

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION OF 1976 – 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 24th May, 1977.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.15 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour W. C. B. HINDS, J.P., (Speaker); Mr. R. St. C. WEEKES, J.P.; Hon. L. S. CRAIG, (Minister of Labour and Community Services); Hon. F. G. SMITH, Q.C., S.C., B.A., (Leader of the Opposition); Hon. H. deB. FORDE, S.C., M.A., LL.B., (Attorney General and Minister of External Affairs); Dr. R. B. CADDLE; Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD, M.A.; Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, (Minister of Health and National Insurance); Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, (Minister of Communications and Works); Mr. M. C. C. WARD; Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN, Q.C., LL.B. (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Caribbean Affairs, External Trade, Industry and Tourism and Leader of the House).

Prayers were read.

Mr. JOHNSON and Mr. GREAVES entered the Chamber and took their seats.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, 17th May, 1977.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, 17th May, 1977 be confirmed.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think I should say at this stage that it has been drawn to my attention that circulation of the Minutes has not been as thorough as we would have liked, and consequently there are hon. members who are up to the present moment not in possession of their copies. Under the circumstances I think the Leader of the House would wish to alter his motion.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I must apologise to hon. members on both sides of the House. I now beg to move that the Minutes of 17th May, 1977, be deferred. I can assure you that I will do everything in my power to see that you have your copies as soon as possible.

Mr. SPEAKER: There being no objection, confirmation of the Minutes of Tuesday, 17th May, 1977, is therefore deferred.

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Prime Minister, I beg to lay Message No. 1/1977 regarding the absence from Barbados of His Excellency the Governor-General and Lady Ward.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Parks and Beaches Commission Act.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:—

A Bill to repeal the Territorial Waters Act 1878 of the United Kingdom Parliament in so far as it forms part of the law of Barbados and to provide for the extension of the limits of the Territorial Waters of Barbados.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a motion of an Address to Her Majesty the Queen.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Question:—

To enquire of the Minister of Housing:

1. Does the National Housing Corporation propose to sell to their tenants at

Bayville in the constituency of St. Michael South housespots which those tenants rent from the Corporation?

2. If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Minister state:

- (a) what terms and conditions will apply to those sales, and
- (b) when will the housespots be conveyed to the tenants?

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, a Bill to amend the Parks and Beaches Commission Act, was read a first time.

On the motion of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, a Bill to repeal the Territorial Waters Act, 1878, of the United Kingdom Parliament in so far as it forms part of the law of Barbados and to provide for the extension of the limits of the Territorial Waters of Barbados, was read a first time.
12.25 p.m.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I seek your approval and that of the House to ask for leave from this House from May 29 to June 30, for the purpose of attending an ILO conference in Geneva.

Mr. SPEAKER: There being no objection, leave is granted.

ORAL REPLIES TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 5, asked by the hon. member for St. Michael South West is now ready.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 12, asked by the hon. member for St. Michael North Central is now ready.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 17, asked by the hon. member for St. Michael South is now ready.

Also, I beg to give notice that the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 25, asked by the hon. member for St. Lucy is now ready.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 30, asked by the hon. member for St. Philip North, is now ready.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT, 1977

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the day stands in the name of the hon. member for St. Joseph, to move the Second Reading of the Bill to revise and consolidate the law relating to weights and measures and to provide for the introduction in Barbados of the International System of Units (S.I.)

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, the object of this Bill is to consolidate the law relating to weights and measures. It is necessary for this Bill to be introduced, in order that Barbados in common with many other countries of the world will adopt the standard known as the metric system. There has been a tremendous amount of consultation with the relevant government bodies as well as with the private sector, and I am assured that the introduction of this Bill will not in any way cause any dislocation, although it must be recognized that when one changes a system of standards which were in existence for such a long time there must necessarily be some period of time for adjustment.

The general object and provisions of the Bill is that there will be a period of time in which the Imperial system and the new system will be in use concurrently and then there will be a cut off date. I understand that this cut off date which is May, 1979 is a date arrived at after the consultation I previously spoke of, and it is anticipated that the public educational programme which is necessary for so far reaching a change will in the interim be intensified.

The structure and methodology in introducing the Bill follows a pattern which has been recommended and the relevant basic structure has already been introduced in Barbados.

I am sure that hon. members of this House who are interested in education will recall that for some period of time now the children of Barbados have been taught both systems so to speak, so that they themselves will find it easier to accommodate and address themselves to the new system than people like us who were taught only the previous system. But this metric system has been so internationalized now that Barbados must join with the other nations of the

world, so that international commerce and communications can be conducted on an agreed basis with one set of systems.

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

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that at this stage Barbados is left with no alternative, since this system is being adopted by one country after another in rapid succession, and Barbados cannot hold the tide back. There is no problem with the Bill at this time but what we will have to be very careful about is a very intensive programme of education with this new system where it differs from the old system and make sure that people are well acquainted with the terms and actual measures before the Bill goes into operation, because unless people are properly educated there can be a lot of confusion. There will also be those who will say they do not see any need for it and others who will see it as an easier system to operate than the old system of *avoirdupois* in the British Commonwealth.

We support the Bill and in general support the Hon. Leader of the House in whatever programme of education that is to be used in Barbados before the Bill comes into operation.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I just want to say briefly that I understand that already in some schools the metric system has been introduced and obviously the effect of this Bill is going to cause some considerable difficulties in the use of weights and measures with the former *avoirdupois* and the imperial measure as against the metric system. It is obvious that it will take some time before the full system is known. It is expected that the system will be fully operational by May 1979, and not only will there be a full programme of educational measures to acclimatize the public to the metric system, but it is also expected that in other aspects steps will be taken from time to time to make necessary changes.

12.35 p.m.

For instance, where a mile marker is placed — the mile stone, I think they call it — this will have to be changed, and obviously the metric equivalent will be written on in kilometres, and finally, after a time the system will be that the mile will be removed completely until the people get accustomed to the changeover.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Barbados National Standards Institution. It is a very well run institution, and it

is building up a body of expertise that is becoming increasingly valuable not only in the operation of this Act, but also in making sure that there is proper control and a setting of standards in Barbados and proper protection for consumers in Barbados, and I would hope that in due course we will give some consideration to extending its jurisdiction over the field of industrial designs and other areas of intellectual and industrial property.

As I say, Sir, the measure is a very timely one, it is a very progressive measure, and it does bring Barbados very much in line with what is happening in the developing world. I want, however, to sound a note of caution to some of our producers and manufacturers. It is a mistake to believe that since we are changing the imperial measurement system that automatically the changeover will mean that wherever there is a lesser amount there must be a greater price. A yard is still a yard whether it be in kilometres, metres, centimetres, whatever you like, and the prices in relation to it must therefore not be allowed to sky rocket. I can assure hon. members that the Government will be keeping a very close watch on such developments and that is why we have set a period of two years in order to ensure a smooth transition from one system to another, and give the Minister and his officials time to monitor the changes which must inevitably result.

I am glad to see that the Hon. Acting Deputy Leader of the Opposition has given the Opposition's wholehearted support to this measure, and I am sure that that unanimity will ensure that it works properly in our country.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, having sat here and listened attentively to all that has been said about this new system, as one from among the masses I am a bit worried to know the method which will be used with people who are illiterate and people who are not acquainted with figures in general. I can only hope that some kind of system will be introduced so that the average person on the street and those who through no fault of theirs might not have been given the opportunity to assimilate book learning and yet they have to purchase commodities from the various markets, supermarkets and so on. Therefore, I do hope that some comprehensive plan, some comprehensive method of training will be done not only in the schools for children, but for adults at the various centres.

This is a matter which calls for careful consideration. To come in here and pass legislation and to keep abreast of the times speaks well for this country in that we are going

forward, and it is known that we must fit in with the changes which come about from time to time in this world, but in doing so we have to consider our people who are not well versed or qualified to calculate these various weights and so on. Let us think about the hawkers who sell potatoes, yams and so on, let us think about others who sell cabbages and various provisions and so on on the street. Those people, Mr. Speaker, could be given the opportunity to know all about this changeover before they find themselves in confusion and they find themselves either cheating themselves or cheating the customer.

I just considered it my duty to let the hon. members of this House know the various pitfalls as I see them, and I do hope, and I have no doubt that proper arrangements will be made so that all sectors of the community, including those workers who are in the lowest category be given the opportunity to know something about these various changes. It is a matter for the present Government to organise and to give the people the necessary information which I am aware that they will require before we can bring about this necessary change.

I want to say here that it has my wholehearted support, but again I must let you know the weak links in the whole system so that you can plan in the interest of the masses and that they will be in a position to know all about the various changes and be able to calculate these various weights before purchasing certain commodities.

12.45 p.m.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I too would like to give my support to this particular measure. As has been stated, this is a measure which has been under consideration for some time now. Indeed the National Standards Institute is an institution set up by the previous Government in order to come to terms with the new developments in these areas, and to provide adequate controls in the areas for which it has responsibility.

The transfer from the present system to the metric system was one of those measures which was under consideration for some time. I am grateful to the Leader of the House — I am glad to see him back. His hair cut looks somewhat German to me. He has a German look about him — but we are very glad to see him back and we do hope that this country will benefit tremendously from the Mission which he led to Germany and the other European capitals.

I am glad that he and the Learned Attorney General and my friend and colleague, the member for Christ Church West did pay some tribute to the educational system for starting a public relations programme; and I assure him that the dual system was taught in the schools so that the children could have a very early grounding in the new system to be introduced. This is the type of foresight which I hope will be continued because this is not a one shot thing. It is something which has to be continued and I do hope that that particular work will be continued.

I would like to stress the points that have been previously made, namely that an intensive public relations programme, not inside the schools, but outside the schools, must be carried on, and must be conducted. I am glad to see a young man of outstanding capacity and who has had the necessary training and possesses the necessary expertise heading such an institution. I am certain that they are fully aware of the problems and will take every step necessary to ensure that the change over is as smooth as possible.

We know that in this country, indeed as elsewhere, persons may try to take advantage of the change over in order to increase their incomes; but I hope that vigilance will be exercised and that all persons would be aware that this vigilance is there. Particularly when new measures tend to be introduced there is a lag between the actual measure and the personnel and staff provided in order to scrutinise those measures.

I see provision in this measure for an Inspector of Weights and Measures. I believe that this provision is in the existing legislation; but I would like to underline the point that any additional personnel which may be necessary in order to monitor this piece of legislation to ensure that its provisions are carried out should be provided as soon as possible; because some times we get a lag between the time a law is passed in the Chamber and the provision of staff to monitor that legislation to ensure that it is carried out to the letter of the law. So I do hope that any additional staff which may be required for administering this piece of legislation will be provided as early as possible.

Barbados, as my colleague for St. Michael North Central has indicated, is among those dwindling number of countries which still use the present system of weights and measures; and if trade between nations is to be carried out or

conducted with the minimum amount of dislocation and the greatest amount of facility possible, it is necessary that we should conform to these measures.

So this particular Bill before us is one to be welcomed. I would like to raise a question here. I do not know whether the sale of what we call in this country bottled gas falls under the area of pre-packaged goods or not; but I would like to raise this question on the floor of the House because there is a large number of people in this country who use bottled gas, whether in the small cylinders or in the 100 lb cylinders; and while for our electricity there is a meter provided — how many people can read the meter I do not know — but a meter is provided so that one can check the meter readings as certified by the officers and workers of the Barbados Light and Power Company. For our water, for those who have metered services, a meter is provided and for those who do not have meters there is a fixed charge; but for the large number of persons who use bottled gas there is no means for those persons to know whether they are getting 100 lbs or whatever is the amount of gas they should be getting, whether in the 100 lb cylinder or in the 25 lb cylinder.

It appears to be a matter of trust on the part of the purchaser as well as on the part of the vendor. Now, I am not saying that there is anything wrong or any chicanery or any little devices going on in order to deprive the purchasers of the exact amount of gas. I have no reason to believe that; but what I am saying is that in order that there can be no doubt on either side, I do hope that there will be some device instituted whereby those who are selling the gas and those who are purchasing it can be certain and can have no suspicion that they may be buying less than 100 lbs or 25 lbs, or whatever the particular weight may be. As I said, I am not making any charges in this particular matter; but I think that for good relationships to exist between those who buy and those who purchase in that type of container, I do hope that for the benefit of the consumer that some device could be instituted whereby the purchaser could know at the time of purchase that he is getting the exact amount for which he is paying.

Mr. Speaker, with those few words I give my whole hearted support to this particular measure and I do hope that the implementation will be smooth and that it will redound to the benefit of trade in this country as well as

greater confidence among those who have to buy and those who have to sell.

12.55 p.m.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, in support of this Bill, I want to make a few comments because after listening to some of the members who have spoken on this particular measure, it leaves me to think sometimes that people are not aware of certain problems that can arise from certain issues. I have listened attentively to the hon. member, who has just sat down, and he was quite happy to hear a member from this side paying tribute to the introduction of the new metric system in the schools. For some time I have been very much concerned about this because the metric system should have been advanced with a bit more rapidity in the schools.

I feel that for some time now the Government, or the people of Barbados, and in particular the former Government, knew that International organisations in the European countries were going metric and that the weights and measures which were used in Barbados would become outdated, and I would have thought that everything would have been done in the light of those facts to speed up the introduction of the metric system. It is true that by 1979 the whole transition will take place, and we have about two years in which to get the Barbadian public at large, not only in the schools, but as one hon. member has mentioned, the hawkers, the shopkeepers, the store clerks, the manufacturers, the workers, and everyone in Barbados interested in the metric system.

Some people claim that the metric system is easy. While it is true that we will be dealing with a base of 10 and some people tend to understand a fraction or a part of 100 quite easily or easier than a part of an inch, we must not forget that there are going to be some problems as expressed by the hon. member for St. Michael South. There will be the question of people asking too much for the equivalent of the old system of weights and measures. For instance, a metre is certainly longer than a yard. We will be abolishing a yard which is 36 inches, and the metre will be about 39.37 inches. In other words, the metre is by far 3.37 inches longer. The fear that the manufacturer, or the seller, would be asking the potential buyer to pay more is a joke. If the seller does not understand that, if he tries to equate a metre with a yard, he is going to find himself giving more and then he will be in for something.

What we have to consider about this new metric system is that the programme is a comprehensive one.

I am well aware that in Barbados we are short of mathematics teachers. The Ministry of Education, as well as various Ministries, will have to start a complete and comprehensive programme. We will have to train more teachers and pay more attention in the teaching of mathematics. This is an area in which we are very weak, and that is well known to all Barbadians. We will have to start in the schools, and we will have to think in terms of having teachers who will be genuinely interested in the teaching of mathematics, since it is the mathematics teachers who will be called upon to introduce the metric system and to make it an effective change over. But this is not the only thing. We have to concern ourselves, too, with the people and the shopkeepers. There are many shopkeepers who we know operate businesses in Barbados, and they are not *au fait* with certain measures. Even the old measurements beat them sometimes. What I would suggest, at this stage, is that they should be given papers with the equivalent in weights and measures. We should send them such papers so that they could actually understand and learn the new system. As I said, Mr. Speaker, if you go to some of these shops to purchase something you will find some of these shopkeepers fooling around with the weights, but they are shopkeepers after all. You go to a store and ask a girl for a yard of cloth and she will experience difficulty. I suggest that all the girls who will be working in stores selling cloth should be given training in the metric system. The Polytechnic will be assisting in this matter, and we will have a proper training scheme so that people will be acquainted with the new system.

As I said, we have to understand that we have two years and that international organisations have moved forward by using and adopting the metric system, and Barbados cannot lag behind in this matter, since we are dealing with international organisations. In supporting this Bill and in joining other hon. members who have spoken, I must confess that we have to do everything possible between now and 1979 to see that the change over is a rather smooth one. We must bear in mind that, in order for this change over to be smooth, we must start putting the emphasis on training. It is all right to have someone going around inspecting. Inspecting is one thing, but it is not the inspecting that we should be concerned with at this stage but rather the education of the

people who are actually dispensing the services to the general public. If you have an ignorant shopkeeper or retailer selling things, I believe he may very well make several mistakes and the customers may stand to lose. On the other hand, the retailer may be the one who stands to lose.

1.05 p.m.

As I said, this is a new system and its success will depend largely on the effective method and teaching and implementation. As I said we must start training people. I am rather surprised that enough training was not done over the past couple of years, because a couple of years ago the former Government knew this and they could have done something which would have speeded up the introduction of this system. I do not mind hon. members on that side talking. I am well aware that on that side there are two former Minister of Education and they did not introduce the metric system in all the schools in Barbados; they did not carry out a comprehensive programme of introducing this. Examinations were set from London on the metric system and it was not even introduced in the schools, but now they want to stay on that side and grumble. They want to have praises showered on them, but they shall not have any praises. I for one am dissatisfied that we today in Barbados are not as advanced in the metric system as we ought to be, and it comes from bad planning and a reluctance of the former administration to implement the metric system with the haste, speed and efficiency that it should have. Many children up to this year do not know what is a millimetre, what is a gram, what is a metre or what is a centimetre, and he has come in here today expecting praises to be showered on them by members on this side. There is nothing for him to be happy about because everyone knows that all the schools in Barbados....

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would give way....

Mr. SPEAKER: On what does the hon. member rise?

Mr. SANDIFORD: On a point of elucidation, I did not indicate that any praises were showered on me. I was talking about the educational system and the teachers out there, and I certainly hope he would not go on to say that I want praises showered on me.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your point is well taken.

Mr. BRADSHAW: I do not know what the hon. member who has just got up has risen on. I never said the hon. member for St. Michael South. On that side there are two former Ministers of Education.

Mr. SANDIFORD: On a point of elucidation, if the hon. member would give way; he spoke just now about ignorant shopkeepers and I hope he would not talk about other ignorant persons. There are two former Ministers of Education; one has spoken. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central has not spoken yet, so he could only be referring to me over here.

Mr. SPEAKER: There are no ignorant shopkeepers in Barbados. We may have a few shopkeepers who are not familiar with the niceties of the trade.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, I hope that the word ignorant was not taken out of context. I said ignorant to the system, and I did not refer to the people as ignorant.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, there should not be any praise to be taken by hon. members on that side because what we are doing today they had an opportunity to do, and that is why when we get up on this side and say they were bankrupt of ideas and they did not know where to go on from, today we have got a clear example that they were fooling around with the metric system. They did not know how to introduce it.

In supporting this Bill I hope that the two years in which we have got to have this system properly introduced to the people that the Barbadian public will understand that we do not intend to confuse them with any legislation or with any new system, but that we the new Government are bringing them up to date with international countries with whom we have got to deal in trade and other related matters. And as I said before, it is one that the Barbados public should understand that they should as soon as possible try their very best to acquaint themselves with the new metric system.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to get into this, but I never thought that

a little Bill like this to which the Opposition has given wholehearted support could at least generate so much heat from the hon. member for St. Michael South East. I wonder what he thinks the last Government did. It was the last Government that set up the Metric Board to look into the question of bringing Barbados into the metric system. It was the last Government that set up the Standards Institute. A matter of this nature cannot be done overnight if he thinks it can be done overnight, and to claim political glory for a simple measure which is really non-controversial, it would have been better for him if he had kept his mouth shut. The debate has been going on with people making contributions to it, but he has got to introduce a partisan and political element in something which has got to be done, which the Opposition supports and which we wish the country the best of luck and speed and support to see introduced. I hope he is teaching the metric system at Kay's Academy. Some little children cannot do yards. You will confuse some of them with the metric system. They cannot pass the common entrance examination on yards, feet and inches.

All I want to say is that a debate like this is a waste of your time, Mr. Speaker, because we are entirely in support of it, and I hate to see in a debate of this nature where no talk of partisan glory should be introduced that the hon. member for St. Michael South East has got to get up and criticise the Government which has set up the institution which has recommended to them the Bill which is before the House, and if he checks the file he will find that steps had already been taken towards drafting and bringing in a Bill in the House in due course as soon as the time was ripe and ready. That is all I have to say.

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I have great pleasure in moving that the hon. member for St. Philip act as Chairman of Committees in the absence of the hon. member for St. George North. I understand that he performed with great skill last week.

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

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

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 on the Bill.

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

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

1.15 p.m.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I am going to ask leave to the House that the Committee stage of the Bill be taken in parts.

Part I was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: In moving that Part 1 stand part I would like to correct a typographical error. After the words "international system of units" at the bottom of page 3 the word "of" appears instead of "or". The word "or" should therefore be substituted for "of". With this amendment, I beg to move that Part 1 stand part.

The question that Clause 1 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Parts 2, 3, 4 and 5 were called and passed.

The First Schedule was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: In moving that this be the first Schedule to the Bill, I would like to draw to the attention of hon. members that the minus sign appearing after the figure 10 under the definition of electric current is incorrectly placed due to a printing error. It should be 2×10^{-7} instead of $2 \times 10 - 7$. I move that subject to this correction Sir, this be the first Schedule of the Bill.

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

The question that the First Schedule as amended stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The Second and Third Schedules to the Bill were called and passed.

The Fourth Schedule was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: In moving the Fourth Schedule, it is again a matter of printing

that I would advert to and would have corrected. Wherever the figure 1,000 appears in parts 1, through 6 of the Schedule, the correct printing should be the figure 1, a space, and then the figure 1,000. It is printed correctly opposite kilometer, but incorrectly opposite millimeter, cubic decimeter, millilitre, milligram, etc. It is printed correctly at megawatt and kilowatt. But in the other places mentioned the printing is incorrect, and the correct way is a space between the 1 and the first zero. Subject to these corrections; I move that this Fourth Schedule stand part of the Bill.

The question that the Fourth Schedule as amended stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The Fifth and Sixth Schedules were called and passed.

On the 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.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill be read a third time.

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

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say this. The date which I understand has been given, the date of May, 1979, is of course the date on which transactions will become mandatory for the international system. But whenever the Bill is brought into force, the public should take notice that from that day it will be permissible to use the metric system; this date will necessarily be within the next few months and will serve to legalize certain transactions which I believe are already taking place, such as at the Pine Hill Dairy where I understand they are already selling milk according to litres. I believe this is also the case with bread.

There are certain transactions where there will be greater difficulties because of controlled prices, and controlled prices will remain for the time being in avoirdupois. But the public must realize that very soon, as early as July, the system will become concurrent, and I believe the Ministry of Communications and Works will very soon be putting up road distances in kilometres concurrently with miles; and the public must accept that action will be seen to be taking place very shortly.

1.25 p.m.

It may be as early as July 1 that the system will become concurrent. I believe that the Ministry of Communications and Works — I hope the Minister does not mind my mentioning this — will very soon be putting up road distances in kilometres concurrently with miles, and the public must expect that action will be seen to be taking place in a very short time.

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

On the motion of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, seconded by Hon. H. deB. FORDE, the Bill was passed.

THE BETTING AND GAMING DUTIES ACT, 1977

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, there are few subjects upon which I think that mankind is more hypocritical than the subject of gambling. From the earliest records, written, oral, traditional and otherwise which are afforded by humanity, it will be discovered that humanity has made bets on various events. Humanity makes bets on past events, on future events, and it invents events on which to make bets. This has been going on since the Assyrians, since the Mesopotamians, the Egyptians, the Greeks, the Romans, everybody has been a gambler. Civilisation, it seems, is accompanied by gambling. One of the first uses to which man puts leisure is to gamble. People have gambled on the racing of horses, the racing of other animals, I dare say that there were persons betting when the Hittite army met the Assyrians in 1700 B.C. for the then dominance of the middle eastern world there were persons betting on the outcome, and persons bet today in the Soviet Union, they bet in the United States of America, I believe they bet in Uganda too — I do not know what the betting is that Amin is attending the Commonwealth Conference — they bet all over Asia, they bet in Africa and they bet in Barbados, and in nearly all these countries betting is accompanied by some element of expressed moral disapproval, while of course it enjoys widespread public acceptance.

For some years Governments in Barbados — and I mean Governments, I do not mean just our Government or the Government of the Democratic Labour Party, I mean even the old conservative regimes — have interested themselves in gaming, gambling and betting, and the public has come to accept the Turf Club Sweepstake, has come to accept Bingo, has

come to accept betting on overseas lotteries such as the football pools, and has come to deal in all these things, and side by side with this public acceptance you still get a few voices raised against gambling.

Now, the Bill now before the House will indicate if we look at the schedule of repeals the extent to which gambling has already been systematised in this country. You will see Turf Club, Bingo Duty, Pool Betting Duty, the Gambling Act, Racing Service business, Registration of Premises. The Gambling Act is not of course repealed in full, because there will still continue to be a common law gaming and gambling, and I would like to tell the House at this stage that the draughtsmen have been working on my instructions for a number of months on a consolidation of the law relating to gaming and gambling. This is a separate matter from the imposition of duties, this is the actual law, what is illegal, what is not illegal and so on and so forth. A law which has excited the attention of law students, law professors and millions of persons for over 200 years in Britain and the United States is being consolidated, and the part of the Gambling Act which it refers to is a recent amendment dealing with lotteries, which was introduced not very long ago by the previous Government.

But a glance at the Third Schedule will indicate the extent to which the law in Barbados already permits gambling. A glance at the rum shops in Baxters Road would also have indicated two years ago to anybody with eyes to see the extent to which the public tolerated gambling in Barbados in at least relatively novel forms, and the Government has decided that it is time to sweep away some of the cobwebs of hypocrisy and in the interest of the public revenue, in the interest of regulation of what is an accepted fact, to bring down this Bill to the House of Assembly and get one or two matters cleared up and consolidated in respect of the gambling activities of the people of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, the Bill deals with the matters I have recited and other matters and I will mention them in some detail. It is necessary to look at the First Schedule to see what exactly is regulated by the Bill. There are one or two amendments too, but Class I, so to speak, of the matters subject to present regulations, relates to sweepstakes. These for a long time have been in existence in Barbados, the Turf Club Sweepstake has paid very large sums of money into the Public Treasury from time to time, other sweepstakes have been allowed of which the proceeds are intended to go to good

causes, chiefly charitable or sporting causes. This will continue to be the case. The present wording of the First Schedule is "Lotteries or sweepstakes organised and controlled by an approved national organisation." It is intended to make regulations very shortly indeed to approve the Barbados Turf Club as such a national organisation so that the Turf Club Sweepstakes can continue. It is also intended that any other organisation which is approved shall henceforth pay the same rate of tax to the Government as the Turf Club at present pays. We see no reason whatsoever to treat lotteries and sweepstakes differently from the point of view of Government revenue.

1.35 p.m.

For one thing, reports have been made to my office that one or two of the approved lotteries have been carried on in which the club has put into its drawer all the unsold tickets. There is no inducement at present against doing this. They do not have to pay a Government tax as the Turf Club does, and therefore there is no reason for them not to put in the unsold tickets. What it means is that the people who have bought tickets are not only competing against each other, but they are also competing with the club that is running the sweepstake. If one of the undrawn numbers wins it means that the club itself wins the prize.

I do not want to call the name of any club that has been reported as doing this. There is nothing illegal in it. It is just to my mind very improper and reprehensible; because it is in effect an ethical fraud upon those who have invested in the club's sweepstakes; but I will just say this, Mr. Speaker, that if any organisation that gets permission in future, to run a sweepstake, whether specific permission or blanket permission, as a national organisation is discovered on reliable evidence to be carrying out this practice, the Government will have no hesitation whatsoever in making it known to the public that it is unwise to buy those tickets since you are not only fighting the others who have bought, but you are fighting the tickets which have not been sold themselves. I just mention that in passing.

Henceforth all lotteries and sweepstakes will make the same contribution to the revenue as the Barbados Turf Club and the lottery is making; and they will have to compete on a more fair and equitable basis, since it has been drawn to our attention that these subsidiary lotteries give the ticket sellers a little more to sell their tickets and not the Turf Club tickets. Well, they will be at liberty to do so in future,

but they will not be doing so at the expense of the revenue. In future if they want to do it, they will have to do it out of their own prospects, and not out of revenue that might otherwise accrue to the Government.

Now, games of bingo. The Budget indicated that it would be raising the bingo charges; and I think 5 cents out of a 25 cents ticket or 25 cents in the dollar or part thereof is a very reasonable amount. I know that bingo is carried on by many people for charitable purposes. However, the Government has no control over management expenses and the amount charged by promoters to cover their expenses as opposed to the ostensible charitable purpose for which they are being raised.

In the fullness of time there will be a new Gambling Committee which will no doubt take all this into consideration; but whatever guide lines the Minister of Finance gives that Committee, I yet think that one of the safest guide lines of all is to make sure that the Government gets a share of revenue, sufficient and substantial enough to ensure that we create some financial inducement to the promoters to cut down on management expenses and make sure that there is some substantial amount to be contributed to the worthy cause at the end.

Clause 3 has to do with pool betting. I have no apology whatever to make for placing very heavy impositions on pool betting; because the greater part of pool betting is a drain on the foreign exchange of this country. I firmly believe that although a large prize may be won from time to time by a resident of Barbados, that very much more money goes out of the country by pool betting that comes in.

The operation of the pool betting business is now kept under careful watch. For the present I think that it is enough to say that the 30 per cent charge on the stake money represents a fair balance between considerations of revenue and balance of payments considerations, the apparent balance of payments at the present time; but I give the House the assurance that this is being reviewed and the whole of pool betting is being carefully monitored by the Comptroller of Customs under whose jurisdiction this comes at present.

I would also like to mention that there appears to be some doubt as to whether the new pool betting charges applied from the budget date or subsequently. Lest there be any doubt, this Bill makes it quite clear that they apply from the budget date; and the pool

promoters are not making any particular fuss about it.

Now, racing service business. I have raised the Budget Racing Service registration from \$25,000 a year to \$40,000 a year. On the evening of the Budget I was given a message that someone was outside to see me; and when I went outside I discovered that it was a racing service proprietor; and I was expecting that he would be critical of the Budget. He said to me that the raise was long overdue, but it was only that Patsy Springer was persuading the previous Government not to raise it because he had an interest in some of the businesses. I heard that on the top of the House of Assembly steps on budget night. I would like to say that this racing business proprietor was happy to pay and was quite prepared to pay and he expected that it would have been higher; and this expectation, I gather, is shared by all of the promoters of the racing service business.

Hon. members will observe that every betting ticket is also chargeable with a 10 cents stamp, and indeed an order has been placed for one million special 10 cents stamps which are due to arrive here in a couple of weeks time to be ready for July 1st when the tax will be imposed. Again I make no apology for saying that we believe that the issue of special stamps rather than using the ordinary 10 cents stamps available in the Post Office will be of great assistance to those who have to monitor the amount of business that is actually done by these racing service promoters. The amount of bets that are made.

I know that 10 cents may seem a substantial amount which is passed on; and I would like to say at this stage that the Government has absolutely no objection to any arrangement which the racing services may make about dealing with this 10 cents. As long as this 10 cents stamp is put on the ticket, we have no objection. We do not even want to know how it got there and who has paid it and how to divide it up. We do not care as long as it is paid.

However, we do feel in the light of representations made to us that 10 cents may seem to be a lot on a 50 cent ticket; but the answer to that is that encouragement to bet small amounts by 50 cents is no part of the Government's policy. It is not part of Government's policy to encourage people who may not have \$5.00 to bet at one time to be in 10 instalments of 50 cents. That is between the racing services and their customers. How

they organise themselves is up to the racing services.

We will accept representations, and I am informed that the hon. member for St. Michael South West has made representations on behalf of a racing service, and they are seeking an interview with the Minister of Finance to deal with this matter. I will gladly see the hon. member and those whom he is representing in my office at any time.
1.45 p.m.

I believe he has an office in one of the Racing Service businesses and is carrying on a practise as a business consultant. If his first business consultation is a Racing Service business consultation, I will be glad to see him turn an honest penny and I hope he will be well paid for the service which he renders to his principals. He has my personal assurance that his representations will be given all the weight which is reasonably due to them. The Racing Service people, I believe, are questioning whether they may not be afforded the facility of impressing the stamps by means of a machine under the control of the Accountant General. They can put their case and their case which, ultimately, will come to be decided by the Accountant General, in accordance with any policy directives which may be given him, will be given every consideration. No thought of political affiliation or past contributions to the Democratic Labour Party will in any way affect the consideration to be given to these persons' reasonable representation.

With regard to gaming machine licences other than amusement machine licences, this may need some elucidation over and above what is found in those parts of the Act that define gaming machines and amusement machines: Sections 24 and 25. A great number of mechanical and electronic devices are turned out annually under the broad heading of amusement machines. The history of coin-in-the-slot machines and coin-return machines goes back a good number of years. It goes back to the 1880s when a German immigrant to the United States invented the first one-armed bandit. He used to make all of the machines himself, and, indeed, the machines which were originally made by him are great collectors' pieces today. To get hold of one of those machines you will probably have to pay \$30,000 or \$40,000 (US). In the United States it is impossible to patent a gambling device otherwise, indeed, the whole history of the gaming machine and the amusement machine industry would have been different and, therefore, other people copied his devices and they began to spread around the United States.

They spread from West to East. From San Francisco through Nevada to other States. This continued all through the 1920s. They spread to Britain where they were known as fruit machines. Indeed, I must say that the persistence of the fruit machine motif is one of the most remarkable existence, and it shows to my mind the basic conservatism of all gamblers. They prefer to gamble in familiar ways than to launch themselves out in new areas, and these machines all have the characteristic that you put in a coin, pull a handle, or press a button in these days, and you get out a certain number of coins in return. There are, to my mind, a very harmless form of gambling. The amount of time that it takes to lose money on a one-armed bandit is such that, for many people, a certain tediousness supervenes. There are, of course, people who are one-armed bandit neurotics. Many of them have moved permanently to Nevada because the amount of time it takes them to lose their money is such that they cannot really afford to be away from the machines for any length of time.

When you play poker you can lose thousands of dollars in a matter of minutes, but when you are playing one-armed bandit it is an 8 hour a day operation if you really want to start to lose in the big league. As I say, I think it is a very harmless form of gambling. Nonetheless, it comes under many definitions of machine gambling and it has attracted the attention of authorities who were against gambling in many countries, or gambling by way of one-armed bandits. Mr. Speaker, they have spread all over the world. Some years ago they spread to Barbados. I believe that their spread in Barbados was facilitated after an initial period in which they were admitted to the Island legally, passed through the Customs and paid duty, but their spread was subsequently facilitated by acts, which undoubtedly, have to be characterised corruption. They were placed on licence, and no licences were granted, but a number of the machines have entered the Island illegally and, according to information available to the Ministry of Finance, are still trying to enter the Island illegally.

Now, if it was legal and such a scheme as we introduced in this Act had been in operation, it would have meant that there would have been at least half-dozen Customs Officers who had not been corrupted. To put it quite bluntly and brutally, because I do believe that some officers of Her Majesty's Customs in Barbados have been bribed by the machine operators in order to allow machines in marked as personal effects, or marked as machinery and otherwise mismarked, and that the Customs Officers who have made these inspections have been corrupted in order to

allow the machines through. I say according to information available to the Ministry of Finance. It is not just information. We know it and we are investigating. We know it; we have it in writing; we do not know if we have all of the machines. We have identified some of the machines, and steps are being taken to obtain the unpaid customs revenues on these machines and to find out the time at which they passed the particular places where they passed so that the Customs Officers who were on duty at that time may be identified. This is sufficiently well known, I think, for it to be exposed in this way as a warning to others.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I give this as an example of what had already happened in Barbados. Faced with evidence of corruption, and faced with the existence of the machines and the investments by Barbadians in these machines — this matter goes back to last year when a number of persons, both citizens of Barbados and persons who are not citizens of Barbados, made certain representations to the Ministry of Finance. The Government has thought about the matter and it has taken a decision to permit a small number of these machines to be operated in Barbados under, I think, what are very stringent conditions which are laid down in the Act now before the House.

As far as we are concerned, there has to be some element of amnesty because the persons who have already operated these machines, both Barbadians and others, have probably all of them operated machines in this Island which did not enter in a proper manner. Some of these machines, if our conditions are not met, may be confiscated, some we may allow the payment of the duty with the penalties, but the House can be absolutely assured that no licence will be given for any gambling machine unless Customs documents or payment of the duty with the penalty, if we allow it, has been carried out before hand. The House can rest quite assured of that.

1.55 p.m.

I have mentioned the Customs. It is also fair to say and I will leave the House to draw its own conclusions, that on a particular day, I think it was last year, a number of police officers visited a very large number of establishments in and about Bridgetown where these machine were in existence and at all but one of these establishments the machines were covered over by canvas or locked up or otherwise secluded and were not in use. Now there are persons who have told me that on the previous night they went to some of these establishments and they saw the machines in use, coins being put into them, coins

coming out, many more coins being put in and coming out, and that they went on nights subsequent to the same places and saw coins being put into these machines and coins coming out. Hon. members will, I think, have no difficulty in drawing the appropriate conclusion from the fact that when there was what is known in popular parlance as a police raid on the places where these machines were, none of the machines were being used except on the premises of a Mr. Courtenay Walkes in Jackson, a strong supporter of Mr. Leroy Sisnett and the Barbados Labour Party. Alone at his premises machines were found operating and he alone was prosecuted for the use of these machines.

I know there are many premises in Baxters Road where shops are carried on by persons who were by no means supporters in that day of the ruling party. I believe that in all these premises, I have heard the former Prime Minister refer to Big Drakes in here; I do not know if his was one of them, but I know that in these premises the machines were covered over. The appropriate inferences might be drawn, Mr. Speaker, and I do not think that any inference that suggests that law and order was being upheld in its highest form can possibly be drawn in the circumstances. I think that the inferences you can draw are ultra vires to the proper administration of law and order.

The Leader of the Opposition is closely searching, as I speak, the Question and Answer book of the House of Assembly, and he I think is searching for a question which I asked some time ago on the operation of these machines. If he searched carefully he will see that at the time I called upon the then Government to regularise or enforce the then law against the machines. He will find that this has always been the policy that either you make up your mind to be severe or you make your mind up to regularise and regulate, and on coming into office I am proud to say that the course of action which was always present in my mind to regularise and regulate has been taken by the Government. I see the Leader of the Opposition wants to interrupt me. I am glad that once again the words of wisdom of the then Leader of the Opposition have been discovered, read and inwardly digested by hon. members on the opposite side. I am glad that the hon. member for St. Michael South is giving his colleagues a lesson in how to discover the consistency of the present hon. member for St. Thomas. That as far as I am concerned is the justification.

The gaming machines are, I do not think, as harmful to the public as betting on the pools or

taking chances on a sweepstake, because you can take a chance on a sweepstake all your life and never win. You are less certain to lose on slot machines than you are for example on a sweepstake. They are already in Barbados, and I am now going to give the advantages which we see can accrue from the slot machines.

Now first of all contrary to immediate public expectations we are assured that properly run, these machines can contribute to employment. The machines at present have been operating on a hole-in-the-corner basis, and the premises where they are situated are normally expected to make change for the people who want to bet on them. In Las Vegas where these machines exist in every hotel and in great banks, the machines have a coin girl whose duty it is to make up cups of coins of the appropriate amount to give to customers, give customers advice on the machines, help shake out the machines if a coin sticks and so on. These coin operators are supposed to sit down next to the machine. We are insisting that the licensee will have to satisfy the Committee that a proper staff will be maintained to service these machines. The machines also need employees to service them, to keep them clean, to go from place to place perhaps with the proprietor collecting the money and so on and so forth. One operator who has a relative large number of machines which he made known to us indeed is expecting to employ a staff of 80 people to service his machines alone. That is employment for Barbadians. He has already to my knowledge started to employ the people and this is only one operator. This is an advantage in employment.

Another advantage is the obvious advantage that there will no longer be the inducement to corrupt public servants whether in the Customs, whether in the police or otherwise to turn a blind eye to illegalities in the course of the machines. That is a negative inducement but it is an inducement nonetheless. Another and most important inducement and one which I have not canvassed before is that it is likely that the great majority of these machines are going to be put in the hotels not frequented by Barbadians at all, and it is in the hotels that the greatest employment is going to occur, because I do not think hotels are going to make change for the machines. The hotels will have one or two or three or four machines. You have to leave it up to the hotels; they will know whether their guests want the machines or not because no hotel can be compelled to have a gambling machine if it does not want. We believe that indeed this will encourage the tourists to spend a little more than

they may otherwise have spent in Barbados and assist the balance of payments to that extent.

Mr. Speaker, we expect, and I am being very conservative indeed, that at least 250,000 tourists will come to Barbados this year. Five dollars is not a lot to put into a gambling machine over the course of seven days' stay. You may surely expect that that is an amount that can easily be lost. That is over \$1 million in foreign exchange by itself if you can reasonably expect that. The very cruise ship passengers when they go to a hotel may spend \$1.00 or \$2.00 in a gambling machine that they might not otherwise have spent. We regard that as a great advantage and we will be happy to divert the attention of operators from Baxters Road to the West Coast; take the machines away from encouraging Barbadians to spend their money in Baxters Road and carry them into the hotels. If the number of machines is limited and they can get them into the hotels legally, we think that this will be a positive advantage.

2.05 p.m.

Another negative advantage of course, is the fact that we are only going to allow them on licenced premises to which no minor should have access, and hon. members would have seen those portions of the Act which stipulate that anybody who allows a minor to bet on these machines will be severely punished.

I would just like to draw attention to a small passage from a representation made by the Amusement Machines Association to us which reads: "A maximum fine of \$1,000 be imposed on any proprietor who permits juveniles under 18 years of age to play these machines," another submission I made is, that appropriate visible signs be made as per section 5. So the very proprietors started out by asking the Government to punish anybody who allows persons under the age of 18 years to use these machines.

And I would just mention, Mr. Speaker, that we have received no representations from the church or other organizations to the effect that these machines are immoral or that they will corrupt the moral fibre of Barbadians or anything else. We have heard certain persons who say that these machines are the forerunners of the Mafia, and that once you have these machines in Barbados the Mafia will come in. I really want to know whether it is seriously believed that every country in the world that has gambling necessarily has the Mafia. I don't think anybody believes that the Mafia operates in the Soviet Union; and there is gambling in the Soviet Union just as there is anywhere else. What is known

about these machines is that their operation is one of the forms of gambling which in itself attracts less of the Mafia's attention than most other forms. The Mafia is interested in casinos, there is no doubt that casinos anywhere in the English speaking world or in the Western Hemisphere — Spanish, Dutch, French, — attract the attention of the Mafia. I specifically say that because I am prepared to believe that the Mafia is in the Holiday Inn in Botswana where South Africans are accustomed to go and gamble; I am prepared to believe that the Mafia tries to get a foot hold in England, in the Isle of Man and so on; I am sure the Mafia have a foot, claw, toe and every hold in casinos all over the United States; but I do not believe that an individual bandit here and there is important enough to attract the attention of the Mafia. I cannot believe that we are going to get the Mafia coming here to look into Castro's shop in Baxters Road; it isn't important enough. We have to have some consciousness of our own unimportance in the world sometimes rather than get on a public platform and talk a lot of foolishness about the Mafia. You should be more aware that merely 100 or 150 bandits knocking about Barbados are not going to suddenly bring down the interest of organised gambling in the United States, who are dealing not in thousands or millions of dollars but in billions. Let us have a more serious look at ourselves where these things are concerned.

Now I have spent a lot of time on gambling machines. We are experimentally charging \$2,000 a year for the gambling machines, Sir (*Aside*) You prefer me to come back after lunch with the amusement machines; very well, Sir. I will move that this Sitting be suspended — until what time Sir? (*Asides*)

Mr. SPEAKER: We can only suspend until 2.45 p.m. unless it is the wish of the House that, having lost ten minutes, we suspend until 3 o'clock — if this is the wish of the House.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I move that Your Honour take it as the wish of the House that we suspend until 3 o'clock. (*Asides*)

Mr. SPEAKER: Do I take it that it is the wish of the House that we suspend until 3 o'clock. (*Asides*) This Sitting is now suspended until 3 p.m.
2.15 p.m.

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Question Time. The hon. member for St. Michael South West, his question No. 5. (PAUSE). I observe the hon. member is not in his place. Let the answer be laid.

Question No. 12. The hon. member for St. Michael North Central. (PAUSE). I observe the hon. member is not in his place. Let the answer be laid.

QUESTION RE DANGEROUS BENDS IN ST. LUCY AND ST. PETER

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 25 standing in the name of the hon. member for St. Lucy.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, Question No. 25 reads as follows:

To ask 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?

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, the answer to Question No. 25 is as follows:

"(a) Yes Sir. Detail plans for a road improvement near St. Lucy's Church are being prepared. Improvements will be carried out as soon as plans are completed.

(b) Government is aware of the danger posed at Six Men's Corner, St. Peter, and is taking necessary steps to eliminate this problem."

QUESTION RE DRAINAGE AT CLARKE'S AVENUE, BAYVILLE, ST. MICHAEL

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 17 standing in the name of the hon. member for St. Michael South.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, Question No. 17 reads as follows:

To ask the Minister of Communications and Works: 1. Is the Minister aware that after heavy rainfall, Clarke's Avenue, Bayville, St. Michael becomes inundated and impassable? 2. Is the Minister aware that the rain water also settles

around certain houses on the avenue thereby causing great inconvenience to residents? 3. Is the Minister aware that in spite of the measures so far taken by the Government the situation described has not been corrected? 4. Will the Minister state what plans he has for correcting the situation and whether these plans will be implemented as a matter of urgency?

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, the reply to this question is as follows:

"The inadequate drainage condition of Clarke's Gap area was drawn to my attention soon after I assumed responsibility for the portfolio Communications and Works by Senator Randolph Field. I paid a visit to the area, accompanied by Senator Field and officials of my Ministry. Since then drainage of the Clarke's Gap area has been engaging the attention of my Ministry. The fact that the land lies below the level of Chelsea Road and Beckles Road makes the drainage a serious problem.

All efforts are being made to eliminate flooding in the area."

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, would the Minister agree that the records of this Hon. Chamber would indicate that the representative for St. Michael South asked the question to which we have just got an answer?

Mr. SPEAKER: Not a proper supplementary.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, the answer was given to the member who asked the question.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Would the Minister agree that in the files of the Ministry of Communications and Works are letters from the hon. member for St. Michael South about the same Clarke's Gap?

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I have not seen any letters on this file. There might be, but I have not seen them.

QUESTION RE SERIOUS SHORTAGE OF HYDRANTS IN ST. PHILIP

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 30 standing in the name of the hon. member for St. Philip North.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Question No. 30 reads as follows:

To ask the appropriate Minister: 1. Is the Minister aware that there is a serious shortage of

hydrants in some areas of St. Philip? 2. Will the Minister urgently investigate the need for hydrants in the Church Village area as follows: (a) to operate from the six inch main on the Sunbury/Chapel Road, (b) for the area known as the "Back Village", (c) for Lower Cox Hill, and (d) for the main road near the public bath? 3. Will the Minister further ensure that such hydrants as may be provided are properly marked and easily identifiable?

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, the answer to Question No. 30 is as follows:

"1. Yes Sir.

2. An investigation of the area showed that there are three hydrants in the following areas:—

First Avenue Chapel Land;

First Avenue Cox Hill and Dodds Tenantry on a new main next to the Bath.

It is proposed to instal a further seven (7) hydrants in the area as follows:—

Two at Cox Hill.

Three at "Back Village"

One at Church Village; and

One at Clifden.

3. Yes Sir."

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

3.10 p.m.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, there is only one item under Private Members Business standing in the name of the hon. member for St. Michael South, and he is in a position to proceed with his Resolution. I move that that be the first Order under Private Members Business.

PRIVATE MEMBERS BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: It is Private Members Business, and Item No. 1.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I rise to move the passing of this Resolution which is as follows:—

WHEREAS the right to health is or should be one of the fundamental rights of people everywhere;

And whereas valiant efforts have been made to secure this right for the people of Barbados by means of development in both the preventive and curative health services;

And whereas this right may be further secured at reasonable cost through the provision of more trained health personnel in districts and homes where people actually live;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House request the Government to consider the establishment of a comprehensive Community Nursing Service both as a measure to achieve higher levels of health care, and to provide additional employment opportunities for nurses and nursing assistants.

It may be, Mr. Speaker, that the reply from the Government may be that this question was drawn to the attention of the Government by one Senator Randolph Field. I do not know if this will be the stand taken on this particular measure. I am not too upset by the reply given to the previous question....

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot now debate the reply.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I am introducing my Resolution. I am not debating the reply. If that is the reply from the Government Benches I will thank the Cabinet for that particular response, but I would hope that I would get on this matter a more positive response from the Cabinet which, no doubt has considered this question, and I know that the Minister of Health is particularly interested in this particular matter; and refreshed as she may be from her visit abroad, will take a positive and concrete view of this matter.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think that I will have to argue for long or detain the House unduly in presenting this Resolution for commendation. I should say, first of all, that this Resolution springs from a desire to improve or assist in improving health care for the people of Barbados which is one of the objectives of all people in this country, both the Government and the Opposition; and this is one of the main reasons why the Resolution is brought; because it is out of the desire for the improvement of health care facilities in this country.

Secondly, I would say that in spite of the achievements that have been registered in the field of health care and in the field of nursing care in particular in this country, there is always a demand for improved services, because we can never reach the stage where we can be satisfied

that the care and the level of services given would be such as would make us complacent on these matters. There is always room for improvement.

I would say, Mr. Speaker, that there are many reasons why we should introduce such a programme. First of all, there is a need, as I have indicated, for improved services. I would think, Mr. Speaker, that there are a number of persons who would be discharged from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, perhaps at a slightly earlier date than would normally be the case if there was not heavy pressure on the beds of that institution; and those persons who are released from that hospital, either for that reason or because they could be adequately cared for in their homes, that a service provided by trained nurses or other para-medical personnel would assist in the rehabilitation and the post-operative care — that is, if they had an operation — the provision of adequate nursing care as a back up and follow up would certainly assist the hospital in its objective of providing the fullest possible care for the longest possible time for persons who use their services.

I would think that this would apply particularly to maternity cases. The women of our country — and I know that the Minister has spoken feelingly on this matter of the women of this country — that those maternity cases who may be discharged from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital could have follow up care provided on a continuing and regular basis by a Community Nursing Service; and this would certainly lead to an early improvement in the life of the young baby and indeed in the lives of the mothers.

I believe too that there are a number of diabetics in our society who could benefit from the care, the attention and the education which a Community Nursing Service could provide. I need hardly say that in our country diabetes is one of the 10 major causes of death. I speak subject to correction, but I think that it must be about No. 6 or No. 5, somewhere in that region. I am not specific in this regard; but it must be around that number in the batting order; and if we did have a Community Nursing Service it could do a great deal for the management of this particular disease or illness in our community and lead to an improvement in the welfare or well being of our people.

Then there is the case of the aged in whom the Minister for Labour and Welfare expresses — and I am sure — shares a very great interest. He has spoken on this matter from time to time in this Chamber; and the aged could be cared for in their own homes were it possible for assistance

coming from trained nurses as well as nursing assistants, could that type of service and care be provided, I think that it would do very much to improve the level of care for the aged in the country and reduce the strain on the institutions which are hard pressed to provide the necessary space for those persons demanding places in our district hospitals or however these may be re-styled.

Then there are those hospital patients other than the maternity cases who are discharged, in certain cases, prematurely, in order to make way for other persons coming into the hospital; and if those persons were discharged in the knowledge that there was an adequate back up service to give them advice, care and attention in their homes, it would certainly reduce the frequency of their visits to the hospital afterwards, and certainly aid in the process of recuperation from their illness.

3.20 p.m.

Then there are other areas such as the School Health Service which could, certainly, be further strengthened with the provision of trained nurses visiting the schools on a regular basis and paying attention to those illnesses which may appear minor, at this stage, but which later on may turn out to be chronic if adequate attention is not given. It is said that if things are nipped in the bud and early attention given to them many of the problems which crop up later on in life could be prevented by the operation of a fully fledged School Health Service.

Then, also, there is the problem on our industrial estates where, if there were a fully fledged Community Nursing Service paying visits to the industrial estates where the workers of this country earn their livelihood and contribute to the wealth of this country, if their health could be safeguarded as adequately as possible given all the resources of this country, I think this would make a very significant contribution in terms of maintaining our workers in a good state of health and in the reduction of accidents at the place of work as well as a reduction in the number of days lost by absence due to illness.

I know that, as far as the Psychiatric Hospital is concerned, there is some form of community service which is run by that institution but, obviously, the programme suffers from inadequate personnel and inadequate resources. A Community Nursing Service, which takes into account our mental patients who may be discharged from the Hospital and who could

be given additional care outside of the Institution in their homes by that Community Nursing Service, if given assistance in this area, would be a contribution towards the problem of improving the level of psychiatric care in this country.

I think, Mr. Speaker, all of these areas are well known and there are areas which, I am certain, will have the approbation of both sides of this hon. Chamber. One other main reason for bringing this Resolution is the fact that, undoubtedly, unemployment is one of the major problems facing this country. This is well known to the Government because on many occasions the Hon. Prime Minister and other members of the Government have spoken with feeling on this matter of unemployment. We heard earlier today that additional avenues of employment may be found in the gambling services of this country. I believe that, at least, 80 persons would find employment in this area. I know that the question of employment is dear to the heart of the Government which has made a promise of increasing the employment level by some 3,600 persons, and this particular Resolution which seeks to create additional avenues of employment for nursing personnel and those who are trained as Nursing Assistants will find ready approbation from the Government benches because it is in keeping with their proposals to create additional avenues of employment.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is well known that the present District Nursing Services are inadequate. I do not think anyone would deny this simply because the resources of this country have not been able to provide the level of care which would give us the type of service that a country such as ours would require. I would like to take this opportunity to pay a tribute to the work done by the Barbados Registered Nurses Association, which as early as 1944, I believe, introduced a service somewhat along these lines although not as wide or as comprehensive as is envisaged under a Community Nursing Service Programme. That Programme has been limited in terms of the number of Nurses in the Programme. I believe, at the present stage, there might be only three or two persons engaged in that Service for the entire country, and it has been limited by a lack of funds to do all of the things that the Programme or that the Association would wish to do. Indeed, at one stage recently, they were requesting that the whole Programme be taken over by the Government. I would like to pay a tribute, as I indicated, to the Barbados Registered Nurses Association, which has done a

pioneering job in this regard, and for those Nurses who, on foot or however else they move around from home to home within the area of St. Michael personally, were able to bring care, attention and comfort to those sick persons who were in need of such care and attention.

I think this has now reached a stage where it is a national problem and all of the parishes in this country could be served by a Community Nursing Service under which Nurses employed by a Central Authority — indeed, I am not ruling out either the co-operation with the Barbados Registered Nurses Association, if they are so minded, to continue their service with additional resources. That is a matter of detail which can be worked out. I believe that such a service will lead to a better population. A healthier population, will not only raise the level of health care in this country, but will also make our people less prone to disease because it is said that prevention is better than cure, and a Community Nursing Service would, certainly, have its major emphasis on prevention.

There are a number of problems which would be involved and which would have to be closely looked at, if this particular Service were to be implemented and given a very good chance to succeed. First of all, there is the whole question of travelling allowance. The Nurses will, obviously, have to be given adequate travelling allowance so that they would be able to carry out their duties effectively, and maybe we may have to look at the salaries involved. I would not wish to go into these details because that is for the appropriate Ministers to look into. There will be the question of loans which will have to be made available to the Nurses in order to purchase cars in which they can travel around and cover a wider territory as it were.

I would like to say that the Health Personnel, as far as I am aware, is present for implementing this particular programme because there may be a reserve of Nurses trained who would be willing to work in this programme who cannot find work now in the existing Services.

3.30 p.m.

Indeed if I read the newspapers correctly I believe the Minister of Health did ask for the registration of trained nursing personnel in order

to get an idea of the size of the problem, because this country is facing a problem. There are nurses who have been trained both in Barbados and outside of Barbados who find it difficult to get employment in their chosen profession, and the Minister had demonstrated her interest in this particular area by calling for a survey. What has been done with the results of the survey or whether the statistics have been analysed I am not certain, but at least that interest has been shown so far, and I believe that if a community nursing service were instituted these nurses could find employment in such a programme, provide a worthwhile community service by caring for the sick and injured, and by providing health education to prevent the outbreak of illness and disease and in the management of illness and disease after they have actually occurred. Such a service would provide a solution to these two problems as well, provide ready income to the nurse and thereby reduce any frustration which they may be experiencing because of the training they have had and the inability to find work in keeping with the skills they have been given.

Mr. Speaker, this is a programme which if the Government gives it adequate attention would not involve much expense in terms of the physical plant, because it is largely a service that is people-oriented from the point of view that the main investment is in people, and what I would say in conclusion, because I do not wish to detain the House on this matter very much longer, is that the proposal is in keeping with the Opposition stand that there should be greater employment opportunities generated in this country; it is in keeping with the Government's proposal that greater employment opportunities should be generated, and they have indicated exactly what they mean by this, some 3,600 jobs immediately. This proposal if considered favourably by the Government would be in keeping with that particular proposal of the Government, and I would expect therefore that it would not meet any unfavourable response from them.

I would say also that the proposal is in keeping with a statement or statements made recently by the Prime Minister. I notice he has introduced a new note into this matter when he says that while the Government is interested in creating new avenues of employment, the Government will not be spending funds on non-productive schemes. You can continue, Mr. Prime Minister; you will note that I did not misquote you.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is addressing the Chair.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, you are certain I am not misquoting any other hon. member in here including the Prime Minister. Insofar as I have spoken you have not found that I am misquoting, so that this statement that the Government is not interested in non-productive schemes while interested in generating additional avenues of employment will not apply to this proposal. I do not think that this proposal will qualify as a non-productive scheme; it is a productive scheme, especially with the proposal to expand the multi-purpose clinics. Now we have another term for them. I understand they are now being called poly-clinics. I leave my friend from St. Michael North Central to deal with this different concept, because he elaborated in this country on the concept of the multi-purpose clinic, and we will see how that differs from the concept of the poly-clinic. Poly means many and multi means many, but there will be a difference. I know that even though you have to sit in this Chamber and listen to debates that things are being done in your constituency. For instance this poly-clinic is supposed to be in St. Peter. I believe the place is called Litchfield, and you will recall that is a site which was identified by the previous Government as well, so contrary to what you found, we did have the interest of the people of St. Peter as well as the northern parishes at heart. You are well aware of that, Mr. Speaker. We were interested in the Government of the whole country.

The community nursing service can be expanded and developed from the existing multi-purpose clinics and those which are to be established, and they can fan out or expand or go out from these centres into the community, do more work right in the homes and villages where people actually live. That indeed is the tenor and the purport of the institution, to decentralise the health services and bring them right into the homes of the people, into the built-up districts and into the outlying districts so that the very quality of life and the life expectation of the people of this country can be thereby improved and developed. It is in keeping with our rural development plan which was a balanced plan to bring better health service not only to the St. Michael area. Of course we have a particular interest in the St. Michael area, but we have an interest in the country as a whole both urban and rural and in all the areas.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this particular Resolution to this Honourable House. I believe it is in terms that the House can give its full approbation to. I have not covered all the areas

that could be covered in a Resolution of this type, because as I said, I do not wish to detain the House any longer, but it is one in which the people of this country can see that it is an attempt first of all on my part and on the part of the Opposition to play a constructive role from the Opposition benches in putting forward proposals which are positive, which are constructive, and which can lead to a solution of the problems in this country. This particular Resolution will improve the health services of this country, it will bring greater care and attention to those persons who may be in need of greater care and attention, our maternity cases, or diabetics, the aged, those who are discharged from the Mental Hospital or Psychiatric Hospital; it will provide employment opportunities for people who have been trained and who cannot find employment in their chosen field of work, that is the Nurses. Not only that, it would also provide training and employment for those persons who have not been trained to that level, who perhaps do not have their "O" level Certificate or whatever certificate may be required, that is persons who are of good intelligence and are sound citizens of this country, but who have not had the advantage or the benefit of a higher education. I refer to those persons who may be trained or may be trainable as nursing assistants and who can therefore find a worthwhile role to play in this community at this particular level.

3.40 p.m.

So an employment potential is there. There are people ready to be employed; not only that, there are institutions available for continuous training of personnel both at the nursing level as well as at the nursing assistant level. So all the ingredients are there. And I think that after full discussion by all persons involved, this particular Resolution should get the approbation of both sides of the Chamber, and I therefore have great pleasure in moving the passing of the Resolution.

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

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I would like to support the Resolution which has been brought to this Chamber and which has been so ably presented by the hon. member for St. Michael South. I am sure those of us who listened to the abled presentation and had an opportunity to examine the kinds of problems which he has outlined would recognize that this Resolution and the idea behind it is one which will bring immense benefits to the people of this country, not only in the urban areas but also in the rural areas and right across Barbados. And I think this is very important, particularly when you recognize

that over the years there has been a concentration of medical services and nursing services in the urban areas, particularly at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and previously at the Barbados General Hospital. In recent years there has been a move towards decentralization and this is recognized by the fact that services at what used to be known as the almshouses have been upgraded to hospitals and services improved. And where we are talking about the establishment of multipurpose clinics — or as the Barbados Labour Party would say, polyclinics — multi and poly seem to have the same meaning — those clinics where services of a diverse nature are provided — in this particular regard we see the situation with such clinics in the process of being established all across the country, and we would see this community nursing service as the kind of support which would be given to the idea of decentralizing the health services of the country.

As regards the question of the aged, there are some complaints about the fact that some people who are old and unable to get to the services provided complain about this kind of situation. I am sure that if we had a district nursing service as outlined by the hon. member who has proposed this Resolution, we would not have this kind of difficulty, and it would be a way of solving that particular problem.

Then on the question of diabetics, it is recognized that this is a very serious problem in Barbados and throughout the Caribbean, and we have therefore to devise a method and strategy to assist those people who have this particular problem. There are people who have to take injections every day to counter the effects of diabetes, and I think that if we have a district nursing service it is obvious more people would be reached more often and this would bring some measure of relief to persons who suffer from this disease.

The member for St. Michael South also made reference to what he concedes as the role this kind of service can play in the industrial sector. This is extremely important. I know that there is a need in this particular area, particularly when one looks at the kinds of accidents and situations which can develop at industrial estates. There is need for this kind of service to provide care and attention to the problems which arise there from time to time. As a matter of fact, I am sure you will realize, and the hon. Minister of Labour will recall this was one of the recommendations of a Committee set up to examine revisions of the Factories Act. I believe this is being revised, and I would hope to be able to see provision made for nurses visiting the

various factories on the industrial estates on a regular basis and dealing with the kind of industrial illnesses which will occur from time to time. And I am not only talking in terms of accidents, but all illnesses which can develop from industries established here. We know that industrialization brings a new dimension to the services which have to be provided for the people of this country, and I would like to say that the idea behind this Resolution is one which should be accepted; and I am sure hon. members would accept and agree that the Resolution has tremendous merit, and hon. members should have no hesitation in supporting it regardless of which side of the House the Resolution comes from.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, one of the former Ministers of Health must of course have been fully aware of the fact that the establishment of what he describes as a comprehensive nursing service was under consideration before September, 1976. I have no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that that inside knowledge must have in some way prompted this Resolution. I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, that since September, 1976 I have examined the preliminary proposals which I have found in the files of the Ministry of Health for a comprehensive community nursing service, and have found that some of the proposals have been sound, and some have been mulled here this afternoon by the hon. member for St. Michael South and the hon. member for St. Lucy; some of those proposals are sound and indeed, Mr. Speaker, several of them should have been implemented years ago. The last administration had fifteen years in which to implement several of those proposals. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, since September, 1976 this Government, this Barbados Labour Party administration, have upgraded the existing nursing service to the extent that car loans are now available to those nurses who do health visiting.

3.50 p.m.

Much talk was made of that a few moments ago that these officers need to have travelling allowance. These officers have been asking for travelling allowance for years. Two hon. members, Mr. Speaker, who now sit across from me had in their care the portfolio which I now have in my care, and I can say, as I have just said, that since September 1976 car loans are now available to nurses who do health visiting.

Mr. Speaker, this administration, this Government is committed to a free national health service. I think that that is well known, not only in Barbados but outside of Barbados. This national health service is going to take the

form of a series of services which the Ministry of Health will introduce to the Barbadian public from time to time. I will take this opportunity on the floor of the House to announce that the first service which we are going to introduce to the public, the first of the series of services, is going to be the drug service, and that is going to be launched very early in 1978. I do not want to go into any long discourse now on the form it will take, it has been discussed to some extent in here already, to some extent it has been discussed in the Press. This debate is not specifically concerned with the drug service and so I will not delay the House with that.

The Barbados National Health Service, which will be the second of its kind in the world, is already being very closely monitored by other countries, not only within this Caribbean region but countries in Europe, in the Americas. Our health service is intended to be a community based service. The structure of the service will depend upon the general practitioner, or what we know as the family doctor, and his team of nurses and paramedics. Every general practitioner or family doctor, however you may choose to term him, will have his health care team working along with him. The team will comprise the health visitor, the community nurse and the clinic nurse. We are planning that the G.P. or family doctor and his team of nurses will be the first point of entry into the Barbados National Health Service. We are hoping that in a very few years' time when Barbadians feel ill, whether it be the toe that hurts, or the head that hurts, or the finger that hurts, they could feel that they would go to the general practitioner. He and his primary health care team of health visitor, community nurse, clinic nurse, however that team is composed, will as they see fit then refer patients either to one of the network of polyclinics or to one of the hospitals as appears to be necessary in each particular case.

The concept of the polyclinic is, I am afraid, much misunderstood. It is true that literally speaking "poly" and "multi" connote many, but in a specific context they take on different aspects. The truth is, Mr. Speaker, the polyclinic is a much wider concept than the multi-purpose clinic. We are hoping that the polyclinic will house specialist outpatient clinics, rather than have a situation which now exists where those people who need specialists of various kinds go into the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and wait for hours to see specialists, we are hoping that specialists would be encouraged to go out so many times a month to each of the polyclinics and to those specialist outpatient clinics where they see people in their own environment. We are

hoping that the poly-clinics will house all of the services already being given by the Health Centres. The Health Centres, of course, Mr. Speaker, you will remember were the brainchild of the Barbados Labour Party in a previous administration. Those Health Centres still carry out a very vital role in the delivery of health care services in Barbados.

In addition to these specialist clinics and to the services which are now offered by the Health Centres, we are hoping that the polyclinics will house dental clinics, we are hoping that the polyclinics are going to house ophthalmic clinics. We are very worried about the very high incidence of certain eye diseases in Barbados, not only among our older folk but among our school children. So that is how, in very brief outline, the structure of the service is expected to work. The general practitioner or family doctor with his team of nurses as the first point of entry, and then a system of referral thereafter either to polyclinics or to one or other of the hospitals as the doctor sees fit.

Mr. Speaker, needless to say, the proposals left by the former administration which we have heard reiterated here this afternoon by the hon. member for St. Michael South were found by me and my administration to be too narrow, too limited, too shortsighted. Barbados requires much more than a comprehensive community nursing service for adequate delivery of its health care. It is the view of this administration that a comprehensive community based national health service is what Barbados requires, and that is what this Government is embarked upon, Mr. Speaker, the micro concept of the community nursing service so to speak has been overtaken by the macro concept of the national health service.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to give notice of certain amendments to the Resolution. In paragraph 2 that we should delete the words "have been" occurring after the word "efforts" and substitute the words "are being". "And Whereas valiant efforts have been made to secure this right for the people of Barbados" would now read, "And Whereas valiant efforts are being made to secure this right for the people of Barbados." In paragraph 4, Mr. Speaker, to delete all the words therein occurring after the word "request" and substitute the words "welcomes Government's declared policy to institute a National Health Service which will include inter alia a comprehensive Community Nursing Service." We delete the word "request" as well, Mr. Speaker, so that it would read, "Be It Resolved that this Honourable House welcomes Government's declared policy to institute a

National Health Service which will include inter alia a comprehensive Community Nursing Service." 4.00 p.m.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I have much pleasure in seconding the amendment, and I reserve my right to speak on this amendment.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, the delivery of health care to people has undergone changes throughout the years and will continue to undergo changes. There was a time when the delivery of health care was in the hands of the priests. In fact even the training of medical personnel was in the hands of the priests. We have moved from that stage where the delivery of health care was restricted to, or associated with the proper training of medical personnel, nursing personnel for some time, and dental personnel. In recent times in addition to that, we have had the concept of allowing health personnel to assist the traditionally trained doctor and nurse and dentist in delivering health care.

At the same time the places where health care has been delivered has changed over the years and will continue to change. There was a time when health care was given in halls or rooms attached to churches. Then in the cottage hospitals, and then gradually into more elaborate institutions, the modern hospitals; and we are moving away from that concept where people seem to think that health care should be generated or given secretly inside a hospital.

When one thinks in terms of a community health service, community medicine and anything that goes with that concept, one has to pay tribute to Professor Standard who has been the chief pioneer of community health services. He has done his work in Jamaica where he has set about to show that the community health service could relieve a lot of the congestion in Jamaican hospitals and also reduce the cost to the Government, and moreover, bring a lot of emotional and economic benefits to the people who are treated that way. To assist in that he developed a new type of person referred to as a community aide and the community nurse.

Sir, there is no doubt at all when one looks at these things very seriously, that when a person has to move from his home into an institution, for example, a hospital, there occurs some dislocation in his life and sometimes in his economic activities. A farmer, for example, who has his crop of cane or peanuts or potatoes to reap, suddenly develops some illness and he has

to go to the hospital either daily, or has to be admitted into a hospital which is miles away from where he lives, occasions a lot of worry because he has to be concerned about the fate of his crop; and in many cases people have been ruined when they have to go into an institution, because in so doing they have to leave their crops unattended, and by so doing, by the time they have returned to the community their crops have been destroyed in one way or another.

The concept of a community health service is to reduce the amount of dislocation that persons may have to undergo when they become ill; and it is felt that a lot of diseases which are now treated inside of institutions at very high cost to Government can be well treated in the community, very often inside the patients' homes, by the development of a community health service.

A community health service will involve the use of doctors, the use of nurses, the use of allied health personnel or paramedical personnel as they are sometimes referred to. When you trace the history of nursing or health care in Barbados, there was a time in this country when each parish had its own little district nursing service or a public health service which attempted to do some of the things which are now being considered under the Community Health Service. One will have to bear in mind that with the passing of Local Government there have been a lot of problems in the full integration of nursing services in this country.

It is to my mind very necessary to have a fully integrated nursing service in this country rather than the disjointed type of service which we now have with each little section being headed by a person who may at some time consider himself to be a type of dictator, and these compartments having no concern with what is going on in the other compartments very often leads to a lot of frustration and sometimes high waste and achieving very little benefit for the people who are supposed to be benefiting from this.

I have made an attempt in my role as a Minister to have the setting up of a Chief Nursing Officer with the sole purpose of having an integrated nursing service whereby you can have the Minister being advised by somebody who is well trained in Nursing; because today I think that it is an insult to the Minister to have to seek his or her advice from a Chief Medical Officer who is not an expert in nursing matters; but I know that such a concept encountered a

lot of difficulties because there are people in Barbados who are reluctant to give up any authority or share any authority which they may hold at the particular moment, when new concepts indicate that will call upon them to share or to reduce their authority in a particular field.

What has happened to the role or the post of Chief Nursing Officer is still to be determined, and it is something worthwhile looking at when you think in terms of what you will have to do with the Nursing Service as a whole in Barbados. Sir, there can be no quarrel with the concept of a community nursing service in Barbados. If you are interested in establishing a community health service, whether you consider that as part of a national health service, or you consider it as part of the services now obtaining in Barbados, you have to admit that to have that service efficient you have to have nurses, you must have doctors, you must have allied health personnel.

Therefore, the concept of a community nursing service must gain support from all of those people who are interested in promoting the health of the people of Barbados. Health is the first base on which we set out to build or support the welfare of a country. You must have health. Sir, when you look at the experience of Jamaica where, as I pointed out, this was first brought about due to the hard work of Professor Standard, you find that many things which have obtained in Jamaica cannot necessarily be transported into Barbados in toto. We may very well have to look very carefully into what is going on in Jamaica, and then try to adapt what they have done or what they achieved to suit the conditions in Barbados. One has to bear in mind that distances in Barbados are not as great. The terrain is not as cumbersome to get over, and then in Barbados transport may be a lot more easily obtainable than in that particular place.

But although that it is so, that does not exclude the setting up of a community nursing service in Barbados or a community health service involving the extension involving your nursing service for the benefit of the people in that area. It is obvious to me that whenever you set up such a service, a community health service — and I prefer to look at a community health service rather than at some particular part of it — you will have to have areas from which your people can function whether you call these areas or these institutions or buildings poly-clinics, or multi-purpose clinics. What one

has to look at very carefully is the services that you are going to offer from these points. The name does not really matter. It is the service or type of services which you are going to offer from these points.

In the concept which was evolved during my time as Minister of Health it was planned to offer full medical and surgical and dental services to the people from the multi-purpose clinics. That is dental services, maternity and child health, curative, preventative, nutritional, public health, family planning, these are the services which were planned for the multi-purpose clinics, and in addition to that I would like to point out that the conditions and services of consultants at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital were revised with the express purpose of enabling them or encouraging them to go out to the Health Centres and do sessions rather than insisting that people from the outlying districts come into the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and see them.

4.10 p.m.

In this particular area one has to pay tribute to Dr. Hassell, the first Consultant at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, who went out for a very long time and conducted sessions at the Health Centre at Six Cross Roads, St. Philip. The idea of getting Consultants to go out into the community to look after people is not a new one. In fact, Sir, you will find very often that concepts in medicine are not new, they have been there before, tried out by somebody, and it may just be a question of time or the convenience of the planners who are responsible for putting these things into operation. I should like to stress that the conditions of service of the Consultants were varied with their agreement to achieve this objective.

Sir, when you think in terms of employment in Barbados you have to bear in mind that not only are we training a lot of people as Nurses in Barbados, but it is difficult for the Government to find work for them as the Health Services are now constituted. In addition to that there are many Barbadians returning from overseas who are finding it difficult to obtain work in Nursing in Barbados due to the present construction and function of the Health Services in Barbados. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that with the development of a Community Health Service involving a Community Nursing Service you will find that many avenues for the employment of Nurses and other people could be created and many of the people who are now being trained at the School of Nursing in Barbados in addition to

those who returned from overseas should find it a lot easier to obtain employment in this country.

When you talk of training people, you will have to vary the training which is now given to some of the people attending the School of Nursing, if you are going to institute a Community Nursing Service because the demands which community medicine ask for are entirely different from those which institutional nursing or the delivery of institutional health care demands. The problems of people in the community are very often unknown to the people who work inside the Institutions, and some of the friction which you find inside the institutions result from the ignorance of the people, or ignorance of the day-to-day life of the people in the Hospital who come from areas outside of Bridgetown and have to go into these places to seek medical attention. If you are going to set up a Community Nursing Service, there is an area in which the people will have to be specially trained to ensure that they are able to satisfy the requirements of the people who go for this service.

Sir, it is always interesting to hear the type of criticisms which we have been hearing for a very long time about what the previous Government did or did not do, but any close examination of the records must indicate to all of those people who have an opportunity to study these records in detail that the base on which the present Government sets out now to build was created by their predecessors in office. They may build an entirely new superstructure. That is their pleasure and opportunity and, maybe, we can conceive that as their right to build an entirely different superstructure, or to build a superstructure as they see fit, but they cannot deny the fact that the base on which they are now building or are about to build is a base which has been set by their predecessors in office. That is something you cannot change or remove without doing untold harm to the society and to the economy of Barbados.

Sir, I join in supporting the other members who have spoken on this matter in the call for the establishment of a Community Nursing Service in Barbados. I join with the members who have spoken because I believe that this is a matter where political views should not play any important part once you see these things primarily from the point of view of what is required in the community and what needs to be done to further improve the health standards in Barbados.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, I just want to intervene in this debate on a few matters. I will be very brief, Sir. I was interested to hear the call by the hon. member for St. Michael South for some recognition to be given to the Barbados Registered Nurses Association and, indeed, on his placing on the records his appreciation of the efforts which they have made towards improving Community Nursing Service in Barbados. I should like to recall that five years ago, when I entered this House, at the first available opportunity on both Supplementary and the usual Annual Estimates, I adverted to the role which the Barbados Registered Nurses Association had played ever since its inception in bringing nursing care to the poor people in this community.

I believe that at some time the then hon. member for St. Michael South West, Capt. George Fergusson, was the Minister responsible for Health, and I drew to his attention that the then Government had done nothing to assist in the provision of pensions for the several ladies who had laboured in providing such nursing care during their years.

Mr. Speaker, you are a person with very long memory, and I am sure you will recall that you joined in supporting my plea for positive steps being taken by the then Government, the Democratic Labour Party Government, to see that these ladies got some recognition for their contribution to the Health Services of Barbados. I regret to relate, Sir, to use a Grecian form of speaking, that nothing was done during my five years. A study was made, but up to today I do not think that any of those ladies are receiving a pension. I know one who has retired; she lives in the constituency of the hon. member for Christ Church South Central. I think the hon. member for St. Michael South, if he searches the record, will find that although there was some additional sum of money given to the Registered Nurses Association that they have never been brought into the category of Public Officers who are pensionable.

Mr. Speaker, I argued their case, I believe, as cogently as I could at the time and, indeed, I am asking the present Minister in her proposals for a Comprehensive National Health Service to remember to reward, as the hon. member has adverted to it, those who have laboured for a long time and done so much and have been paid so little for their services. They are getting close to the category of persons that have now become the bouncing ball of various well-paid people in the Press like ELC, Sir, politicians. They have made sacrifices and it is

difficult to get over to people that we cannot always call on only certain sectors of the community to make a sacrifice without proper reward for them. I feel pretty strongly about this issue, and it is an issue that I have adverted to every year for five years. This is the sixth year that I am going to mention it.

4.20 p.m.

It is significant, Sir, that among these groups of persons, there was not one that I could designate as a male, and it underscores the lack of attention paid to the causes of women who make a sacrifice for this community and for whom this community appears to be tardy in making some returns that are worthwhile. I make bold to say that had the Barbados Registered Nurses Association been started and run by a group of men and had it been men who were doing the sacrifice as they did on a voluntary basis, by this time they would have put so much pressure on our predecessor in office and on Government and Opposition that some concrete measure would have been taken to help them. But there were a group of ladies who understood service. They did not have any strong political force behind them and all they could do was to continue to serve because they believed it was their duty to do so with very little recognition. That is why I said that I welcomed the opportunity to record this contribution as the hon. members did record their contribution, and to ask that the Minister as I am sure she will, pay attention to this, get out the files on the matter and persuade her colleagues in the Cabinet and I pledge her my support whenever I see the Cabinet paper in coming down to the House in order to look after these people who have toiled for so long.

I want to make it quite clear that my friend, the hon. member for St. Michael North Central stated that whatever new structures are passed, they must be based on the work of one's predecessor. Again this is a very significant statement. The hon. Leader of the Opposition made a similar statement some months ago and my other very close friend, the hon. member for St. Michael South at the time when I took that statement and underlined what it meant and said it was a profound statement, got worried about the political significance of my grasping that opportunity to compliment the hon. Leader of the Opposition for his proper analysis of the historical process in Barbados. Not many months later the acting Deputy Leader of the Opposition has joined the chorus, and I want to make it quite clear that no in-coming Government, and we are now an

in-coming Government for the first time having had the Government before we were succeeded by the now Opposition, and we have in turn removed them and have succeeded them again, no in-coming Government, can do other than accept a certain process in a country to some extent.

Now the health service, contrary to what used to be said up to 2nd September, 1976, was not built — and I wish that one of our leading medical specialists would get this in his head when he is speaking on platforms; I refer to Dr. Haynes — in 15 years. He does not understand that. He gets on the platform and makes people believe that this country was transformed from a village to a vibrant economic community only in 15 years. The hon. member's distinguished father, Mr. Freddie Miller, laid a tremendous base in his concept of health care. As a matter of fact, we are so slow to honour those people who have contributed, because I make bold to say again that instead of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital named as it is, and I mean no disrespect to the lady, there is no reason why the Queen Elizabeth Hospital should not bear the hallmark or the name of Freddie Miller, or there be some distinguishing mark in this hospital to show the contribution which the hon. Frederick E. Miller made to the building that was built for Barbadians in this country, and it hurts me that one has to point out this to people. Every time I crossed the gates of the Hospital as I did so frequently a week ago, I saw the image of an affable, far-sighted, gifted as well as artistic man as well who helped build so well for the people of Barbados and dedicated his time to promoting the health of the people of Barbados. It should be recorded that it was during Freddie Miller's regime that so much was done for raising the nutritional standards of people in Barbados.

I am using the hon. member's programme. I welcome this opportunity because sometimes you have to go and raise up from the dead people who have been buried and resuscitate them again so that people will understand their true heroes; and the art of politics it seems is not to acknowledge a man's contribution, and I say to the Opposition that if they are suffering today it is because of the style of Government that they introduced in 1961. I do not believe that either of the two hon. members on the other side present in this Chamber were responsible for that type of politics. You will remember I called it the politics of denigration, because I entered into politics by merely myself being denigrated on platforms, and I could not recognise that I was the same Henry Forde I

had known from a boy and that I thought I was, and I characterise that as politics of denigration. If in the health service one man has suffered tremendously, it was Freddie Miller. During his time we won the Kettering Shield. Further than that, not only was he responsible for the improvement of the nutritional standard, but during his period of time and with his backing the Family Planning Association for the first time Barbados set a world landmark in population control, because himself and Sir Grantley Adams and his dear wife Lady Adams backed the concept of family planning. We have had that debate in here before during contributions on the family planning position. I believe that these processes were being continued subject to certain problems that appeared at the hospital. I also said to the hon. member for St. Michael North Central when he was Minister of Health that I personally would have welcomed his remaining there for a longer period of time than he did in order to make substantial changes that had become necessary. I disagreed with his leader in moving him when he did because if you give a man a job, let him grapple with the job. He is going to make some mistakes, he is going to make several enemies in the process for taking hard decisions, but give him a chance and back him as a leader.

I believe that they waited until rather late to effect certain changes in ministerial portfolios and obviously it slowed down the process. Not that his successor in office did not have ability; far be it from me to make the suggestion, but every time you change a ministerial portfolio we have to recognise this and people who read these debates and listen to them must recognise that every time you change a ministerial portfolio, despite the continuity of civil servants there, it takes a while for a new Minister to get to grips with the problems, to understand and initiate changes and to see these changes come about. This is logical. There are some changes that you can effect in a day; some that you can probably effect in a month, but there are other changes that involve so many different processes and people that it would take time to achieve these processes. I speak in this way about the health service because I think the Hon. Minister, the hon. member for the City of Bridgetown, recognises that she has a tradition on which she must build. To that extent the hon. member's Resolution is in order. We are saying it is a long tradition; we would not like it to be gone abroad that the tradition only started in 1961. We want to recognise too the contribution made by people in the 19th Century because the hospital services in

Barbados were started on a voluntary basis in this country.

4.30 p.m.

We want to recognize, too, the contribution made by people back in the 19th century, because the hospital service in Barbados was started on a voluntary basis in this country. There were public institutions from the beginning, but it has become quite fashionable nowadays with the new leftist group to cry down everything done before, without recognizing that there were good things that happened in this community as well, and that white people made some contribution — not all white people, some of the things they did were bad — but some of the black people did bad things too. But it is significant that a lot of charitable efforts in the 18th, 19th and early 20th century found their basis among the white community who had some charity in their minds.

I want to recall this because I run for a constituency that has in both. When I first started in politics some people said I was a white man. I couldn't care less what they think; I know that I got the highest percentage of votes, particularly in the upper part of Christ Church, among the coloured people who love me dearly, especially the women, Sir. That idea of being a white man is nonsense, but I deprecate very much the trend in the new leftists, people like misguided Ralph Gonsalves whom unfortunately the hon. member for St. Lucy has now taken to his bosom to preach democratic socialism to his constituency; people who have a dishonest intellectual approach to the problems of the Caribbean, who will shut their eyes to every wrong committed in totalitarian regimes, and who will never be able to find anything that is properly done in this country by white people or the middle class. But he will get up and talk on public platforms about the new leftist technique and imperialist jargon that went out twenty years ago. That annoys me, Sir, and that is why I welcome opportunities such as this to state that one cannot totally reject the past, and I believe the Minister has said so. She has said that we can have new re-orientations; we can re-orient the society occasionally. There are times we have to take stock. We will look at our successes, analyse our failures and have new ideas for the future.

We do spend quite a bit of money in health care. Our doctors are among some of the best paid professionals in the Western countries. We do have some outstanding doctors here

(*Asides*) Dr. Richie Haynes is one of the best qualified people around; I have never said otherwise. As a matter of fact, I have been his legal adviser, and believe that if I were still in legal practise I would still be his legal adviser. And he has given me medical care. I have never said anything other than that. Politically, though, he does not understand politics, despite the length of time he has been with the Democratic Labour Party. But that is irrelevant. I have never doubted the man's medical capabilities. Not only on paper is he well qualified, but the results are there. (*Asides*) Dr. Caddle? One of the best doctors we have got in Barbados, (*Asides*) No, Sir, I am not referring to the hon. member by his name, but this is recognized. One does not argue about these points.

I think we are fortunate in having people in Barbados who can go into the medical field and earn their keep in institutions overseas. In fact, a lot of Barbadians have made tremendous contributions to countries overseas. I can cite Dr. Kenneth Forde, born in New York of Barbadian parentage educated at Combermere School, and is a leading general surgeon, Dean of the Medical Faculty at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital — that is one of the Barbadians one can cite as making an outstanding contribution.

What we need to do now is to get some of the people to be community minded, to be conscious of the contribution which they must make; and I hope that the doctors will play their part in the health service, because I think there is a strong case for making sure that health care in all aspects, as was conceded by all hon. members who have spoken, must reach the man in the street, the people who are in need of it.

Take the psychiatric field, Sir. There is the need for more psychiatric and social workers. I believe the Hon. Minister recognizes this. One would like to see the stigma about mental illness broken down in this community. I would like to see attitudes change so that people will recognize that those who may be mentally ill are capable of being cured, as well as people who are physically ill. If you are mentally ill in this country, people treat you like a leper; but even lepers can be cured. But some of us feel that even in going near the leprosarium we are going to catch leprosy, and we do not want to have anything to do with those people and we treat them like outcasts and pariahs. I think it is a fear that is unnecessary and I think it is significant that the Minister intends to build one of her polyclinics right at the Mental Hospital.

It is an ideal area for her to do this and it show she has guts and initiative in this respect.

You too, Mr. Speaker, would want me to welcome the improvement promised at Litchfield in St. Peter. I know how hard you have campaigned for this in the North, and it is only recently, I must confess, that I found out in actual fact where Litchfield is; and it is only recently that I took the time to look at the present health clinic in St. Peter and realize that your statements in this House, in which at times you were almost moved to tears, were well justified. And we have to find the money, either by borrowing or by other means, loans, whatever it is, to get on as rapidly as possible in order to decentralize such services, so that people do not have to wait all through the night until the early morning before they can get a doctor to come to them, unless they know somebody who knows the doctor. This is the problem we have been having. I think that doctors are a little more fortunate than undertakers or lawyers, Sir. You know, if there is a traffic accident in St. Lucy, any lawyer will get out of his bed, particularly if the person has been badly injured and it looks like a good brief for damages; and he will be there before the ambulance is there. But the doctor, no; you have to get the person to the hospital and after that you have to wait a long time in the Casualty. I believe we have to decentralize and we must go on delivering what are called polyclinics in the new terminology as soon as possible.

I make these points, Sir, to say that although the national health service is a concept of the Barbados Labour Party, we would welcome very much the support of the Opposition for it; because I believe there are certain measures that must transcend parties. I would like to know that when details of the scheme are worked out, constructive criticisms are made as to how the scheme can be improved for Barbados, because it is obvious that all of us in this House must pass on at some stage; not only pass out of this House but we will pass into posterity; longevity may not be given to each one of us, and even if longevity be given, it cannot be in perpetuity. So that anything that can improve the standard of our country, be it in health care or in any other field, will be welcomed. And that is why it gives me pleasure to welcome the Government's proposal, including the community health centres.

The hon. member should not find it too difficult to accept the amendments to the Resolution.

4.40 p.m.

I believe included in the amendments to the Resolution of the hon. member is a broader scope than what he would want, but I have never heard, unless I am going to hear for the first time, that the Democratic Labour Party is opposed to the national health service. If the hon. member for St. Lucy intends to say that, let him say it early. I have never heard that they are, I have heard that they regret they did not mention it before, just as we might have regretted that we did not mention the free school meals when we were in opposition before, because it kept them going for five years longer than they should have been kept going, but we have never opposed the free school meals. (*Aside*). We never opposed it, you read the record. There is a difference between what is said and what people say you say, so I will welcome hearing that the Opposition agrees with the national health service and wish it well, and I would hope and I pray that the Minister who I know has been working very hard on her proposals will be in a position very shortly to bring not only positive legislation before the House, but all the measures which she intends to implement to make a living reality of such a health service.

I think you more than anybody else, Mr. Speaker, who have given so much of your time to constructive criticism of the running of the hospital to ferretting out where things have gone wrong, should be complimented on your contribution in this respect. I have been present in this House during the last five years when on a health measure you pointed out to the then Minister and to the Junior Minister, Mrs. Eastmond, that the Government had not got the correct facts. I believe it was on a matter concerning the ambulance service. You were taken to task that you were once more, they were suggesting, misleading the House. You stuck to your guns, you challenged them to send for the files, they sent for the files and I am happy to say that the files proved you right, because the then Junior Minister got up and acknowledged that you were right in this respect. In other words, wherever you found something was wrong, particularly at the hospital, you made a contribution on that, and regardless of what members thought of you at the time, I think that some of your strictures on the hospital got through to the administration and may have helped to save several lives at the hospital.

I will state this, Sir. The community is becoming more conscious of health care, whether it is being delivered or where the delivery is tardy or where there is no delivery at all, and I can prove something which probably does not sound too significant, but it is pointer for the future. It is significant that for the first time you are seeing physicians, surgeons and doctors in general being sued in negligence for their commissions and omissions. This is something that one never saw before in any measure in Barbados. The fact that it is occurring is evidence that the people are conscious of the necessity for the maintenance of high standards and the achievement of excellence in the health service, and I believe the Minister needs the support of each one of us, be we people on the front bench, back bench, or indeed on the front bench on the Opposition side, in urging on those people who work in the health service the necessity to give excellent service and to try to improve the standard of the health service as it obtains in Barbados today.

I welcome the Minister's proposals, Sir, I wish her well and she has my complete support, and any way that any of my Ministries could help her to achieve the Government's declared policies and her cherished aims at contributing to better health care.

Mr. SPEAKER: We have now come to the end of Private Members' Business.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Government's Time.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Resuming, Mr. Speaker, on the Betting and Gaming Duties Act, I think I had reached the stage of indicating that there is a distinction between gaming machines and amusement machines, and I spoke of the one arm bandits.

Well, now to deal with the distinction, Sir, I think I was dealing with it historically. These are really all amusement machines, but the one arm bandit has itself attracted some attention because it pays out a prize on a jackpot, but hon. members will observe that there is a whole range of other machines which are going to be charged at a monthly rate, and I will give some idea of the thinking of the Government that has led to this distinction. The original one arm bandits, I think I indicated, were invented by a German immigrant to the United States, and I was interested to be introduced during the

luncheon interval to someone who was apparently one of the spectators in the Public Gallery this morning, who is an official of that same company and who told me that..... (Hon. F. G. SMITH: Looking for business already?) He indicated that they have made applications to the Industrial Development Corporation to be allowed to make amusement machines here in Barbados, giving even more employment to Barbadians, but that is only in passing.

These other amusement machines, Sir, have developed with the development of electrical timing devices which came in before the War, which made it possible to have the semi-mechanical semi-electrical machines, you know, the machine, Sir, in which you pull a handle and a spring drives a ball and the ball goes around. They call them pin ball tables. The ball goes around and lights flash. These were an early form of amusement machines, and since the War there has been an even greater development with the development of micro circuitry and super conductors and the whole electronic system, so you have a very very wide range of amusement machines. You have machines in which you shoot at things and you get electronical registration and target, you can practise to be a tail gunner, a duck shooter, a submarine commander, whatever. You can play pin ball machines, they have gaming machines. I first ran across a table tennis machine in an establishment maintained by a member of this Hon. House, and many of the innocent half hours I have had a quarter playing the electronic ping pong. One or two of them are now coming, you can plug into your television set, Sir, you are probably seeing them, although it is not the intention of the Government to tax anybody who has one of these television attachment machines, it is not the intention of the Government to tax anybody who uses it for home entertainment. I would just like to make that clear, we are not persecuting people in their homes.

4.50 p.m.

All of these machines come to the island and their object is to make money. What differentiates them and the gambling machines is that they give the satisfaction of scoring a number or just playing a machine and do not give out money. And the Act will be seen in Section 24 or 25, I think it is, to make a distinction between a true gambling machine and an amusement machine. Amusement machines will also include pool tables; and I would also like to say a word, Sir, about pool tables.

I cannot see what objection anybody can have to a pool table. Billiards and Snooker for a long time have been the province of better off people because it is not many people who have access to billiards or snooker tables. The pool table has brought within the reach of many young boys — I did not see girls playing it so much — the playing of billiards and snooker. Taking them by themselves, I regard them as a positive contribution to recreational facilities in Barbados; but undoubtedly the pool tables have found themselves sited in places which have certain drawbacks; and I feel that the company that surrounds pool tables in one or two of the areas is not the best company for a young boy to find himself in. This is a function of society rather than of the pool tables.

So we are imposing licensing restrictions on all of these amusement machines. The Comptroller of Customs will be authorised to give the licences, and he can impose conditions which will be set out by Regulations in due course, relating to the use of pool tables and other amusement machines.

I do not regard it as desirable, however harmless the individual amusement machine may be, for areas of congregation to be encouraged in Barbados. The Government has resolutely set its face against amusement arcades in which one armed bandits — that is gambling machines will be allowed; and I would reiterate that no such arcades will be allowed to develop under any guise whatsoever. This will be encouraging young boys and girls to have access to the machines. We are not giving too much encouragement either to arcades which may serve as places of resort undesirable on general social grounds; and it will therefore be necessary for each machine to pay the standard licence fee for amusement machines, although, Sir, the full conditions will not necessarily be enforced in respect of the more harmless machines.

Now, Sir, to go through the Act, as far as I can piece by piece — I do not intend to deal with the individual clauses here — but I will cover it roughly speaking. The definition section will contain a number of definitions already to be found in other Acts. We also attempt to define "gaming machines". Section 3 of the Act is the general section setting out its ambit. Section 4 set out what the duties are — sets out the interests of the revenue. The next part of the Act, Sections 5 and 6, deal with pool betting. Sections 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 deal with racing service business.

Opportunity has been taken in the process of repealing the present Racing Service

Registration Act to close one or two loopholes. As is known, normally a bet cannot be collected through the courts. If you bet money and you lose you cannot by the courts be obliged to pay the money, and if you bet money and you win you will not normally be permitted by the courts to sue for your winnings. To this there is the very important exception that the court will not notice that it is a bet unless you plead it. This means that if a man who makes a bet on a horse race has a genuine dispute with the person who received the bet, the two parties may allow the dispute to go to court in order to find out who is right; because the judge will not say I am not enforcing this because it is a bet. He has to wait for one man to say this is a bet. Now this has a very important effect in Great Britain on which all this is based.

In Great Britain if you plead the Gaming Act, as it is called, you will be warned off the Turf and can never attend a race meeting or make a bet on a race with any licenced bookmaker, and you will normally be expelled from all sporting clubs to which you belong. You will not be admitted to the Royal Enclosure or indeed to any enclosure at Ascot. Indeed, no matter who you are, you would probably find that you would not be admitted to Buckingham Palace, even if you are a Minister of Government, perhaps. This is a very serious thing in Britain — to plead the Gaming Act as it is called. In Barbados this does not apply, and there has been at least one case in which a racing service business has taken somebody's bet and when they went to court, and indeed would have won the case anyhow, not only insisted on winning the case, but insisted on not paying back the bet which was the sum of more than \$500. They escaped on this occasion not by reason of the Gaming Act, but because the proprietors of that business — one lived in California and one lived in Britain, and it was argued that they were not served with the process. Well, I suppose that if the parties in that case had been reported to the Jockey Club in Britain that they would have been debarred from making bets on English racing and so on. This was not done.

We have decided to do the best thing, which is to say that the racing service can be sued locally. In other words, all that you have to do is to deliver your paper at the place where business is carried on; and for the information of the public who bet on horse racing in Barbados, they will now be able fully to sue the racing services in Barbados if they have won a bet, if they think they have won a bet, and they have not been paid on it. I am

told that this is by no means an unusual circumstance.

That is the principal change which has been introduced into the law, although certain duties have been raised; and we have also raised the bond which must be deposited. Securities to the value of not less than \$40,000 will now have to be deposited with the Accountant General before the racing service business can carry on activity.

Now, as far as the stamping of tickets is concerned, the racing services feel that it will be difficult. I have here a letter from one of them; and this is the same service in respect of which the hon. member for St. Michael South West has made representations, Mr. Speaker. This will be considered; but in the meantime it should be understood that if the racing services from July 1st do not stamp a ticket in whatever form is approved, if the bet loses they will have to give back the man his money, and if the bet wins, they will have to pay the man his winnings. I hope that the entire public understands that. It is "heads" they lose and "tails" the bettor wins. 5.00 p.m.

I think that, once this sanction is clearly understood, we will have no difficulty in getting the tickets stamped. Once the bettor knows that he will collect on an unstamped ticket, whether he wins or loses, I think once that is known, I believe, the services will take steps to stamp the tickets.

Now Sections 15 to 17 in the Act establish a Committee to be known as the Betting and Gaming Committee. This will take over the functions of the present Gambling Committee which is at present chaired by the Commissioner of Police and gives out permission for lotteries. The Committee will consist exclusively of public officers. It is not intended to publish which public officers, and I mention this to say that I really do not want any member of the public approaching the Minister of Consumer Affairs, who is responsible for import licensing, approaching the Minister of Labour, who has certain duties in respect of his Sports portfolio relating to the granting of lottery permissions and for approved sporting organisations, or approaching the Minister of Finance under whose general authority the administration of this Act will fall for any licences for any sort of gambling. There are a number of reasons for this. General directions will be given to the Committee and the scope of these general directions has already been indicated in this and other places.

I anticipate the Committee will find it easier to grant a licence to have a gaming machine in a hotel than in a rum shop or, in a place where it is otherwise undesirable. I anticipate that. From the Committee there will be an appeal to the Minister of Finance by persons aggrieved by the refusal of the Committee to issue licences either for lotteries or for gaming machines import licences. This is set out quite clearly in Part III of the Act, Mr. Speaker, and Ministers as such will have nothing to do with the determination of these matters. It is a safety precaution because I believe that distributing the responsibility among several public Officers is the fairest and most reliable means, subject to an over-view by the Minister of determining how these matters shall be settled one way or the other.

Mr. Speaker, hon. members will observe Sections 18, 19 and 20, General Restrictions and the issue of licences not only for import but for use on particular premises. Section 23 says that you have to apply to the Comptroller of Customs. His discretion, of course, will not be unfettered. Section 20 and the other Sections will make it clear that his discretion will be controlled under general directions and subject to the directions of the Committee. Sections 28 and 29 all deal with gaming machines. Section 30 deals with miscellaneous matters, Sir. The Minister can give exemption in respect of bingo duty. In Section 31 the Comptroller of Customs can deal with persons convicted who may also appeal to the Minister. I would like to say that appeals to a Minister would not be treated as casual appeals where the Minister sits down and decides. This Government intends that where a Minister has to exercise a discretion in respect of the public that that discretion will be exercised judiciously and not capriciously. People can make representations if they want to, as far as I am concerned. They can come into my office with their lawyers, and I will hear them, their lawyers and their witnesses if they want, as long as the circumstances warrant it. I have every belief that all present and succeeding Ministers will apply these same principles of natural justice as long, certainly, as this Government is in power.

The remaining Sections of the Act are really regulatory Sections. I would advise all persons who are concerned with gaming machines to have a careful look at Section 42 indicating that if you bring a machine into Barbados in contravention of this Act, if you have it in Barbados not licensed, if you use it for gaming otherwise than on approved premises, and if you store it anywhere other than approved by the Comptroller the machine is liable to forfeiture, and the Government will not hesitate to seize the

machine. I am giving no guarantee that those machines will ever be sold again in Barbados at public auction or otherwise. I am giving no guarantee whatsoever that we may not seek other means — these provisions have to be enforced — of dealing with this situation.

The reason why there must be a penalty in relation to storage is that if the Police hear a machine is illegally use and they go there and find it covered with a cloth and they are told that it is being stored there we do not want to be caught by that. Covered by a cloth, being used, present for repair, and so on, the machine is going to be seized by the Government. They may be kept in places which are more or less Gaming Machine warehouses or on the premises where they will be repaired, or on approved places. There are the only places where we are going to allow these gambling machines to be kept and God help anybody who has a gambling machine somewhere else, as far as the administration is concerned. (*Asides.*)

Not God or the Magistrate, Sir. It would not be the Magistrate. We can seize, and we do not have to go before a Magistrate to seize. We will seize and finish with that, and it will then be up to the owner of the machine to go to the Magistrate, if he feels that he can get it back. We will just seize.

That I think, Sir, is the Act. I have set out the principle, I have set out the scheme of the Act, I recommend it to the House, and I believe it will be a fruitful source of revenue. How fruitful we did not even know, Sir, until the applications from the hotels began to come in. We believe it will be a fruitful source of revenue, and I believe that the people of Barbados will be well served by the proper regulation of some of the various means of gambling activities as set out in this Act which I now beg to move to be read a second time.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to second a Bill of this nature. I think we were treated earlier today to a very exhausting, interesting and historical picture of the introduction to gambling into the entire society and to the entire world.
5.10 p.m.

The reason why I would have some interest in this is because since 1966 I was probably dubbed the Mississippi gambler by members on the otherside. At that time I myself never even got involved, but as they say you are always accused of things that you really do not do, and I eventually got myself involved. I remember the

hon. member for St. John one day at a club at Graeme Hall playing a game called peewee at \$1.00 a throw, but I think what is wrong is that it is because the small man over the years has always found himself gambling under the ackee tree or by the bridge with a torn-up pack of cards that people saw gambling as something that is the worst part of any recreational aspect in one's society.

Now gambling comes in many forms. I remember people in the 1966 election gambling that you could not beat Frank Walcott. That was a bet. I recall that in 1976 members on the other side were gambling again that they were.....

Mr. SPEAKER: You mean hon. members who are now on the other side.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Hon. members who are now on the other side were at that time gambling and taking a chance that they would not sit in this august Assembly if the present Prime Minister had the destinies of this country in his hands. They were going to leave Barbados. They have gambled and lost. We can look at a long and wide range of what gambling is all about. You go to Church fetes and you see people playing lucky dips; people play the pools; some people gamble by way with men. Some people may love men, some may love women, and the whole marriage relationship can break down. Even marrying to a man or to a woman can be a gamble. Now the hon. member for St. Lucy probably would not take that bet in marrying a man. The whole wide range of gambling is a very awkward type of business.

When one examines the one-armed bandits, we are told that if they were placed in certain areas you would find that people were going to loiter and do things which they should not do, it would encourage them to steal; but the whole aspect of the Prime Minister's introduction of this Bill is to make sure that the Government will get that needed revenue from whatever form of gambling there is.

Now I am not going to be very long on this, but I could not allow this occasion to pass unless I had made my contribution, because I myself have my fun playing a game called Kings and Little Ones. This is a very interesting poker game and I must confess that the Prime Minister I have always had as a very shrewd gambler. I reckon him to be one of the finest I have ever met, because there is no doubt in my mind that the gamble he took in 1976 removed once and for all the corrupt politics of the former administration. I think that is one of the

shrewdest pieces of gambling one can think about in this country, and I would like to salute the Prime Minister in introducing this legislation, because he has given it a lot of thought over the years. You will remember he spoke about gambling in BC and AD; I did not go to school very long, and I believe he might have meant by BC before Christ and AD after Christ. I know that he gave you in introducing this Resolution a very far-reaching range of what the gambling aspect is going to be in Barbados. As long as gambling will not weaken the moral fabric of the society, I am prepared to support it in any form. Surely when the last administration was in power they started one of the most corrupt gambling organisations, I believe, in this part of the world known as the West Indies Hospital Sweep. That administration encouraged that type of gambling in this country to the extent where they still owe the Government of Barbados some \$498,000, but this administration in introducing a measure of this nature will make sure that the money is collected immediately and that nothing of this nature is going to happen.

I dare say the Prime Minister in his wisdom would have had talks with maybe the Dean of Barbados who is now considered a rebel in the eyes of some people. You have heard about the red Dean and now you hear about the black Dean and that the Dean is a bad Dean. I imagine the Prime Minister would have had consultations with Dean Critchlow before he took such a step. However I would hope that the Attorney General would give some thought to the upgrading of legislation surrounding the whole aspect of gambling in this country, because although I may be able to sit down in my living room or in the living room of the Leader of the Opposition and play a game of cards at night under the fancy lights and with the fancy liquors being drunk, the little man who can only afford to be under the tamarind tree should not be pushed around or chased around by the police, because he is entitled to the same recreational facilities as the Leader of the Opposition and the Prime Minister. I sincerely hope that the Attorney General in his good offices — and I mean the present Attorney General, not the Leader of the Opposition or the one who succeeded him, I am thinking of the one of whom the country can now be proud to know they have an Attorney General — will make sure that in his far-reaching legislation that the little man when he goes home on evenings and can only find the ackee tree or wherever he feels he can sit down for a little fun will not be chased by the police and he has to get up and leave the money so that

the police can collect the money and the man would have to come back. That is another chance the police will be taking.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the Government for bringing this up-to-date legislation, and so long as it does not weaken the moral fibre of the society, it has my blessing, and sitting in Cabinet with him I am confident that he is on the right track. I know that Rev. Fairweather is no longer with us but I dare say he would have made his input, but his very good friend the hon. member for St. Lucy is there, and I am sure the touch of Rev. Fairweather's warm hands should be resting upon his head and whatever contribution he knows that Rev. Fairweather would have made, I am quite sure he will have something to say. I know Rev. Fairweather being a priest and one who may not have been interested in gambling, at the same time would have rested his hands upon the head of the hon. member for St. Lucy even during communion, but I think the hon. member would be able to tell you more about Rev. Fairweather than I can. However, whatever input there is from the Church, you have the hon. member for St. Lucy and you have the Leader of the Opposition who is also a lay preacher. I think the Leader of the Opposition can also tell Parliament if he cares to how interesting it can be to play a game of cards at the shop in Halls Road for a flask of rum.

5.20 p.m.

Whatever input there is from the church, you have the hon. member for St. Lucy and you have the Leader of the Opposition who is also a lay preacher. I think the Leader of the Opposition will also tell Parliament, if he cares to, how interesting it can be playing a game of cards there in the shop in Halls Road for a flask of rum. I think that would also be betting, Sir. I would bet I get four trumps before you get another one. But not for money; they were playing for rum. But I am quite sure that whatever this legislation can do to bring a bit of income into the country's coffers, the Prime Minister is on the right track.

That is all I would like to say. But I wanted to make my little contribution even though it might appear to be humorous, because I was also dubbed the gambler of Parliament, and I know that almost all of us in here have taken a chance of some kind or other — buying race tickets, which I do not buy; buy bingo tickets, which I do not buy. I do not go to races, that is not my form of gambling. My form of gambling is you get your cards and I get mine and let me direct my affairs across the table.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I would like the hon. member for St. James to know that, thank God ever since I started to work I can buy rum, whiskey, drambuie. I do not have to gamble or play cards for rum. I have never done it....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, Sir. I apologise if I have touched the corns of the Leader of the Opposition; I apologise for the remarks I have made. I have played dominoes for water; what is wrong with playing dominoes for water or cards for rum. I apologise if you feel it is insulting to you.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: As I said, I thank God I can buy rum, whiskey, vodka, drambuie, you name it.....

Mr. SPEAKER: You are a connoisseur.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: As a minister, and as a lawyer now, I have been doing it; my stock has not gone down. But I want you to understand....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, Sir. I am not accusing the member for not buying rum or whether he can buy. He has taken the thing out of context.

Mr. SPEAKER: Point taken.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: In every organization you must have buffoon. Mr. Speaker, today is the 24th May, and it is very significant that the two members who are known to be gamblers in Barbados should propose and second this Bill. It will go down at Robbie's and the Union Club where the Prime Minister gambles that a Bill dealing with gambling should be proposed by the Prime Minister and seconded by the hon. member for St. James.

History has a way of coming full circle. I do not pretend to have the historical background of gambling. I came across it when I was doing Greek; how the people used to gamble in Roman and Greek days.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, is the Leader of the Opposition alleging that I have ever played a one armed bandit at the Union Club or at Robbie's? Because I can give him every assurance without any shadow of a doubt that I never have; and the only thing new in this Bill is one armed bandits. Let him say that he has never put a quarter in one.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: But you play for bigger stakes, according to the hon. member for

St. James; you play for Government, so you would not have to play one armed bandits. But I do not pretend to have this knowledge and background of the history of gambling. It is not relevant; it is not important; it does not help me in any way to exist. Nor have I got the practical experience, nor do I crave or aspire to have either his knowledge of the history of gambling or his practical experience. My form of playing is with cards. Not even for money, among my friends, for a social evening playing bridge once or twice a week.

For that matter, Mr. Speaker, we have no quarrel with certain points of this Bill. Gambling has been going on in Barbados, and if you look at the Bill itself you will find certain forms of gambling as stated in the third Schedule where certain Acts are being repealed or being re-enacted with an updating in fees etc. These things were in existence at the time of the Democratic Labour Party, and I would be a hypocrite of the first degree to suggest that gambling in these areas should be abolished completely. I have been a party to it when I was in the Government; I knew it existed, — racing, bingo, pool betting; I knew that all these and other forms of gambling existed when I was in Government; therefore I would be a hypocrite that the re-enactment of these provisions should not be done. What I am saying is, church notwithstanding, I am not voting for this measure even if I stand alone, for the legalization of one armed bandits in Barbados. It is a matter of principle, and I am not voting for it as a matter of conscience. I am not encouraging the people of Barbados, in a low wage basic society where children are being neglected, where husbands are not supporting their wives, where there is poverty and starvation to create another form of gambling in which a man working for \$40 or \$50 a week, in the hope of winning money, can go to a one armed bandit and give away his whole week's pay in 25 cents or ten cents. So I am telling you I do not mind standing alone if history for the 24th May records that the hon. member for St. Michael South Central voted against this Bill.

I am not interested in whether the church has made representation; I am saying what my conscience tells me: that in 1977 in a society like Barbados where we are asking for wage restraints, for a wages and incomes policy, we can now glibly create another avenue where the poor man is put in a position throughout the country where he can fritter away his little earnings.

And I would draw to attention, Mr. Speaker, that on the 22nd June last year the

Hon. Prime Minister asked the then Government certain questions in this House: To ask the appropriate Minister: 1. Is the Minister aware that a great many gambling machines known as "fruit machines" and "one-armed bandits" having been installed in licensed and other premises in Baxters Road, Cheapside and other parts of the City of Bridgetown and Barbados. (I don't know if the English there is quite correct; anyhow it does not matter.) 2. And this is important. Is the Minister aware that such machines have been held to be illegal in Great Britain under gambling legislation and laws similar to those in force in Barbados? 3. Is the Minister aware — (and this is important now, a question asked by the expert in gambling) — Is the Minister aware that many of these machines return to the persons who place coins in them amounts representing only 10% to 20% of the total value of the coins inserted; and is he further aware that in parts of the United States where the use of such machines is not illegal the machines pay out a return of up to 90% of the value of the coins inserted? (The Prime Minister knows the authority; he comes now with specific percentage. He knows specifically that they only get back 10% to 20% of the coins inserted. These are the machines that he is today legalizing in the interest of this country! A red letter day — a black letter day — in the history of this country. — the legalizing of one armed bandits by the new Government of Barbados.)

And the Question goes on: 4. Is the Minister aware that many youths and teenagers are being freely allowed to use the said machines? (I wonder if the Minister in legalizing these machines is going to rig them to give back 90%, for he said earlier that they only gave 10% to 20% of the coins inserted; but he is now saying that in certain parts of the States you get back 90%. Is he saying that these machines are going to be so adjusted or rigged that they will give back 90%?)

And 5. Is it the policy of the Government to pass legislation or otherwise to permit the use of such machines in Barbados, and if so will the Government insure that they are installed and used in conditions where there is a fair return to the punter; and if it is not the policy of the Government so to permit the use of such machines, will the Minister draw to the attention of the Commissioner of Police that these machines are in existence and request that the Commissioner collect the information on their use and forward it to the Director of Public Prosecutions for possible action under sections 7 & 8 of the Gambling Act, Chapter 135 of the Laws of Barbados?

5.30 p.m.

Those are the questions, which were not answered, and quite rightly so, but what we do know is, as was said by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, is that the police raided the place where one arm bandits were kept, and that one arm bandits went in, or went underground for a considerable period of time. When the Prime Minister is talking about he hears that Patsy Springer has interest in the racing, I hear that his Private Secretary has interest in one arm bandits too. I am not sure about him. Just as he hears about Patsy I hear about Howard Roberts.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order. If the hon. member is going to make reference to a member of the other House in his public capacity, or any person in his public capacity, he must give you notice, Sir. I am submitting without fear of a doubt that the hon. member has not given such notice and he should be called on to withdraw that and it should be struck from the record, Sir.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: He did not ask that when he said that Patsy Springer...

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I am on a point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: When he said that Patsy refused to allow the last Government to increase the rates you did not quarrel.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sir, I was just going to mention as far as Mr. Patsy Springer is concerned, I can make this a document of the House showing that Mr. Patsy Springer is a Director of Federal Bookmakers Limited and is making representations to the Government about these matters. If he is suggesting that it is untrue, I do not know what you will rule on the Howard Roberts matter, Sir, but I know Mr. Roberts will want to publish what an outright, wicked, disgusting, foul lie it is.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Two wrongs do not make a right, he must withdraw it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Just take your seat. This matter must be resolved. In this instance, if the Hon. Leader of the Opposition is prepared to substantiate what he said, all is well and good. Failing this, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition will have to withdraw his remarks, and in like manner the hon. member for St. Thomas will also have to withdraw his remarks. Is the Leader of the Opposition in a position to substantiate his remarks?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: In the same position, Mr. Speaker, as the Prime Minister was when he said he was told Patsy Springer stopped the Rt. Hon. member for St. John from increasing the fees. That is the same basis, he heard so, and I heard so. If that is not good enough I will withdraw it, that I said it the same way he was told that, and I will withdraw it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Good, so that you now withdraw.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Right.

Mr. SPEAKER: Would the Hon. Prime Minister please withdraw?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: What am I to withdraw? About what a liar he was?

Mr. SPEAKER: Please withdraw.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I will withdraw all about his being a liar for saying Howard Roberts....

Mr. SPEAKER: And do not qualify anything, just withdraw.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I withdraw it utterly, Sir.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: As I was saying, Mr. Speaker, the position...

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir, I do not know whether Your Honour adverted to my submission that the words when withdrawn should be struck from the record.

Mr. SPEAKER: I should draw to your attention that the reference was made to the Prime Minister's Private Secretary and not a member of the Other Place. He is not a member of the Other Place.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: As I say, Sir, and I will try to avoid that, because this Bill is a very serious piece of legislation and therefore we have to look at the one arm bandit and the legalising of it in very serious.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Because gambling is unkind to somebody at some time, so let us get on without saying unkind words one about the other.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Fine, Sir. I agree entirely with you, Sir, but let us get back to this particular Bill. The other sections, including

licences, and as far as I am concerned, I do not hold any brief for any gambling establishment — not brief in the legal sense, I mean at all — because to me morally all gambling is wrong. All gambling of any kind is morally wrong. There is no little gambling and big gambling, no dice under the ackee tree and no playing for a plantation in the Bridgetown Club or wherever they play for it, all gambling is morally wrong. Just as any other offence, fornication, is wrong, adultery is wrong, but human nature being what it is, and society having evolved as it is, then society has to accept that human beings are prepared to take chances, and I think the member for St. James knows this because he was in life insurance, and life insurance is based on a man not knowing when he is going to die, and if he dies immediately after he takes out your policy he hits you, and if he lives too long you hit him, so it is a simple question of life being what it is that society has accepted it, not from a moral point of view but from the realities of human kind, that gambling in some form will take place.

Now, whereas race meetings in Barbados are held about 16 days a year — roughly, I may not be accurate on the number of days, four meetings — whereas Bingo is basically 25 cents, although a man could spend his whole wage packet in the hope of winning, and pool betting similarly, a responsible Government must not, when it assesses the economic climate of the country, create more avenues for allowing the low wage earning community to spend what they do not have, and therefore, looking at Barbados now, we will discover that without the legalising of one arm bandits we have enough gambling already which is there and which more than meets the needs of the man who wants to play bone dice, to go to the races or buy a bingo ticket. We know, I do not know if the hon. members on that side know, I know of sufferings among the same man in the street who wants to play bone dice, of his family not getting a Sunday meal. I have known of the frittering away of his week's earnings on some gambling device, or gambling with his pals. Lightermen used to do it, and many of them have ended up paupers. They worked for good money and gambled it away, and then it falls on the society to support these people who have frittered away their money on the chance. Mankind likes to take a chance, win \$100 for a penny, win \$1,000 for five cents, and therefore a responsible Government has got to hold the reins in on the opportunity it provides for the man who cannot control himself to fritter away his \$50 or \$60 a week with six or seven

children, which is the earning capacity of the man in the street.

If you are working for \$2,000 a month you can afford to gamble, if you are working for \$1,500 or \$1,000 — if you are thrifty you really cannot afford to gamble — but I would even make allowances for when a man is working for \$50, \$60, \$70, \$80 with house rent, with food to buy, with children at school, with clothes to provide, with insurances to pay, with a car to run, and to open to him further avenues and new avenues — not only further, but new avenues, this is what it is — because the one arm bandits now will be legal, you are opening to him a whole spate of gambling opportunities which he did not have before.
5.40 p.m.

Of course the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister realised that children and teenagers waiting for the bus used to go into Nelson Street and gamble. Are you going to put a policeman at every pool table and at every one armed bandit? When I was Minister of Education I got complaints that children waiting for the bus in the bus stand were in Nelson Street playing these one armed bandits before the police clamped down. What are you going to do? Are you going to put a policeman into every one of these places? Are you going to let children save 25 cents to go and play the one armed bandits instead of buying lunch? Then you hear they cannot learn because they do not have a lunch in their stomachs. You are going to get a lot of social evils developing. Somebody is going to stab somebody for 25 cents. You will get an army of pimps borrowing 25 cents to play the one armed bandits.

This Bill is a retrograde Bill in Part IV. It is a wicked piece of legislation and this country will live to regret it. In a society and age where there is promiscuity, where there is a basic deterioration in morals and behaviour, not only in Barbados but throughout the world, where man is now showing his bestial nature, this Parliament goes on record as creating another opportunity to degrade the Barbadian public by legalising one armed bandits.

When I see the Attorney General sitting down there looking so smug, I would have expected him as a Christain man to come in here with a Bill to make it illegal to have one armed bandits. What is even worse, the Prime Minister has applications waiting now. Hotels want one armed bandits. This is a possible way of introducing casinos in Barbados. It is a wicked thing. He has applications for filthy

lucre, a few dollars. Sam Lord's Castle — you will see people playing the one armed bandits on mornings. Name it. Barbadians do not go there; but the same Hotels Act entitles them to go. Whether he has representations from the Church does not matter to me; but what he is subtly introducing in this country is casino gambling, starting out with one armed bandits.

Is that fair to this country? Is it fair now that the hotels should apply for a licence to put in 100 one armed bandits to play all night? I am not suggesting at this point that the Mafia is going to follow it. The Mafia follow wherever there is money; and the legalising of one armed bandits is opening a Pandora Box of evils in this community. If I am abused over there, if I get cursed for my old fashioned thinking, if I get cursed for anything, I will go down living with my conscience that on the 24th May I have endeavoured to save the country that gave me birth from the degradation to which that new Government is leading it by legalising one armed bandits.

I have never felt more convinced of anything in my whole life that today this is a Bill that we will live to regret in years to come. You will have passed on. I will have gone to the Great Beyond drinking milk and honey. I know that a lot of you will not be there. When the roll is called up yonder half of you will not be there; but I know that I'll be there; but I want you all to consider that we are pandering to the baser instincts of man by legalising these one armed bandits.

I hear that there is a lot waiting to come down by Carib West from Miami. I hear they are just waiting to get loaded on to bring them in. I like American business men. That is why it is the greatest and richest country; but as the Prime Minister said that before this Bill comes into law, in the gallery he is talking to a man connected with these machines, with their manufacture; and before we can finish the second reading he is talking to this business man. We want our businessmen and manufacturers to act in a similar fashion. If we could get them acting like this businessman who got a wire that the Barbados Government is legalising one armed bandits; and before we could finish the second reading, he came listening, waiting for the order. You had better tell our businessmen to act in this fashion. Then your foreign export trade and your foreign earnings and your capacity to meet the needs of the country without resort to this piece of legislation will be more than met.

A Government is entitled to rule, Mr. Speaker. The Government is entitled to pass any legislation. As we used to say, you have the numbers. However, I know that this is going to lead to a lot of hardships. You are trying to improve your Welfare Services. You are trying to keep down crime; and once you open avenues like this you can see the evils like a slimy snake creeping right through the society. Apart from the hardships that it is going to work on families, it means that people are going to steal to get money to play. It is like smoking Marijuana. They are going to smoke it in the dens and houses. There is the possibility of the Mafia coming because the casinos will be in the hotels, likewise to when you play Bacarat 21 or some other game, adding to them little by little.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I do not have much more to say except that I am going to vote against Part IV if it is the last thing I do in this Chamber; because I do not agree with it. I would have supported a Bill to make them illegal. Send one of the MCW bulldozers, collect them and mash them up. There is no merit in it. There is nothing educational in it. There is nothing beautiful in a one armed bandit.

The Minister himself has admitted that all you get back is 10 or 20 per cent. Are you going to rig them so that the man in the street will get back more? He himself said so when he questioned the last Government. I will go down in history whether I am old fashioned, out of date, whatever I am accused of over there — I know that the member for St. James cannot abuse me any more — I do not mind what I am called over there. I am honest and I want you to believe that I am criticising this not because I am against the B.L.P. I am against this particular section of the Bill. If it was in Cabinet and I had a say in this, I would tell my colleagues that I am not voting for it.

I feel very strongly on this. It is not because the Government has introduced it. It is a moral conviction. In this society, when I look around and see what young people can do, like smash up my Jaguar for fun or for vandalism. Playing traunt from school is going to become prevalent. Stealing money from mummy to go and play. Do you not see the Pandora Box of evils? Mummy only has to put a \$5 bill under the table cloth and go next door and Johnny gone with it. I know my people. It will not only mean stealing from your parents but stealing from your neighbours. It is going to mean traunt from school. This may not be important to you; but I know what this

generation gives. It is going to mean, Mr. Speaker, and I want you honestly to believe me, that I am not criticising the Government on the rest of the Bill; but I feel that they are misguided in making this thing legal in Barbados because it can seep through our society. I pray to God and hope that the legalising of this piece of legislation will not bring the evils I suspect it will bring. I hope and pray that in the interest of the country in which I had the honour to be born.....

5.50 p.m.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I think I am as well qualified as the hon. member who has just sat down in speaking on this bit of legislation. Indeed, in several respects he comes into this House with the serious limitations which he has in speaking in a convincing manner, either based on moral grounds, or indeed on economic grounds on legislation such as this. I have never been part and parcel of any Government which passed legislation prior to this date dealing with any issues of gambling, and, if the hon. member is to be taken seriously, it is a pity that he locked up the courage of his conviction for the years he remained in the Senate and in here as a Minister without moving to repeal other gambling legislation on the Statute Book. There is a certain moralistic attitude that is adopted for convenience by people like the hon. member, and it is this type of attitude that I must characterise as one which should be rejected by this House.

Now, I have had the benefit of sitting down with the draftsman of this legislation and, for the benefit of this House, there are very few provisions in this legislation that are new. There are from existing legislation passed mostly by the last Government regulating gambling in this country. Indeed, it is significant that the hon. member, despite the applause he has got from the other side, has not yet in the whole of this Bill said that he would not support provisions that existed before dealing with gambling. I take it from that, that he does not object to gambling *per se*. It is important to say this.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member will give way. I said that I object to all forms of gambling, but I accepted that the society had evolved to a stage where certain forms of gambling were tolerated. I said so openly, and if you were listening you would have heard.

Mr. SPEAKER: Point taken.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, it is the first time today that he is going to say so. How is it that between 1969-71 the hon. member never had the courage of his conviction to move for strengthening the Gambling Act, updating the Gambling Act, abolishing the West Indies Hospital Sweepstake, which was the biggest racket and rake off brought into this country by the Democratic Labour Party Government? A licence for a few friends of the Democratic Labour Party Government to work fraud on the population of Barbados and other countries under the guise of saying that they were promoting hospitals and looking after sick people in this country. Why is it that the hon. member on all of the public platforms during the City By-election did not have the courage of his conviction to disassociate himself from Parks in the support given in the D.L.P. campaign when Parks was the biggest racketeer in relation to machines.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I do not know Parks. I do not know if Parks is a member of the D.L.P.

Mr. SPEAKER: Point taken. Will the Leader of the Opposition please take his seat. (*Asides.*) I want to say that if shouts of "hypocrite" coming from the Government Benches are directed at the Leader of the Opposition they will not be tolerated in here.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I want to tell the hon. member that he has based his attack on the Bill simply on saying not that the Government should come down today repealing all legislation on the Statute Book which has permitted any form of gaming to take place. That has not been his stand, and there is a reason why he has not done so. He knows as well as anybody else that his Government promoted gambling in this country and permitted it to operate without even bringing legislation for its proper control. He knows that he sat in Cabinet and was party to collective decisions that permitted this to take place. He knows even now that if he had remained in the Government he would not be bringing any legislation down at all to get rid of gambling completely from the society. He knows that, and he is making a fuss about gambling machines which have been operating in Barbados during his regime. He was a past Attorney General, a member of the Cabinet, and for once I would like him to show me anywhere where he instituted or caused to be instituted a prosecution of people who were gambling illegally in Barbados.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to interrupt, but the Attorney General must be more careful. I was not the Attorney General from 1971-76. He knows that. He knows that in 1971-76 the gambling machines came in. How can he ask me to start a prosecution as Attorney General? He must get his facts properly.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your point is taken.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The hon. member was a member of the Cabinet. It was his duty to draw it to the attention of the Attorney General, or he had a duty to draw it to the attention of the Director of Public Prosecutions. The hon. member believes like the hon. member for St. Michael South West, who is not present today, that this gives him a good platform from which he will be taken back into the breast of the church, but the church will never forgive you for the things you said about them. I do not know about any roll call you will be up there.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I was never excommunicated from the Church!

Mr. SPEAKER: On what do you rise?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of elucidation. I have not been excommunicated from the Church. I go to church every Sunday, and I do not have to be taken back in. What foolishness is he talking?

Mr. SPEAKER: Your point has been taken.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Let us get rid of all of that type of approach to the issue here. I prefer, if possible, to urge on this House the approach taken by the Royal Commission on betting, lotteries and gaming ever since 1949 and 1951 in England. For the benefit of the hon. member that Committee was headed by Sir Henry Willink who was not only a man with the Military Cross, but was also a leading churchman in the Anglican Church. He was a person who wrote books on Church Law. He was the Registrar of the Church of England. He was the Master of Magdelene College and who was more Pope, if you are going to use that phrase, than the hon. member can ever pretend he will be. He was not only a better local preacher, but he had a greater knowledge of Church Law, Gambling Law, and all sorts of laws than the hon. member, and I believe he is already dead. I knew the late Sir Henry, and I believe that he has gone to the great beyond and must have gone to the same place up

yonder that the hon. member mistakenly believes he will be called in due course. That is the position, Sir.

What did he say? He listened to the sort of arguments that you sometimes hear from people. He said:

"We are led by all of the evidence we have heard to the conclusion that gambling as a factor in the economic life of the country or as a cause of crime is of little significance, and that its affects on social behaviour in so far as these are suitable objects for legislation are in the great majority of cases less important than has been suggested to us by some witnesses.

We, therefore, consider that the object of gambling legislation should be to interfere as little as possible with individual liberty to take part in various forms of gambling, but to impose such restrictions as are desirable and practicable to discourage or prevent excess."

I suggest to this Honourable House that this is a much better test to use in approaching this legislation. In drafting the legislation, Sir, you will see that there are some very serious conditions laid down and an attempt made to control existing legislation which had no such controls as we are now putting into this Bill. If the hon. member wishes, for the benefit of the House when we go into a Committee of the full House, on each Clause I am prepared to guide the Committee, if he so wishes, as to the Sections from existing legislation where this draft comes from. The hon. member will see that wherever there are now restrictions on the playing of games of chance that new ones are introduced in circumstances where, under his Government, they never existed before. What is he shouting about, Sir?

6.p.m.

So what is he shouting about? I listened to them on the platforms as they have gone around the country, and they have given the country, even as the hon. member for St. John seems to suggest, that we are bringing a casino to the country, because he thinks this is a way to salvage a fallen political image, but it is untrue. They said we were introducing a casino in St. Lucy at one of the meetings they held down there. Well the hon. member does not agree with me. The fact remains that gambling has been legalised to a certain extent in Barbados by the Opposition. It is nothing that we are bringing in fresh. We have sought to control excessive gambling in this Bill and we

are seeking to ensure that the ill effects that can result and in some instances do result from gambling do not result in this community. That is what we are seeking to do in this Bill. Let me state that for myself the most that I do is to buy a sweepstake ticket rather spasmodically. As a matter of fact I have never betted on pools; I have never pulled a one armed bandit; I have never bought a West Indies Hospital Sweepstake ticket. I have bought a turf club ticket from time to time and have once won \$200 on one such ticket. I do not bet on horse racing. On the other hand I would not say the same for my immediate family who love the horses dearly; so that when I speak on this I am not speaking on it from any position that the hon. member can talk about a red letter day; but I recognise that in this community games of chance are followed by some Churches and indeed I know that in the Catholic Church, for instance, the new church along the Maxwell highway, St. Dominic, has been practically paid for out of bingo. I know that there are some churches that take the attitude that all gambling is bad, but they would take the results of the gambling by asking the Lions or the Jaycees to give them some of the results of the gambling in order to help them in their work.

I know that it is a critical attitude that one finds people taking towards these things. I am more concerned to see where is permitted and indeed where gambling takes place without being permitted that the law makes adequate provision to prevent the ill effects that will come from almost every form of human activity from occurring. That is what I considered to be important, and if the hon. member had attacked this legislation to show where it falls down on those grounds, that the restrictions were not severe enough and that he thought there ought to be more restrictions, I could understand him making out a case, but he should not make out a case on the basis that he objects to Part IV but he recognises in the society that Parts II and III are allowable. Even now the hon. member should bring legislation revoking the West Indies Hospital Sweepstake. Instead I believe the hon. member may wish his party to be the beneficiary from the machinery which I submit to this House was illegally sold off in order to frustrate the court's action. He may want his party to benefit from that. Nothing I can hear from him on that. When Happy Bryan was operating the West Indies Hospital Sweepstake it was all right, gambling was okay, you were only raking off tourists and a few misguided people. There was no word from the hon. member.

We have spoken in the Estimates against the West Indies Hospital Sweepstake and I have not had an opportunity to check the record, but I do have some remembrance that the hon. member got up and had a go at us on that as well. He was the stoutest advocate over here for everything that his leader then did willy nilly, there was nothing immoral in it, but now he is over there in the Opposition in his last dying days, coming to the end of his political life, he is getting up in the House in these circumstances and trying to mislead this House in this way to make the House believe that he has some great point of principle on moralistic grounds on which he is standing and he is being consistent. It is because of that sort of attitude that I have intervened in this debate in order to get the Committee straight on it, and rather than the hon. members applauding him for that speech, they should have told him that the time had come when he must stop the position of pretending that he is the leader of the party and hand over to somebody else and stop being misused by the hon. member for St. John.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition has taken the opportunity on the second reading to castigate the Government and to project a very self-righteous and moralistic attitude whether entirely satisfactory or not, and it is a pity that after he purported to share some lashes that when we started to counter punch he finds himself presumably in the bar where...

Mr. SPEAKER: Now, please.

Mr. SIMMONS: I withdraw the remarks.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is still within the precincts of this Honourable House.

Mr. SIMMONS: He is still within the precincts of this Honourable House partaking of...

Mr. SPEAKER: It does not matter. That is his privilege. Let us get on with the debate, please!

Mr. SIMMONS: What is obvious, Mr. Speaker, is that the Leader of the Opposition before he spoke failed to read closely the Prime Minister's Budgetary Proposals at page 28 of this document. There it is stated:

"The numbers of these machines permitted to be in Barbados will be limited, and import licences will be granted only to replace machines which have become unserviceable or

have left the island. Operators of these machines will pay a licence fee of \$2,000 per year for each machine, which can be installed only on approved premises. These premises are limited to hotels and to premises licensed for the sale of liquor and it will be a criminal offence to permit a child or young person to play such a machine. No "one-armed bandits" will be allowed in amusement arcades or other places to which children may have access."

Since Friday, 15th April, 1977, the Prime Minister foresaw some of the strictures which have been levelled today, some of the fears which have been raised by the Leader of the Opposition and he did not even have the grace to advert to what the Prime Minister said then and relate the promises in the Budget to the actual technicalities of the legislation which we have today and ask one simple question — how has this legislation sought in a practical legal way to meet what the Prime Minister had promulgated on Friday, 15th April... In my submission all of the protection that was then envisaged is now before us today. Now I realise that he was self-righteous because to him and I quote "all gambling is morally wrong". I do not believe that the Leader of the Opposition will consider himself as having done anything immoral when he was seen to buy two sweepstake tickets in Buckey Seale's barber shop in James Street.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us get on with the business. He buys them anywhere.
6.10 p.m.

Mr. SIMMONS: I was only trying to put the provision, Sir. Here is the Leader of the Opposition saying that all gambling is morally wrong and he is taking out four dollars to buy two sweepstake tickets. And it is not inherently wrong for him to do that.

He also said he is not interested in the historical background to gambling; he says it is not important. For a person who has had to conduct all legal business of the Government for a period of time, I find that very shallow indeed. One would expect that when a Government is introducing legislation it does not draft piecemeal. You look at all the relevant similar legislation in the area and abroad, and very often you look at research that has been done — blue books, green papers, Royal Commission reports, etc, to see how the evidence was presented and what was the decision made. Granted, the Opposition are prepared to tell me that when we talk about the Willett (?) Committee or the Royal

Commission in 1951, we are dealing with a different society and that Barbados is different from England; I will anticipate that they will tell me that. But the answer is quite simple, Sir.

A thorough study was done in respect of gambling; and its side effects. But there is this difference here; this legislation, particularly dealing with one armed bandits and amusement machines, is designed to keep the local poor Barbadians from spending his money on the bandit. This is why the Prime Minister was careful to say on the 15th of April and today that the hotels have an interest. If you establish an area in the hotels where they will have these amusement machines, where the tourists who pay their dollars to come here and get the sunshine, will go there at night and play their own money in these hotels, you are not creating any social problem as far as the local people are concerned. The man from Six Roads or Church Village, St. Philip, is not going to leave his home and go into a hotel to pay 25 cents to pull a bandit. This is another form of trying to get the extra dollar or the extra fifty cents from the tourist; and members of the Opposition, before they make sweeping statements about the object of the legislation and the dangers of the legislation, should consider that the Prime Minister has indicated not only where these machines are to be placed; he said there would be no amusement arcades; you are not going to be able to run into any place in Nelson Street or Baxters Road and spend your 25 cents. This is to protect the poor people against themselves if necessary. And this is why it is going to be limited to the hotels where the people can afford to play for the money. And I see nothing wrong with that; because, Mr. Speaker, I had the singular pleasure of accompanying yourself and the Minister of Agriculture, and the member for St. Philip South to Mauritius in October. We were placed thirty five miles from civilisation. After meeting the same people over and over every night, you will recall that there was little else for us to do than to venture into the area of the bandits. The hon. member for St. Philip South, I must say, did not accompany us on our trips to the bandits. I think we went there about three nights. And I believe, Mr. Speaker, you were fortunate enough to hit the jackpot one night and thereafter, you being a moderate gambler, ceased playing.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am to wonder now if your open confession is good for my soul.

Mr. SIMMONS: I won one night too and stopped after that. But the point I am trying to

make is that it was a diversion; it was something for us to do. And I think it would be something else for the tourist to do. The tourists who are placed at the hotels on the west coast, for example, may not feel like driving up to St. Lawrence to the Pepperpot, so they stay in their hotels and spend five dollars on the bandits. But the local people are being protected. Why did the Hon. Leader of the Opposition not talk about the people who hang around the betting shops here, and in Haloute Street, which are run by members of his party, the proceeds of which helped to finance the City-by-election as he well knows, because when the Attorney General and myself on election day for the City bye-election last year.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I really do not want the hon. member making these statements unless he can substantiate them.

Mr. SIMMONS: I am substantiating, Sir, that I saw Mr. Elias Haloute in a Street off Nelson Street on the evening of the bye-election, and when I went to speak to him in his car — for I have known him for years — he refused to speak to me. The money that was put out in that campaign, Sir, some of it came from the betting shops; some of it came out of the poor people of Barbados who are being ripped off, and who are supporting the party of which he is now the Parliamentary Leader.

Now, Sir, when you make the statement that all forms of gambling are immoral, that is a value judgement. The evidence of the Willett(?) Committee in 1951 was that the Church, the Bishop of London, the then Lord Chief Justice of England, the Police and the Probation Officers did not find any adverse social consequences from betting. And this was a thorough going investigation. It is difficult, in my opinion, to establish any kind of abstract argument that all gambling is inherently immoral, and the Leader of the Opposition has not been able to substantiate the statement he made in here today that all gambling is immoral. All gambling is immoral, he says, and yet he would go to the Turf Club when he was Minister of Education and Sport and on two occasions, significantly when Stanley Blanchette's horses won a race, he would lead in the horse (*Asides*) He did lead it in, that is what I am saying, Sir.....

Mr. SPEAKER: You did not have a camera picture.

Mr. SIMMONS: Sorry, Sir.....

Mr. SPEAKER: You did not have a camera, nor the picture, so you should not be saying these things.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, as a lawyer, I am not now speaking as a politician, I am giving eye witness evidence as a horse owner present at the Garrison Savannah, seeing the Hon. Leader of the Opposition proudly lead the said filly past the stands and back up, posing with Mr. Stanley Blanchette. I saw this with these four, Sir. The Hon. Deputy Speaker, who goes to races can corroborate what I have just said.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us get on now; leading a horse is not betting.

Mr. SIMMONS: But you are going where other people are betting and gambling. You are associating with immoral people, according to him; he is willing to be party to and associate with those who are taking part in an immoral exercise.

6.20 p.m.

For all I know he may even have distributed the prizes to the winners.

Now, Sir, gambling in my submission, and based on the evidence of Professor Newman who conducted a study in London recently, gambling in moderation — I want to emphasise that — gambling in moderation can be justified as having certain positive aspects. For example, certain forms of gambling involve considerable mental activity. I am not dealing with gaming now, gambling as it relates generally. You have eight or nine races in England tomorrow, and the people will get the race cards from the betting shops, they have all the literature published in England, the black book, the red book, the time form, the handicap book, and they go home and they sit down and they study, they look at the last race when this horse gave the other one 15 pounds and now he has allowed him 3 pounds and so on, and they apply a mental process and they go and bet in an intelligent way according to what research they have done. So to that extent, gambling, especially on horses, does involve the stimulation of the mental faculties. It has a certain social value as a conversational topic, talking and discussing horses or races or whatever, Sir.

I admit that there are also two negative aspects. Gambling tends, I believe, to lead to cupidity, and in certain instances it can be an uncreative activity, but there are two for and two against.



Looking at the area of the one arm bandit, if as I believe the regulations which will be drawn under the Act will allow the bandits to operate in hotels with proper security and so on, we must also consider that there will be an employment factor involved, that the operators of the machines will not only have to pay people to keep books, because the legislation calls for the keeping of proper records, you have to keep proper records, you have to have men who can repair the machines and service them, you have to have people on the premises to give change and so on, as you remember in Mauritius, Sir, so all of this is employment generating. I think the member for St. Lucy will probably describe it in those terms, and to that extent there is some benefit.

The essential point I believe which has been overlooked thus far by those who have spoken is that the way to control gambling, just as you control drugs, is to legislate and let the object of the legislation to be restrictive to a certain extent without infringing on the individual's liberty, without the State encroaching on the individual's right to his own form of amusement. In certain areas you must now balance the other interests of the wider social interest and legislate to protect just as you have done in the case of drugs, with marijuana for example. What I would wish to warn the Prime Minister and the Government about is the question of monopolies. I do not believe that one or two operators should be allowed — I am thinking now of the one arm bandits — to have the bulk of the business to the exclusion of others who are willing to share. You have to be careful, because we do not want to see developing protection rackets, we do not want to see because hotels are interested somebody who has 60 or 70 machines trying to undercut the man who has 20 by saying that I will offer you a rate of 25% whereas the small man is offering you 30%, and the Government has to be very careful — the Committee moreso than the Government — the Gambling Committee who will issue the licences, they have to be very careful that they do not create monopolistic situations in this area. I think there could be some dangers there, and I would have preferred to have heard the Leader of the Opposition speaking on matters like those.

I am going to wind up by saying that the Prime Minister warned, and I took his words verbatim, that he believes that it would be easier to have a licence for a gaming machine in a hotel rather than a rum shop. I believe the members of the Opposition know the Prime Minister and his style so well by now that the

dangers which the Leader of the Opposition saw in there being a proliferation of machines in rum shops carrying away the hard earned money of those who work for \$50 and \$60 a week, that those dangers are well recognised by the Prime Minister and the Government, and it is likely — well, I cannot speak for the Government, I belong behind here, so I can only abstract or deduce certain natural corollaries from what the Prime Minister said — and in deducing I have come to the conclusion that we will be satisfied when the machines start to operate that the local people will not be pressed at all, and will not be encouraged to indulge in a new form of gambling and fritter away their hard earned wages.

There was one reference made to some gentleman who was in the Gallery today speaking to the Prime Minister about gambling machines. I know something about it, Sir, and I would like for the information of the House to say that the gentleman is seeking permission to establish a factory in Barbados employing at the outset between 150 to 200 persons for the manufacture — I want this clearly understood, Sir — for the manufacture of coin operated scales. Those of us who have lived abroad will have visited train stations and so on, and you put in a slot and get your weight, and they do a more sophisticated thing, his company Watling International, which has been in existence from 1899, and their scales are in every branch of Woolworth in the world, they will manufacture these scales for export.

6.30 p.m.

They will manufacture these scales for export. They will also manufacture machines whereby you can receive postage stamps by inserting a coin. I think that some were recently bought by the Post Office here. They manufacture a metal amusement object — a metal horse — and you put in a penny or something. I have never been on them. I have never been to North America at all; but I am told they have them in North America. You put in a penny, a child will ride on a mechanical horse in the amusement arcades and so.

This business is one for export. *En passant* the gentleman also said that they manufacture a clock machine called Bali, and that they can assemble those machines in Barbados; but the main thrust will be the coin operated scales and the mechanical amusement objects for people to send abroad to North America for amusement and so on.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair.

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I suppose that by now everybody in this Chamber knows that I have very strong religious convictions which make it difficult, or indeed impossible for me to support any measure dealing with gambling. However, in registering my objection to this Bill, I do not feel that it is necessary to go into the tirade of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, the member for St. Michael South Central who called this a wicked piece of legislation.

I believe that my duty as a churchman is to register my objection on the grounds of the social consequences which I feel will inhere on the introduction of this measure. Whenever I look at the course of gambling throughout civilisation I discover that wherever it has been introduced, gambling, I mean, there has been some measure of social disintegration associated with it.

The most current copy of "Time" magazine I believe is devoted almost entirely to the dealings of the Mafia and their particular love for things that have to deal with games of chance. I do not think that Barbados is so blessed altogether as to introduce a Bill like this without attracting the attention of men who have always made their living by indulging in this sport.

I will not be able to commend the Government on the measure. What I will have to do is to say that I had hoped that we would have been able to find alternative means of raising revenue which we so badly need. I have seen right here in Barbados examples of what gambling can do to persons who are not able to take small doses of the sport. Indeed, it is like alcohol in a lot of ways. Some people can hold it and others cannot; and some become chronic alcoholics and have to join Alcoholics Anonymous; and I am sure that if you had to establish a chapter for gamblers you would have to have Gamblers Anonymous for persons who are addicted to the sport.

So, Sir, I am a little bit saddened that we have to contemplate this Bill as a measure for raising revenue; and I would have hoped that we would have been able to sit down and look a little bit harder at opportunities for raising revenue, which I am sure are there for exploration. Throughout civilisation we have tried to deal with matters of conscience and social problems in such a fashion as to make

them less objectionable. For example, in Hamburg, Germany, I believe I heard the Hon. Leader of the Opposition today mentioning that you can go into a show window and pick the lady of the night from the window. I do not know how he knows about it. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: I read about it). He read about it. I happened to have lived in Germany for two years; and I have never learned from personal experience or having any use for the services; but by observation I have known that these things exist. I, having been attached for a long time to the Medical Profession in some fashion. I know the consequences of that particular form of legislation. It causes all kinds of disease — social disease and physical disease; and in Germany, even though nobody is likely to become physically ill, there are going to be some serious social consequences attending upon the introduction of this legislation.

The Government will have to go one over itself in order to introduce penalties to prevent people from abusing this particular bit of legislation. I do not know what reason there is, except for the reason advanced in the Bible, that most people who won after gambling, so far as we have been able to draw from history, are people who somehow do not always pay as much attention as they ought to, to the niceties of human conduct. The Mafia love gambling and have always loved gambling. They kill and they maim because the profits they derive from this sport are not always available to them.

I mentioned some time before that I was familiar with a Barbadian who died at Cloud 9 near La Guardia Airport a few years ago because he refused to permit the Mafia to get a cut of his action in his bar in which he used to run a gaming machine. I am hoping for the sake of all of us here in Barbados that we will never see the day when gambling becomes the kind of problem it has become in other parts of the world.

I believe that if the hon. member for St. Michael South Central is as close to God as he says that he is, he will voice a prayer for all of us in Barbados, and as I am coached by the Hon. Attorney General, for all members, so that we can become a more reformed nation; because I am indeed concerned about the increasing propensity of Barbadians to gamble. Wherever I look I see a new hall, and it is not a pleasant thing to have around.

I hope that as a new Government, working together, using the skills and the knowledge that

we have collectively, we will be able to save Barbados from the problems likely to follow from legislation which we are about to introduce; and I will not be able to support the Government except with my prayers that they will be successful in the undertaking. (*Asides*).

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, debates and discussions on gambling usually generate a lot of heat. Like the hon. member for St. Thomas I would like to stress the point that gambling has a very long history. It goes back to the beginning of mankind; and nearly every human being at some time or the other has gambled on something, gambled in an organised manner or in an unorganised manner. Gambling is just a matter of deciding things either by pure chance or by hazard.

The psychologists and philosophers will tell you that gambling appeals to two basic traits of human beings — (1) the desire to gain, and (2) the exhilarating thrill of uncertainty; and when you view it on that basis, there cannot be many people who can say that they are not interested at some time in gaining, and therefore the desire or the temptation to seek to acquire something of value by a matter of chance is rather tempting to many people. There is a very long history, as I said, of gambling.

6.40 p.m.

One has to go back as far as 1520 to find out that France was the first country to introduce a State lottery, and then 10 years later Florida did the same. In 1680 Britain had a State lottery to raise money to buy machinery to bring water to the City of London. After the Civil War we had the State lottery of Louisiana which was very popular and had to be abolished. During World War II the Russians had a lottery to raise money to help finance some of their programmes during the war. It has a long history and, unfortunately, we find that people do not like to examine history attached to gambling and we get a lot of discussions of no serious weight when they are viewed against the background of the long history of this habit.

I am primarily concerned with the probable social affects which gambling can have and it does have on the people in Barbados. I am already aware that, for example, on the West Coast of Barbados there are hotels in which you have the one-armed bandits, and you find the hotel employees, as soon as they get their wages, going to the one-armed bandits and they start playing. There are cases where the wives or the

girl friends of these workers have to turn up on pay day to make sure that they get a share of the pay packet. This is something that is already encouraged in Barbados.

It is known also, apart to the points which have been mentioned by the hon. member for St. Philip North, that the problems of gambling usually derive from heavy losses and violent disputes. Very often you find people who really cannot afford to lose losing money, and as a result of losing this money they have serious domestic problems arising from an inability to find the money to meet certain requirements or demands that should normally be met. Disputes very often arise, and out of these disputes one can get fights and sometimes gun battles. In addition to this one has to be concerned about the probability of monopoly, or big fights being developed in Barbados over the control of the gaming machines in this country. While we would all like to hope that it does not occur, it is very difficult at this stage to get up and say definitely that it will not occur.

Sir, you will find that people, because of the large amount of money which can be made by gambling, will try to gain control of the machinery involved in gambling and, in their efforts to gain control of this machinery, they spare no effort or no energy to leave no stone unturned to eliminate their opponents or competitors. This is a very serious aspect of gambling in the United States, where we know people get eliminated overnight by their opponents, and this is something which one, who is concerned with the welfare of Barbados, would not like to see developing in this country.

When you come down to the question of this Bill, there are some parts in it which give rise for some concern. For example, Section 5(3) refers to what the Postmaster General may or may not do. I do not think that this leaves one feeling very happy because we have to bear in mind that there are many people in Barbados who sent money out of this country in packets for legitimate reasons. As the law now stands we get the impression that if the Postmaster General, or somebody acting on his behalf, has suspicion he may very well open a packet and then the owner of the packet will have a lot of trouble trying to convince the Postmaster General that the money was not from gambling or it was not money to compensate people for gambling machines in the country. I do not know if there is another way of achieving the same objective, but I believe that this will give rise for some concern among some people in this country because there are people who would have a

legitimate right to send money out of the country, and we do not want to infringe that particular right.

Now, I am at a loss as regards the duties of the Gaming Committee, and I hope the hon. member for St. Thomas in his reply will seek to clarify the duties and responsibilities of the Gaming Committee. While it is quite obvious at this stage that they will be taking over the responsibilities now given to the Commissioner of Police, I still see areas in the gambling activities in Barbados about which I am not clear whether or not these areas will come under the purview of the Gaming Committee. I would hope that the Minister in his reply would give us some clear understanding of how far these responsibilities of the Committee go.

Now, I would like to raise another point here coming under Part IV about the number of machines that may be imported under a gaming machine import licence shall be specified therein. I recall distinctly that the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance in his Budget Speech did say that the number of these machines would be limited. What I would like to obtain from him is whether the total number of machines in Barbados will be limited, or is it a question of just the number of machines given to an operator will be limited? This, to me, is of great importance, and I hope that whoever replies will make this quite clear.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, he will notice in the Second Schedule that the Minister gives general directions on the policy to be followed. There is a particular reason why that Clause is drawn that way; so that the Minister will not intervene in the day-to-day dealing with whether a particular person should or should not get a licence to operate. Under that Section he can limit the general directions as to how many machines may be used or may be imported for use in the country. Part of the problem at the moment is that the information ferreted to the Government by the Police and otherwise is that machines have been brought into Barbados uncontrolled. The policy is to get these machines out legally so that we know where they are and we can control them, since all the evidence is that there is more danger from an illegal situation than there is from a legal situation. The hon. member may probably see the answer to that point, and it may help him to develop his points.

Dr. CADDLE: Another point which I would raise to get some further information is that I see under Section 22 that the Committee may by notice published in the *Official Gazette* declare

certain premises licensed under the Liquor Licences Act to be approved premises for the purposes of this Act. I begin to wonder why it is necessary to refer to the Liquor Licences Act rather than specifying within the Act itself the conditions under which a person should proceed, or what premises should be used for the operation of these machines. In Barbados you have to bear in mind that there are a large number of rum shops all over the Island, and you could very well get people all over Barbados applying to have their premises declared "approved premises".

Now, the point which I want to bring out here quite clearly, and this is in relation to another matter occurring in Barbados right now. There is a lot of social dislocation in Barbados as a result of discotheques and dance halls being set up in residential areas.

6.50 p.m.

Right throughout the night and into the early hours of the morning, 4 o'clock or 4.30 o'clock, people in these areas are subjected to a lot of noise, because it is nothing more than noise. I cannot imagine that anybody would want to describe that as music. It seems to me that the people who operate these discotheques and dance halls have the impression that when they play music they play for the whole neighbourhood and they should play as loudly as possible. That is really a nuisance and I do not think I have to convince any hon. member of noise being another source of pollution and the harm that noise can do to people's health. If you get a situation where you start getting gaming machines set up all over the country, I am not saying that it will, you will find another source of social dislocation occurring because you could very well get rum shops which now pose little or no problem in certain residential areas beginning to pose problems due to the fact that a large number of people now hang around them waiting or hoping to pay the gaming machines, and usually when they are hanging around the gaming machines they are not going to be quiet. One only has to go, for instance, to Pinelands to get an idea of what I mean. People are not quiet; they keep noise, they argue, they indulge in all other types of activities while awaiting their chance to get around to the gaming machines, and that will create another nuisance to people in residential areas who will want to sleep to refresh their nerves, but will find they are being disturbed at that particular time.

I would therefore like to be assured that when people apply for permission to have their premises declared as approved premises that there

will be some stringent regulation laid down to which they must subscribe before such approval is given. I think to set all of our fears aside it would be very well if those regulations can be well spelt out in the regulations that will follow after the passing of this Bill, and we will be given an opportunity to comment on how these regulations can be improved. I feel that if people are going to be permitted to have these licences, then there should be rather stringent conditions attached apart from the mere formality of having to apply and having to pay a fee. Unless this is done we can get serious problems in this country.

Sir, I turn now to another part in the Bill and that part comes in section 27(d) where it says that no machine shall be used or kept for use for gaming unless there is exhibited at all times in a conspicuous place on the machine a notice to the effect that the use of the machine by minors is prohibited. That is quite clear and may sound clear to all of us here, but in fact they can be rather difficult because while it is obvious to us that by minor you mean someone under eighteen years, I think in trying to put this into operation in a practical way people can have difficulties. I would like to know whose responsibility it will be at these premises to decide who is or is not a minor, because I would like to assure hon. members here if they are not already aware that we have teenagers under eighteen who look well matured. In fact you have them just entering their teens and if you are looking at them by appearance you can be misled. Whose responsibility will it be to decide who or who is not a minor? In other words, how can you look at a person and by his physical appearance come to a solid conclusion that this person is under 18 years? That is a flaw there and while it is quite easy to put this subsection (d) in the Act, in practice it can prove rather onerous to the proprietors of these businesses in determining by physical appearance whether a person is or is not a minor, and I hope that is something to which the Hon. Attorney General will give due attention.

Sir, as I said earlier on, a lot of heat has been generated on this Bill, and wherever there has been talk about gambling, you always get a lot of heat because there are some people who will want to determine, because they feel they have a right to determine, what is moral and what is not moral. All I want to say on that subject is that I do not believe I am competent enough to determine what is moral or what is not moral, but what I want to say is that morality very often is a question of geography and of time. What is moral in one place is not necessarily moral in another place and what is

moral at one time society can change its views about at another time, and you will find particularly in a lot of matters on which society has been rather rigid in its views or judgments of morality in the past, that as time goes by may be either due to the uncovering or presentation of new information by science or whatever reasons, society can change or retract from that rigidity, and some times can go and do the opposite.

Now the point has been made quite strongly about gambling and its effects on the society. I would like to look at another aspect of it because very often when you find proliferation of gambling in a society, the fears about the deterioration of the society are not really justified in placing the cause at the foot of gambling. Rather that is the result of the deterioration that has already set in in the value judgment, the morality or whatever you care to call it. The society finds it a lot easier to take to gambling than on a previous occasion when they might have been more rigid about their value judgment. The point I am making here is that while people seem to be concerned about the probable effects which gambling may have on the society, what I think we should attune our minds to is what is already taking place in the society which now makes it possible or attractive for people to want to take to gambling, and when you look at these things carefully, very often you find that the society's standard of morality has changed. Very often you find that the desire for quick gain has increased not only in intensity but also in the number of people that are now affected by this desire for gain. You will also find that in a society there are enterprising people who see gambling as a way of amassing wealth and you will find that there are some people who, due to the fact that they have a lot of money at their disposal and are bored want some other opportunity or avenue of employment, will take very quickly to gambling. One of the things we have to consider in Barbados at the moment is whether or not the conditions prevailing in the society are not such that the people may very well feel happy about the introduction of these things. If that is so, we have to look very carefully at what can be done in the society to reverse this trend. It is very easy for an individual to get up and shout about anti gambling laws, but experience has shown that in those countries where anti gambling laws have been rigidly enforced, bribing of officials has always been the result, and therefore you have to look at the causes of this deterioration of the standards of value judgment in the society and take corrective measures to reverse the trend.

I would like to repeat in closing that I am concerned about the probable social effects which gambling can have on the people of this country, especially the unemployed.

7.00 p.m.

You only have to go around Barbados and see the large number of young people who are not employed, hanging around, waiting for the opportunity to indulge in some form of gambling. It has been represented for a long time in this Honourable Chamber about the unemployed in this Island. It has been pointed out that there may be as many as 20,000 people unemployed, and at least 50% of that number is under the age of twenty five. We have a large number of people from which willing suspects can find themselves being attracted to or involved in gambling; and I want to know if this is the type of thing we want to encourage. What we should be seeking to encourage in Barbados is high productivity and involvement in the development of this society.

As regards Government steps to obtain revenue from this source, there can be very little quarrel with that, because in gambling there is a lot of money at stake. And with the gambling machines referred to as one armed bandits, out of every three 25 cents pieces that go into the machine, only one remains in the machine, two go into the bucket and back to those who own the machines. In view of that background, one has to admit there is a lot of money available in gambling, and if the Government seeks to touch that source you cannot really quarrel with that.

But I would stress again, that what we have to be concerned with is the probable social effects on the country, especially on our young people, effects which have occurred in other countries far more sophisticated than our own with far better systems of surveillance than we have, and to all intents and purposes could very well occur in Barbados in spite of all the glib statements that have been made about how good Barbadians are. If they are that good, I think it is our responsibility to seek to retain that amount of goodness and not do anything that will make it more difficult for us to maintain that level of goodness.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting now stands adjourned until 8 p.m., o'clock.

On Resumption:

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Unless other hon. members wish to speak, I will reply on behalf of the Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is there any other hon. member desirous of addressing the Chamber?

(A Pause)

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Hon. Members opposite are fortunate that my reply will fall upon their backs and ears only rather than on the backs and ears of a long suffering public.

I heard a speech from the Leader of the Opposition in which he indicated that all gambling is morally wrong. I hope he will not mind if I go on the political platform and say that just as he called the people in Church Village, St. Philip, village idiots, so he called everybody in Barbados who has ever bought a sweepstake ticket or taken a chance at bingo, immoral. I want to ask him what he will call himself when in the dining room of the House of Assembly in the course of an argument about who should lead the Democratic Labour Party in 1981, he said: "I bet a dollar that I will give my support to Sandiford to lead the party in 1981." This is the man who says that all gambling is morally wrong. And the persons to whom he offered the bet is the hon. member for St. James whom he characterizes as the proper person to second the Second Reading of this Bill.

As far as I am concerned, I am a perfectly proper person to move the second reading of this Bill. I know something about gambling, I resort to authorities to give me information on the facts of gambling, and I have had the opportunity of seeing gambling carried on at some of the most important and best run casinos in the world at Las Vegas, Nevada. And I might say, Sir, that any gambling I did in these casinos was done entirely at my expense; it was my own hard earned dollars that went into the one armed bandits.

And what I know about gambling is that speeches like the one made by the Leader of the Opposition are made everywhere that gambling is carried on.

Scarney's (?) Guide to Gambling — and Mr. Scarney (?) is one of the world's leading authorities on gambling as a business — Scarney's book on gambling points out that although one armed bandits are largely illegal throughout the United States, yet there are 200,000 of them and the Bureau of Internal Revenue of the United States collects \$250 annually per machine; that is their rough and ready assessment of each machine for Federal income tax. And they are glad to pay, the operators of the illegal machines, because it is estimated that it costs an operator

from US\$1,000 to US\$5,000 in "ice" as they call it, to bribe officials and the police into allowing these machines. Is this what the hon. member wants in Barbados? When it has been exposed that the machines have come to Barbados and that the Government has evidence of some corruption? Does he want us to go with that situation or does he want us to assess the dangers of one armed bandits in the general light of the propensity of the local public to gambling and the tolerance which has already been extended to gambling in this country?

8.05 p.m.

It often seems to me, for example, that gambling is condemned in indirect proportions to your opportunities to win at it. The least condemned form of gambling in Barbados seems to me to be the Turf Club Sweepstake, yet there is hardly any more certain way of throwing away money. You could as well take a match and light the money and help the Public Treasury, because every dollar bill you burn is of assistance to the Government, as go and buy a sweepstake ticket. It is an almost certain way of losing money. Bingo is hardly attacked at all, and yet it is a very reliable way of losing money too. Pool betting, similarly a very easy way of losing money, and at the other end of the scale, the game of poker which is played with cards and which is not a game of chance at all, nobody who knows the game will ever think of poker as anything but a game of pure skill, nobody who is familiar with the game would think that there is any chance in it, there is nothing I know in which a good player will more assuredly win and a bad player more assuredly lose than poker, yet this is visited with the utmost reprehensibility. Well, we are not licensing poker by this Act, we are not licensing roulette, roulette is another good game in which you have a very good chance to win, we are not licensing dice. Of all the casino games played you have the best chance to win at craps, the house percentage throughout the United States wherever it is legal is less than 2%, you have an excellent chance to win at craps..... (Aside). I do not know if the hon. member for St. James is giving me some of his expertise on this subject, but I must say I have never seen him play at bone dice as they call it, we are not opening any casinos in Barbados to play black jack, black jack is a game again where there is a good chance of winning, we are not opening any of these things, and the reason is not to protect the public, because the public needs protection from sweepstakes more than it needs protection from craps. Anybody can learn to play dice, dice is a game of chance, and the house percentage is small. If

you carry \$100 in a dice game in a casino in the United States chances are that you will come back out with \$97 or \$98.

We are not licensing any of these games for the protection of the public. Why? Because all the arguments about casinos we all know these are casino games. Craps, black jack, roulette, chemin de fer, baccarat, whatever you call it, all these are casino games in which there is a good chance of winning, but in which also very large sums of money are taken. That is the essence of these games, and they are the games which are played in casinos.

Now, one arm bandits appear in casinos, but they are on the fringe, they are an extra because the little old ladies who go to Las Vegas to see the Strip, to see the Star Dust where I once spent a few days, to see Caesar's Palace and so on, they are not easily going to find themselves in a low ball poker game with a \$30 table stake or whatever, they are not going to be shouting and rolling the dice and hitting them against the wall and so on, so you put the one arm bandits for them to give them a piece of the action. But there is a division between true casino games and the activities recited generally in this Bill. You do not play Bingo in a casino or bet on sweepstakes and so on, these are outside casinos. One arm bandits are on the margin and you may very well feel, Mr. Speaker, it is only their physical availability that locates them in casinos. They are found all over the United States in places where casino gambling is unknown.

The hon. member for St. Michael West, whose opinion I respect, and for whose conscience I have high regard, has indicated that he is unable on religious grounds to support the principle of the Bill. I will have to respect the honestly held opinions of persons who have a religious or specialised moral repugnance to gambling. I believe that his respect for religious principle extends to everything. He tells me that he does not buy sweepstakes, he does not bet on horses, does not indulge in Bingo, nor does his Church. They are honestly held opinions, but I would counsel him this, where he has seen the one arm bandits and he speaks of their bad effects, the reason why the Barbadian fellow who had Cloud Nine out by La Guardia Airport was unable to carry on his business with the one arm bandits was because it was illegal. If it was legal he would still be living now because when the Mafia came to him and told him he had to pay protection money he would have been in a position to go and get the law on his side. The law legalising these

things drives out the necessity for consorting with the underworld at all. In the United States the greatest thing that has made the United States the country with the most massive organised crime in the world is prohibition of alcohol from the years 1920 to 1932. If there had been no prohibition there would be no Mafia because they would not have had ten years in which people wanted a product that could only be got illegally and therefore would have to turn to criminals to give it to them. That is something that must be understood, and when the demand for marijuana rises to uncontrollable heights in the United States, it will have to be legalised unless the United States wishes to see an even greater extension of organised crime.

In the days when heroin, cocaine and marijuana were not illegal, many of them were only made illegal in the same 1920, organised crime hardly existed in the United States. It has entirely been a matter of supply services to people which can only be supplied by criminals, and it is precisely because we do not wish to see this particular form of gambling service become the preserve of organised crime in Barbados that we are taking steps to regulate it. Once you accept that it is relatively harmless, once you accept that it is already being carried on, you then have the problem of how to deal with it, and we have chosen to deal with it by regulation, and I do not believe that we will live to regret this in the way recited by the hon. members.

The Leader of the Opposition said that today will be a black letter day. I have no reason to be ashamed of the colour black, therefore I will adopt his wording. Today is a black letter day in the history of gambling. He recited a question which I asked two years ago. I am happy that guided by a few words in the speech in which I introduced this matter he was able to recite the question and analyse different branches in such a way as not unconsciously, I am sure, Sir, to misrepresent my sentiments upon that occasion. I am very glad to hear what he had to say, which was to the effect that that question caused the police to take steps against the proprietors of the one arm bandits and indirectly has led to the present situation when we think we have been able to clean up some of the abuses.

8.15 p.m.

I fail to understand what he meant when he said that my questions were not answered, and quite rightly so. I am not aware that it should ever be a matter of self

congratulation for a former Minister that questions addressed to the Cabinet of which he was a member had not been answered in Parliament. I myself would be very ashamed if this persists. Hon. members will observe that the Government is making strenuous efforts to get the Order Paper cleared of questions. Some have been, or too many have been there too long over the ordinary period that they used to be on the Order Paper when the hon. members opposite were in Government; and I have let the Public Servants know that the 14 day rule for answering questions will be strictly observed. They will have to prepare an answer in that time or tell us the reason why. I hope that I will never insult the House by glorying in the non-answering of questions.

Reference was made to my private secretary. I think that they meant my Personal Aide, Mr. Howard Roberts. That was deleted from the record, and therefore I will not expand on it; but sometimes these things do get currency even when they are deleted, and it is only fair to say that Mr. Roberts had assured me that there is no truth, absolutely no truth, in the suggestion which was made. I would like, with the greatest respect and all humble diffidence to thank you and congratulate you for calling on the hon. member to substantiate the rumour before striking it from the record. It is this type of character assassination which drags down the House of Assembly in the eyes of the public.

A remark was made about children in Nelson Street playing these one armed bandits, and then the member for St. Michael North Central asked how you will know who are minors. I think that these hon. members are calling prejudice to the aid of a bad argument. First of all, I myself am not as familiar with Nelson Street as is, perhaps, the Leader of the Opposition. I do not know if there are any one armed bandits in Nelson Street. I have never taken note of it.

I believe that when the Betting and Gaming Committee begins its deliberations, it may well feel that Nelson Street has certain draw backs which would make it not so desirable a place to encourage a congregation of persons, whether minors or others by the additional attraction of these machines; but I cannot presume how the Committee will operate; but the point is that the machines can only be used on licensed premises.

No minor can be served liquor on licensed premises. So how will the argument how

they will know who are minors have any more force...

Dr. CADDLE: On a point of order. The point I am trying to make is that while it is accepted by way of explanation that what you want to convey is a person under 18, by physical appearance it is difficult to determine whether some people are minors; and anyone who is familiar with the development of human beings in Barbados now will be aware of the fact that there are some people who are indeed minors but because of their physical appearance look older; and there may be a misjudgement by looking at the person's physical development.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have elucidated your point.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, put in that form, it is a question which I will have to ask the Attorney General to elucidate in due course. In my days at the Bar it was my understanding that you were forbidden to carry out certain activities with minors. You did so at your peril. In other words, to take a popular example, having sexual intercourse with a girl under 16 — God help you if she was 13 and looked like 25, or if she is 15, has three children and looked like 25. If that happened, it is your hard luck, subject to the discretion of the Bench which no longer would avail any member of this House, not by reason of a former conviction, but by reason of age; for none of us, I think, is under 24. As I have said, you carry out these activities with minors at your peril; and my understanding is that a shopkeeper cannot say that a person who came to him appeared to be over the age.

The lawyers will have to elucidate this further; but I do not think that it affects the principle of the Bill anymore than it affects liquor licences and unlawful sexual intercourse or the issue of a vehicle licence, although I believe that the police should ask for a birth certificate if they were in any doubt if the person is over the age of 17 or whatever.

This is part of the general law not to be adverted to in a Bill such as this. The hon. member for St. Michael North Central also referred to the bribing of officials. I repeat my argument that if officials are bribed it is illegal.

Dr. CADDLE: If the hon. member would give way. I do not get the impression that he heard me clearly. I said that anti-gambling legislation has problems because in those countries where anti-gambling legislation has

been rigidly enforced one has problems of bribery even of officials.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Therefore, we are *ad idem* and I will welcome his support in the division in due course, because this is one of the major factors that has induced the Government to regularise the position with the bandits so as to ease pressure on officials. Mr. Speaker, I think that we can make too much of this matter. Anyhow, up to now it does seem that the proprietors will be hoping to put their investments towards the visitors who come to this country. After all, about a quarter million visitors do come to this country, and the proprietors are the best judges of where their interests lie; the applications, to the best of my knowledge, certainly everyone that I have seen, because they come into my hands, until the establishment of the Committee, are to put these machines in hotels. I do not know what other applications have been received; but the applications on my desk from a large number of hotels are to put machines in hotels.

The hon. member for St. Michael South Central, the Leader of the Opposition made a specialised plea about the pay off on these machines. As the question which he put would indicate, this is a problem which has exercised my mind and a number of discussions have been held. The Government's Electrical Inspector was asked to make a special investigation and give his advice. Perhaps the advice of the Government's Electrical Department, fortified by the advice of a few other experts would be able to ensure and enforce a specified pay out, not only to see that the machines are fixed in such a way as to give a certain return to the public, but also to maintain an inspectorate to go around and see that they are not refixed; but we do not believe that this a viable proposition.

The expert advice available to us in the form of the Government's Electrical Inspector and the opinions we have taken from other persons suggest that competition is one of the best means of ensuring a fair pay out; and secondly that an inspector who goes around and looks at machines can maintain enough vigilance to be sure that proprietors are kept on an even track. One of the propositions that the Government considered was taking a percentage of the gross take.

8.25 p.m.

We rejected that because there are so many means of the proprietors and the inspectors who have to go around to check the money getting

together that really we would not want to expose Barbadians to that. We really think it would be a bad thing, and that is why we have fixed the licence fee at \$2,000. If I may just read very briefly, Sir. It is a work of reference: *Scarne's New Comprehensive Guide To Gambling*. In the Courts I would have to say which Edition. Well, this is the 1974 Edition. His Comment is:

"Nevada and the Caribbean Governments....."

Because there are other Caribbean Governments involved.

"..... set no pay-out percentage regulations feeling competition will take care of that. What they do care about is the honesty of the posted pay-off winners. Are they correct? When a sign says 21 ways to a jackpot, there must be 21 ways to the jackpot and all other posted pay-outs must be possible also. State or Government Inspectors are always on hand to make periodic check-ups on all slot machines. Violations are treated severely."

We will be aiming at monitoring the operations, but not so that the Inspectors will have any dealings with cash. In support to my argument that it is as well to legalise them as wanted, I will just comment on this. Scarne says that the slot machine in regulated Casinos pay back from 70% to 95%, and then the comment is this:

"Wherever slot machines are illegal they pay back is usually 50% or less."

There is a little booklet published by the Slot Machine Operators Association of Nevada. No doubt the hon. members opposite will call it the Mafia Publishing Company. They point out that it is built into the structure of slot machine operation that competition enforces better and better conditions for the bettors all the time. For one thing, when you have a change girl next to machines it is customary when you win some money to give the change girl — in Barbados I am sure it is 50¢, but I daresay in the United States it is \$5.00. Therefore, the change girl gets an interest in telling the customers which machines are paying out best, and they will encourage the customers to go to this machine because they know that money is being won on certain machines, and by telling the customer that they will get a little tip. There are all of these things in the operation which help competition along.

No doubt if you hear in the Palace Hotel they have a machine and you are winning a jackpot three times an evening on it, the people are not going to bet in the machine in the Crown Hotel where you go a week without winning a jackpot. The people will go to the Palace Hotel and bet their money. This is how competition operates. If the hon. member for St. Michael South Central was asking a specific question about how the Government is going to deal with a fair return that is the answer. At present we will rely on the forces of competition because we believe that to rely on our own resources to put our hands inside the machines is a very dangerous proceeding. The experts tell us that it will take something like half-day to take down a machine to check the spools and see whether they have bugs in the spools. Bugs are little things that will prevent the jackpot bar from falling into position.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: What competition you are going to have, unless every bar in Nelson Street has one? If there is one in Brereton, do you think a man would go up to Six Roads to try another one-armed bandit? What competition you will be having in Barbados? It is like competition with spare parts for cars. One man has the agency and he sells the parts. There is no competition. If you are in Brooklyn you will have a whole line of people, but there will be no competition in Barbados.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a second speech.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sir, the hon. member has revealed by that intervention most clearly that he is not a gambler. If the hon. member moved in gambling circles, he would know very well that the house game where the house man's hand is always in the pot soon gets a bad name, and the game where the fellow provides you with good food, with some chicken, you get a drink of whiskey and he does not put his hand in the pot quite so often, that sort of reputation can empty a house in the middle of the evening far less day to day. You can hear about that sitting down at one place, and you will drive not from Six Roads to Brereton, but you might drive from Six Roads to Speightstown and hope to get in it and hope that it is not over before you get there. Gamblers are, in my very humble and limited experience, persons exceptionally susceptible to inducement and a better deal. Sir, it is something that has happened in other places, and we are relying on it to happen in Barbados.

Further to that there are one or two things that will be well known. These are things which

will be known by the operators and they could as well know them now or sooner. The Betting and Gaming Committee is going to pay particular attention to the type of machine that is brought in because in Barbados you have to order a machine that will pay out so much and so much. I do not believe we have any big number of mechanics in Barbados who can fix those machines. I think they have to order them ready-fixed from abroad, and I believe that the Committee is going to require the proprietors to give some indication of the pay-outs on the machines before they license them. This, as I say, is a small and specialised point, but it was raised by the Leader of the Opposition and it deserves to be done. I cannot reply any further to the general moral point. I will just tell the Hon. Leader of the Opposition that I cannot agree with a blanket statement that all gambling is morally wrong. He said all gambling is morally wrong, all fornication is morally wrong, all adultery is morally wrong — (*Asides.*) The Bible says fornication and adultery are morally wrong, but the Bible does not say that gambling is morally wrong. (*Asides.*) I am not taking on the Methodist Lay Preacher, or the Adventist Elder at this time, but I will guarantee that the Bible makes no reference to one-armed bandits. I will guarantee that beyond any possible peradventure. It makes no reference I have ever heard to gambling.

Sir, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition can visit my house and I can show him a first edition of *Credence Concordance* published in Cambridge in 1558, and he will not find any reference therein to gambling. I do not believe that modern Concordances have interpreted the authorised or any other version in a sense more conducive to the argument which he has put forward. I am not entitled to deal with that. I would say murder is morally wrong; rape is morally wrong, and I think the hon. member does his cause no assistance when faced with things that all of us can discern are morally wrong. Even if you cannot read a Bible you will know that to kill is wrong. These are matters which an objective approach to them will tell you they are wrong. Face with this type of moral wrong-doing, he characterises buying a turf club ticket as morally wrong, but I cannot deal with that argument. I cannot deal with it, and I cannot by the same token accept it. It is a matter of the way you look at things. If you do not like one-armed bandits and you choose to say they are morally wrong, then to my mind you are redefining the term morally wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I think there is nothing more I can add to the debate on what hon. members have said. I therefore, beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

8.35 p.m.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to detain the House with the Committee stage of this Bill this evening.

There are one or two minor amendments that may have to be made and one or two questions of principle in the later Parts of the Act may have to be investigated, and therefore we are not proceeding any further with this tonight. However, I know that we have twenty minutes and we would like to deal if possible with one of the other Bills this evening.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you moving that further consideration be postponed?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I do not have to move that. I expect to move the Committee stage next week. I should just like to deal with another matter tonight, the Road Traffic Act. Is the Opposition objecting to dealing with that?

I beg to move that Order No. 4 dealing with the amendment to the Road Traffic Act be the next Order of Government Business.

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

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, before the Question is put, I would like to find out if the hon. member is moving that further consideration of this Bill be postponed.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I do not see the need for that. I do not believe the Standing Orders say that it must be done forthwith.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do agree that it should be done.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: In that case I beg to move that further consideration of Order No. 7 be postponed.

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

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

THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1977

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 4 be the next Order of the Day.

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

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

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, this matter of the road traffic is really very short. The Bill will indicate the new rates. I believe that there is very general agreement in Barbados that the Motor Vehicle licence rates discriminate against larger vehicles. Hon. members will observe that smaller vehicles, as I said, have not been touched in the Budget. I know that there are certain hon. members of this House who have thanked me that it cost the same to renew a motor vehicle licence as it did before. I was not even aware that anybody had a car exceeding 18 cwt.

The only point I would add relates to some idea that seems to have got abroad aided and abetted by the hon. member for St. Michael North Central that at some stage the Barbados Labour Party Government removed imported restrictions on Motor Vehicles and that this was what caused the great spate of motor cars to be imported into this country. I would just like to correct that. We have never removed the import restrictions on motor vehicles. What has happened was that these restrictions were treated as mere formalities and licences were never refused either under the previous Government or in the early months of the new administration. Licences used to be issued automatically. The only thing for which general licences were not given were mini mokes and that was on slightly different grounds. That is being reviewed and as some hon. members may have become aware, there has also been a cooling down period in which existing licences are to be worked out and no new licences issued for some time. But I will say this to motor vehicle agents in Barbados: each case is considered on its merits and if they are refused licence and they appeal to the Import Licencing Review Committee, which is having its next meeting on Friday morning, they will receive a hearing. Indeed I believe that at the next meeting there are appeals relating to a certain make of motor car. I do not think I am unfair

in characterising the agents as foolish virgins who failed to put enough oil in their lamps at the time, and they are appealing to the Committee on Friday morning and we will hear their case out, and if they have a good case they may squeeze one or two vehicles in, but it really is a very simple matter. We have become choked with motor cars and the Government feels that a little breathing space must be allowed to enable things to settle down and let the foreign reserves straighten themselves out before there is any big new spate of motor vehicles entering this country.

It will be found that one of the major reasons for it lies in the combination of the salary increases to public servants and the increase in the amount of money which was lent for the purpose of a car loan. It will be found I think that a very large number of motor cars have been bought by public servants in the last six months, not so many despite the rumours to the contrary by politicians.

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

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

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, this is obviously one of the results of the Budget and with this we cannot quarrel. That is the good Budget the Prime Minister introduced, and of course as it turned out the D.L.P. never spoke on it. It is his Budget and the Government's Budget and we have not caused any confusion, but as soon as it starts to bite from day to day then they will understand if it is good, bad or indifferent.

But I would like the Government to seriously consider the question of parts for motor cars. I understand that these have risen. I may be wrong. You cannot get parts for my car, and I have to import them from England, and I think the Minister of Communications is very kind in that regard.

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it the hon. member is talking about the price of the parts.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The prices of parts are extremely high and I would like the Minister of Consumer Affairs to take a very serious look at this aspect of the industry. In addition to this you will find that people will sell persons cars in Barbados and whether they are new or old, within a few weeks a part goes bad and they have to put their car down for three or four

weeks. They are paying duty to the Government, paying highway taxes and insurance, and then they find that if something unfortunately goes wrong within a few weeks, they have to wait months because the parts have to come from Japan or wherever they come from. This is very bad, not only with cars. There are a lot of appliances in this country and I am asking the Government to seriously consider bringing down legislation which should have been on the Statute Book penalising those persons in town who are only interested in selling people vehicles or equipment and then do not care whether it works once they have got their hard earned money. This is very important and very urgent, and it should have been on the Statute Book long ago where you buy a new piece of equipment and then you find that either the price is exorbitant or the parts are not available. Since as the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister says there is a restriction on cars, it is vital and necessary that the agents for these vehicles be compelled to pay a daily fee to the owner if a car part which they should have in stock they have not got and just keep people waiting and waiting.

8.45 p.m.

I want the Minister to look at this question of the price of parts, the mark up on parts for cars, because people are keeping their cars longer, and consequently to see that there is no exploitation of the car owner in Barbados, as I suspect is being carried on in certain areas. This is very vital and a very ticklish area, because a car for some people is no longer a status symbol; it is a necessity for people to get to work and for other purposes, and therefore it is a question which I think the Government, now as they are saying they are bringing in a new breadth to the halls of Government, should seriously consider this question.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. ADAMS: I welcome the Leader of the Opposition raising this point. As he knows, under the previous regime, all the points he raised were referred to the Prices Commission, and they reported back that the abuses which had been so widely canvassed were by no means as wide spread as was thought. And there was also some input from the Governor of the Central Bank who said that there was no need to control the price of car parts; and I think this was agreed to by the Prices Commission. The matter, as I understand, has been returned to them by the Minister of Consumer Affairs who was very concerned over the whole matter; and if he were here he would tell the House. Since he is not here, I can perhaps sketch to the House that he is at

present working in the interest of consumers and owners of motor cars on a comprehensive set of regulations — I don't necessarily mean Statutory Instruments — for the garage business. He wants garages to be licenced and regulated; he wants to regulate the volume of parts which they keep in relation to the number of vehicles which they import. He wants the small garages — these are not the agencies but the repair garages and the small parts men — also to be brought under a general umbrella and he is working on this. And I hope the draftsmen are working on the scheme for the registration of business, and this would form an important part of it. The general operations of the garage business in this country and every aspect of it will come under review; whether there are too many old cars on the road, whether you need inspections whether an adequate volume of parts is kept, whether adequate service is given at the various service stations. At the insurance level we are going to provide that mechanics must have insurance for the cars they drive, for the cars they take out on road test, and so on. All of this is under consideration by the Government, and I am sure that the speech of the hon. member will be read with interest in the Gazette in due course by the Minister for Consumer Affairs who is dealing with the problems he had raised.

The question that the Bill be read a Second time was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. The House then went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. WEEKES in the Chair.

Clauses 1 and 2 and the Schedule to the Bill were called and passed.

On motion of the Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, 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.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a third time.

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

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

On the motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, the Bill was passed.

RESOLUTION RE DEATH OF MOTHER OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, before we adjourn I am asking leave of the House to introduce a Resolution dealing with an event which occurred subsequent to the last sitting of the House. Copies of the Resolution of sympathy to the hon. member for Christ Church West and his family on the death of his mother, have been circulated to the other side, and on behalf of the members of the House I would ask for leave to deal with this Resolution now. *(A Pause)*

Mr. SPEAKER: There being no objection leave is granted.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, since the last Sitting of this House the hon. member for Christ Church West lost his mother, and as is customary on such occasions, I beg to move that this Honourable House extend its profound sympathy to the hon. member for Christ Church West on the death of his mother, and that a copy of a Resolution be forwarded to her relatives. On these occasions, which we all know are the inevitable fate of all of us I think it is our duty to take note of these bereavements and record to members who have suffered, our deepest sympathy. On behalf of the members of the House I would like to express to the hon. member our deepest sympathy.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I crave leave to second this Resolution, and on behalf of the Opposition to express our sincerest condolences at the passing of the mother of the hon. member for Christ Church West.
8.55 p.m.

If, as the Bible says, that a tree is known by its fruit, then to a very large extent this lady was undoubtedly a lady of character, judging from the offspring which she has produced in the learned Attorney General, and although I did not have the pleasure of knowing her myself, and I should like to say to him that the absence of the Opposition at the funeral is certainly not due to any disrespect or any lack of sympathy, but to the fact that we were not notified, and I think that applies also to some members on his own side, because in his own way I do not think he thought he should burden us with the grief which he obviously felt, and on behalf of the Opposition I wish to express to him and the other relatives our sincere condolence and hope and pray that she may rest in peace and that light perpetual may shine upon her.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, I think I would be committing an offence if I did not on this occasion say a few words of sympathy to the hon. member. Only today I heard of the death, consequently I regret very much that I did not attend the funeral.

Now, Sir, the hon. member has always impressed me as one who has honesty of purpose in dealing with all matters. Regardless of his vocation, his reservoir of knowledge, he does not display false pride and superiority to the average man. This is visible in most people in his category. Most people in his category display false pride and try to feel or to give the impression that they are superior beings. The hon. member, I am happy to say, is not one who can be placed in that category. We had the opportunity of travelling together to the United Kingdom to attend a C.P.A. Conference, and it was during that time that I found such fine qualities in this hon. member, and I want to say from the depth of my heart how much I regret the passing of his mother, and I can only extend my deepest sympathy to the hon. member and all members of his family, and may her soul rest in peace.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, I want to associate myself with the remarks and sentiments expressed by the two hon. members who have just spoken. On behalf of the backbenchers on this side I want to say how deeply sorry we are to learn of the hon. member, our colleague's mother's death, and we need not say very much about his fine qualities which we all know are the offspring of a true mother. I am sure that he stands out to bear the semblance of a proper, respectable person, and I am sure that his mother was a woman of such qualities.

I would like to say, may she rest in peace, and we do hope that the Hon. Attorney General, the hon. member for Christ Church West, will continue to show those fine qualities which his dearly beloved mother has so nurtured in him.

Mr. SPEAKER: I beg to be associated with the kind remarks by hon. members on both sides of the House, and I must say that the hon. member for Christ Church West has borne his grief with a considerable amount of fortitude. We were all sad at the death of his beloved mother, and I can only ask hon. members to stand for one minute in silence as a mark of respect.

(Hon. members stood in their places in silence for one minute)

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I am much indebted to all hon. members in the House, and particularly those hon. members who have spoken for moving this Resolution of condolence on behalf of the passing of my late mother. I believe that she was only known personally to a few members of the House, the Hon. Leader of the House and of course the hon. member for Christ Church North Central. She died at the ripe age of 85.

She was a very simple person, a very humane person, a very loving mother and a person who was very concerned about helping people. I think hon. members know that I was adopted as well, and I think if there is one quality which I was able to get from both my mothers – my adopted mother and my natural mother – it was the quality of liking people which they both possessed to a great degree. The hon. member for Christ Church South Central today mentioned to me that he saw her only a few weeks ago, and despite the fact that she was ailing for some time she yet persisted in walking in the streets to meet and greet and talk to people, and he was surprised when he learnt of her passing.

9.05 p.m.

He was surprised, of course, to hear rather later of her passing. I appreciate indeed that some hon. members would not have been aware in time to be present at the funeral, and I am grateful to them for expressing their regrets and to those hon. members who turned up. I will assure hon. members that I will pass on their sentiments to my relatives, who I am sure will appreciate this Resolution.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, earlier, in response to a Message which had been given to the House on the previous date of a Resolution referring to a message relative to the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Her Majesty the Queen's accession to the Throne. I understand that it is customary on these occasions in Parliaments of the Commonwealth for members to convey Her Majesty an appropriate Address. Accordingly an Address has been formulated, and the terms of which have been circulated to hon. members. I would therefore like the concurrence of hon. members. The Leader of the Senate will introduce, I understand, a similar Resolution in the Other Place, and I invite hon. members to concur in this Resolution.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: As Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, I deem it an honour and a privilege to be associated with

this Resolution from this Hon. House on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of Her Majesty's accession to the Throne. As the Resolution so rightly says, Her Majesty's devotion to duty and deep personal interest in the welfare and unity of the countries of the Commonwealth have contributed greatly to the strong feelings of affection which the people of Barbados bear towards Her Majesty.

We have had the pleasure of Her Majesty's visits on several occasions and we have been informed by His Excellency the Governor-General that Her Majesty will be gracing us with her gracious presence later this year. We can only hope and pray that Her Majesty will be long spared to carry out the onerous duties which she has discharged with dignity, charm and graciousness. Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition on occasions such as these will be

more than proud and pleased to associate ourselves with this very noble Resolution.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 31st May, at 12 o'clock noon.

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

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