legitimate third reading speech.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please speak to the subject and do it quickly.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: I am dealing with Part II of the Bill which gives the Chief Labour Officer powers and which the member for St. Lucy talks about updating the Department. All I want to say is that the Minister of Labour will do all that is within his power now to get the Labour Department working whereas the previous party was unable to do it. With reference to the part where the member for St. Michael talks about certain legislation not being clear, here again he has been the Minister responsible for Trade and responsible for the trade and the incentive legislation...

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Attorney General has graciously said that the point is a valid one. The Attorney General is recognised as a lawyer. Why do we have somebody else now who might not be — I am not saying he is not.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are not making a speech. I see the point you are making. You may sit now; your point is well taken.

Mr. TAITT: How can we have him getting up now and making a political point?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That has been answered already by the Hon. Attorney General.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, he was the Minister responsible. If he was not an idiot for five years that he could not get...

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman; are you going to allow that?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair cannot have this. Will both hon. members take their seats! It is the opinion of the Chair that this has been debated sufficient. The question now is that Part II stand part.

The question that Part II stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I took your point of order. Will you, please, be seated.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, he did not withdraw saying that I was an idiot for 5 years. I cannot stay in this House and have that kind of behaviour, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will you please take your seat!

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, if you think that you will send me out because I asked him to withdraw calling me an idiot, send me out, Mr. Chairman, but I think that there has to be some regard at some point, for the principles on which this House was built.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point is taken. I would like to ask the hon. member for St. Joseph to withdraw the remark about an idiot. There are no idiots in here.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the Section has been passed.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I must confess I did not hear it, but the hon. member drew it to my attention.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, what words do you want me to withdraw?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Idiot.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: I withdraw the word "idiot", but I say if the member who spoke had operated the Act and did not know what it means, I am sorry for him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Part III, please.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Part III stand part.
9.15 p.m.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, when I spoke on the second reading I had not been aware of the provisions of section 19. It was only after I sat down that it was drawn to my attention that section 19 is the section imposing the sanction for breach of section 9. It only shows....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are talking about section 19(4).

Mr. SIMMONS: I am explaining that when I said there did not appear to be a sanction for failing to keep a register under section 9, while I was on my feet it was not pointed out by any hon. member that section 19 took care of that. It has now been drawn to my attention that section 19 is in fact the penal section for breach of section 9. It only goes to show that section 19 is so far removed from section 9 in the construction of the Act, when it could easily have been placed in there as section 10 to follow section 9. If you do not keep a register you are guilty of an offence on summary conviction up to \$1,000 or

twelve months. It could have followed section 9. They have put all the penal sections together and have you running all over the Act.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Again, Sir, the hon. member has obviously not studied drafting. If he looks at the balance of the Act he will find that the drafting and penal sections in the Act are all placed together, and it is the correct and proper form of drafting, and I must defend my department most strongly on this Bill. They have been proven right on each occasion that each hon. member has got up and spoken.

The question that Part III stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Parts IV and V were called and passed.

On motion of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, earlier today the Prime Minister intimated that he would

ask leave at a certain stage to give notice of a measure which had not come to hand at that time. It has now come to hand and I wish to give notice so that it forms part of the records.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the hon. member proceed.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve of the determination by the Minister responsible for Finance, under the provisions of section 9(2) of the Barbados Development Bank Act, Cap. 323, that the aggregate of direct and contingent liabilities of the Barbados Development Bank shall not exceed a sum equal to five times the paid-up capital of the Bank.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, that concludes Government Business for today's sitting.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 8th March, 1977, 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.
9.24 p.m.