
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1976 – 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 1st August, 1978.

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); Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B., (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs); Hon. H. deB. FORDE, S.C., M.A., LL.B., (Attorney General and Minister of External Affairs); Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, (Minister of Health and National Insurance); Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, (Minister of Communications and Works); Mr. J. G. ODLE, B.Sc., (Chairman of Committees); 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), (Leader of the House); Mr. V. L. JOHNSON, M.A.; Hon. L. R. TULL, M.A., (Minister of Education and Culture); Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW, Mr. L. L. SISNETT and His Honour E. E. ALLEYNE, LL.M., (Deputy Speaker).

Prayers were read.

Doctors CADDLE and HAYNES entered the Chamber and took their seats.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, 11th day of July, 1978, with corrections.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, these Minutes have been circulated, and subject to any observations or errors by the other side, I beg to move that these Minutes be confirmed.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no other observations, these Minutes stand confirmed.

STATEMENT BY HIS HONOUR

Mr. SPEAKER: I wish to make a statement in respect of the confirmation of these Minutes.

On the last occasion confirmation of these Minutes was deferred consequent upon an observation made by the hon. member for St. Lucy, who is not now in his place. On that occasion the Minutes purported to represent the hon. member for St. Lucy withdrawing remarks which were undoubtedly offensive to the dignity of this Hon. House, but the hon. member insisted that he did not withdraw when requested to do so by the then Presiding Officer.

The Minutes have now been corrected representing the hon. member for St. Lucy as he would have himself represented in this Hon. House, and as is perhaps his undoubted right so to do, but since the matter has been drawn to the attention of this Hon. House by the said hon. member for St. Lucy it is incumbent upon the Chair not to request the said hon. member to withdraw the offending remarks at this stage but to request the said hon. member, before taking part in any further proceedings of this Hon. House, that he must tender an apology to this Hon. House for having offended against its dignity and for having disobeyed the authority of the then Presiding Officer. The House was in Committee at the time.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of 25th July, 1978.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, these Minutes have been circulated, and subject to any observations as to correctness by any hon. member, I beg to move that they be confirmed.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to announce that I have received a letter from the Hon. Premier of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla thanking this Hon. House for its letter of condolence which had been conveyed to the Government and people of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla respecting the death of the former Premier, Mr. Robert Llewellyn Bradshaw.

I am also to announce that I have received copies of the Accounts and Statements for the month of May, 1978 as prepared by the Accountant General.

I have also received a report of the Accountant General for the financial year 1977-78.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to lay the 17th Annual Report of the Housing Authority for the financial year 1st April, 1972 to 31st March, 1973; the first Annual Report of the National Housing Corporation for the financial year 1st April, 1973 to 31st March, 1974.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to amend the note to Item 1 — Queen Elizabeth Hospital under Head 117, Ministry of Health and National Insurance, of the Capital Estimates 1978-79.
12.25 p.m.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Finance and Planning I beg to give notice of a Resolution to amend the note to Item 15 — Expenses of Commissions, under Head 8(1) — Ministry of Finance and Planning.

Also, a Bill to amend the Firearms Act.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to provide for the implementation by the Government of the Agreement for establishing the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute.

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill to amend the Firearms Act be read a first time.

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

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

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to provide for the implementation by the Government of the Agreement for establishing the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute be read a first time.

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

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

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker,

At the 1st of April 1973 there were 2,233 casual workers on the payroll of the Ministry of Communications and Works. This figure was slashed to 1,862 by April of the following year, which meant that 371 people were put out of work. This Ministry's casual staff was further reduced by 1st April 1975 when only 1,717 people were employed.

Mr. Speaker, this represents a loss of employment to 516 people in the period between 1973 and 1975. But during Election year 1976 the previous government hastened to inflate the Ministry's payroll, adding 971 workers to the casual staff and bringing the overall figure to 455 in excess of the 1973 total.

At the time of implementing the four-day work week, I explained that available funds in the Ministry were inadequate to maintain the large number of casual employees. I further explained that I was not in favour of employing workers on alternate weeks, nor was I in favour of the massive dismissals that had been a feature of previous years.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to note that current finances, although not over-generous, are again adequate to support casual workers at the Ministry on a five-day week.

Accordingly I have instructed that with effect from 7th August 1978 all such workers normally employed at Ministry of Communications and Works will revert to their former work schedules.

In stating this, Sir, I should also like to advise that in future all casual employees desirous of assisting with the annual sugar crop are free to do so with the firm understanding that the Ministry will keep their jobs open until they return and their pension rights will not be affected.

' Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker,

Section 13 of the now repealed Housing Act, 1955 required that the Statement of Accounts of the Housing Authority be audited by the Auditor General, and that copies of the Statement and Auditor General's report should be laid before both Houses of Parliament. Section 17 of the National Housing Corporation Act, 1973, which repealed the Housing Act, 1955 also requires that the Statement of the Accounts of the Corporation be laid in Parliament.

2. At its meeting held on 2nd February, 1978 the Cabinet noted the Statement of Accounts and the Auditor General's Report on the audit of the Accounts of the National Housing Corporation (formerly the Housing Authority) for the year ended 31st March, 1973.

3. I have to state that the audit of the Accounts for the year 1972-73 has been negated mainly on the grounds that certain original documents to substantiate entries in the books of accounts were disclosed missing when required by the Auditors. The matter of the missing documents was reported to the Police for their investigation but no recovery has yet come to light. As a result of this it was impossible for the Auditor General to certify the accounts in respect of the Labour Welfare Housing Loans Department and the General Department of the Housing Authority.

4. It may be noted that the records of the Corporation reveal that no contributions were received for the period 1970-1975 in respect of the Housing Loans (Labour Welfare) Department. A breakdown of the position of the Labour Welfare Housing Loans 1972-73 is as follows:-

Balance at 1st April, 1972	\$ 1,825,000
Add reserve for possible losses	\$ 957,378
	<u>\$ 2,782,378</u>
Less excess of expenditure over income	\$ 2,039,723
	<u>\$** 742,655</u>

5. The Corporation accepts that through errors and accounts in arrears, certain problems as mentioned in the Auditor's Report arose. However, adjustments have been made in the books of the Corporation in some cases as errors have been located.

6. The overall picture would indicate that one financial period is understated as against another being overstated. As far as good accounting practices are concerned, it must be conceded that such a situation is a travesty, but it must be borne in mind that the Corporation is not as such a profit-making concern to the extent of paying taxes etc. and adjustments from time to time in its

records will put the accounts on the right footing. The present picture of arrears in accounts is now far clearer than it was at 1972-73.

7. Repayment of outstanding Christmas Loan Advances has been a painful process. Most of the outstanding amounts mentioned in the Report have been referred to the Corporation's Legal Counsel for collection, but without success. For instance an amount of \$54.36 specifically mentioned may have to be written-off since all efforts to collect it have failed. The particular debtor resigned from the Corporation and is reported to be out of the island for some time now.

8. The accumulation of arrears with workmen seem to have arisen in some instances through the inability of the Corporation to carry out capital works to the end of the financial year under review thereby resulting in an exodus of workmen.

9. General loan accounts of the Corporation are statute barred, but interest is still being charged on these accounts in spite of there being no security for the loans. In many cases loanees are dead or the house on which the loan was obtained is in a dilapidated condition and has no value.

10. It is also worthy of note that many renters of the National Housing Corporation have vacated houses on the estates of the National Housing Corporation leaving large balances on their accounts. Some of the former tenants have left the island, but the accounts are still open.

11. The Corporation's Auditors have separated the accounts which in their opinion are uncollectable from the good accounts.

12. In accordance with the advice of the Cabinet the Corporation has been requested to submit proposals for writing-off the statute barred and other uncollectable debts.

REPLIES TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the reply to Question No. 6 asked by the hon. member for St. Michael South is now ready.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 1 be the first order of the day.
12.35 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Item No. 1 is the instant Order of the day.

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 of Supply to consider a Money Resolution for the service of the Island.

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

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

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1978-79
PART II - CAPITAL - NO. 4**

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, one of the conditions of the location of the Caribbean Examinations Council in Barbados was that the Government of Barbados would provide a building suitable for the carrying out of the work of the Council. Block A of the Garrison has been assigned to the Council; and we find that in view of the impending start of the examinations under the Council, there is need for alterations, renovations and redecorations to provide better accommodation both for personnel and also for storage, and generally to carry out the type of operation that would make the building more secure for the protection of papers, and indeed for the computer. The figure of \$300,000 was voted in the Estimates of 1978 - 79 for this undertaking. But we found that the lowest tender for the carrying out of this work is \$320,000; and therefore this Resolution seeks to provide for the sum of an additional \$30,000 to carry out the work in hand.

In respect of Item 21 (New) - Project Implementation Unit, as I believe, Mr. Chairman, you are aware that the Government of Barbados is currently engaged in negotiations with the World Bank for a loan to carry out an extension to primary and secondary facilities to schools in Barbados, and also to provide for greater teacher training and the production of teaching aids and teaching materials. To this end we need to set up a Project Implementation Unit in the Ministry of Education to do all the work that is required. This sum of \$101,968 will eventually be met as a technical assistance component of the loan that will be made by the World Bank; but since it is necessary that we get to work immediately, we are asking for this money so that - we are asking for this money from domestic sources in the expectation that there will be an eventual re-imbursement when the agreement is signed with the World Bank.

We are hoping, Mr. Chairman, in our plan for upgrading educational facilities, to build almost immediately three new primary schools, at Grace Hill, Eden Lodge and somewhere in the Pine-Wildey district. In all three of these areas, especially in the Eden Lodge and

the Pine-Wildey areas, we are concerned about integrated development. We know that there has been housing development in the areas, and large numbers of people have been going into those areas, but there have not been any facilities made for the schooling of children in these areas, so we aim to build the three schools in those areas, and we hope that within three years we can set in motion the construction of seven new primary schools and amalgamate existing schools into more efficient units.

We hope, also, Mr. Chairman, in the field of secondary education to expand to a minimum of 875 six of the older secondary schools - Alleyne, Coleridge-Parry, Queens College, Lodge, Alexandra; and we are also hoping to get out of this loan money for the refunding the equipment at the Trents Secondary School. We need, as I have said already, to have the project implementation unit set up immediately so that we can get to work on the preliminary designs; and this is figured to meet the cost both of the personnel and the furniture and equipment for the new unit.

I beg to move that this stand part.

Hon. B. MILLER: I beg to second that.

DR. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to support the hon. Minister of Education in his effort to get money for the Caribbean Examinations Council as there has been expressed the intention to start the examinations next year; and we can only hope that the accommodation with which they will be provided in the very near future will go a far way in speeding up the work towards this ultimate objective. They have been here for a very long time, and people have been asking questions as to when the regional examinations will get off the ground. I hope that in keeping with their promise we will see some tangible results early in the next year.

As regards Item No. 1, I would also like to join with the hon. Minister in agreeing that there is need for paying some attention to the development of proper facilities at primary schools; and in passing I would like to draw to his attention that there has been some concern expressed recently over the physical conditions at the Roebuck Street School; and I understand that the teachers, or the Teachers' Union have expressed a desire to see that school abandoned and a new school put up. I would also like to remind him that the previous Government did set about to build a new school; but that school has been abandoned, although it is still being used in education.
12.45 p.m.

I would like to obtain from the Hon. Minister what are his views as regards the use of that school which is now being used as a secondary school, whether it will revert in the very near future to a primary school or whether we can look forward to seeing another primary

school built to replace the present Roebuck Street School.

Moving a bit further away from Roebuck Street, I would also take this opportunity to draw to the attention of the Hon. Minister the conditions at the St. Giles' Primary School, not only the physical conditions but also that there is a substantial reduction in the number of students who are going to the St. Giles' Primary School, and with this constant decrease in the numbers, one can look forward in the near future when there will be a building without any students in it. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister of Education, since he also has been a product of the St. Giles' Primary School, to look into that school and see what can be done about keeping it alive. It is a school with a long and very important history; many outstanding people in Barbados have gone to St. Giles' School, the school on the hill as it used to be referred to, and it does distress many of us who have been to the school and other people to see the sort of wastage of the facility, because the school can accommodate many more students than are now being accommodated there. There are reasons why there has been this decrease in the numbers, because the other schools in the area which used to feed the St. Giles' School are no longer doing that; the area which is now feeding St. Giles' is a very small area and cannot supply enough students to keep the school up to a good capacity, and in the broader needs of education, one must look seriously at whether we are going to go on using it as a primary school or whether we will make some other educational use of it.

Adjoining the St. Giles' Boys' School is the St. Giles' Girls' School, and maybe we should take a rather close look at that also. When one looks seriously at the primary schools, one has also not only to be concerned with the physical plant of the schools, but I think we also have to look at what is being taught to children in those schools. I think the Minister of Trade and Development should be concerned because if we are striving to become an industrial nation, we will have to ensure that a lot of the information which we are going to give to our children at primary and secondary level must prepare them or make them more conscious of the industrial development of this country. We cannot afford to continue giving out knowledge or information of a classical mould, and you will find today in Barbados that when children leave primary or secondary school, they have a great problem in adapting to the circumstances and conditions that affect their day to day living in Barbados.

I think we all are concerned in this country with employment for young people, but we have also to recognise that they have to be properly prepared so that they would be able to take the best advantage of whatever employment facilities exist in the community. Too often we are being confronted with a large number

of young people who feel that a job should be provided for them because they have been trained and brought up in that fashion; they have not been brought up in the fashion that they should set about using their hands and trying in some way to create employment for themselves until such time as an opportunity presents itself for them to take advantage of. Therefore while I can agree with and see the importance of providing proper physical conditions for primary schools — because I will have to admit somewhere along the line that the thrust of the previous Government was on secondary schools to some extent we have now to pay greater attention to primary schools.

I also want to impress upon the Minister that we should start looking seriously at the content of the education now being provided to children not only in the primary schools, but at the secondary schools. In passing I would like to point out to the Hon. Minister that at some time the previous Government set up a National Curriculum and Development Committee to look into the question of setting up proper curricula for schools at the primary and secondary level. I do not know what has been the outcome of that Committee, and I hope that his remarks will make some passing reference to that Committee.

Getting more closely to the actual project itself, I should like to enquire of the Minister whether this new Project Implementation Unit is just a name being given to something already in existence, because I should like to believe that in his Ministry there are people who are already charged with the responsibility of looking at the needs of the primary schools and making concrete plans and proposals, and I would like him to stress to us whether this is really something new or whether this is giving something that is in existence a name to meet the requirements of the World Bank, because all along we have been producing schools and somebody in the Ministry of Education must be concerned, or some group of people must have been concerned with this particular aspect of education. Sir, I would like to assure the Hon. Minister of my support in principle of this Resolution.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, in supporting this Resolution I would want to thank the Hon. Minister for considering the building of a primary school in the Pine-Wilkey area. I have been very concerned about the educational facilities which have been provided for the people in that very densely populated area, and I am indeed happy to learn and to know that the Government has decided with the short space of time to do something about the building of a primary school. It is indeed very much welcome because people who live in the Wilkey-Pinelands area have been experiencing tremendous difficulty, especially now Wilkey has become even more densely populated, and I am sure that people from the constituency of St. Michael South East would welcome

this by the Hon. Minister. I must draw to the Minister's attention the fact that at the Wilkie Cumberbatch school in the Pine I have been informed that there has been some loose electrical wires hanging exposed, and I consider that this is very dangerous to the lives of young children. I do know that he has not yet been informed because only two weeks ago I was so informed and I know full well that the Minister will do everything in his power to rectify this situation. It is not a situation that people will see in passing; they have got to be informed, and in this instance the watchman drew my attention to it.

I would like to say that at the Parkinson School that has been without electricity for over the past year and a half, work is now being undertaken, and in answer to the several queries by members of the public, students and parents who have got children at the Parkinson School, I so hope that they will understand that the Government is now undertaking to rectify that particular problem, especially at a time when we are approaching the hurricane season and the Parkinson School happens to be one of the hurricane shelters. I do hope that everything will be done to expedite the repairing of the electrical services.

Now turning to the Caribbean Examinations Council, I would like to make a few points which I am sure the Hon. Minister will carefully consider.
12.55 p.m.

I remember some time back when the hon. member for St. Michael South was Minister of Education he did declare that the Grade I of the Barbados School Leaving Certificate would be given the same status as the GCE 'O' Level, and for some time I have been rather concerned, because I do not know of anyone in Barbados who is prepared to accept the Grade I of the Barbados School Leaving Certificate as the equivalent of the GCE 'O' Level, and I think it is a matter which the Ministry of Education should look into and see if what was said by the then Minister of Education holds any substance in today's examinations.

I have also been concerned about the Pitman and LCC Examinations, because although people have been accepting the LCC — even the university here — as a GCE equivalent, I know from my knowledge that it is not so as far as British universities are concerned, although the London Chamber of Commerce is an examination established by the British, yet it does not have the same credibility, or it is not on the same level or standard as the other GCE's. We have got a situation in Barbados where we have the Pitman and the argument has always been that the Pitman and LCC Intermediate are the equivalent of the GCE. I would like to see as we move on to have our Examinations Council on the same footing as other university examinations that something is done in

this area, that the LCC and the Pitman are looked into because one has got to look at it realistically.

We have a situation where Grades A, B and C of the GCE are recognised as reaching the required standard. In other words, you can get into the Civil Service, or you can get into university if you have a Grade A, B or C, but a certificate is also issued to students who have a Grade D and E, but they are not accepted as equivalent. What I would like to see done, Mr. Chairman, is that if the certificates Grades D and E do not have any value, then I would like to see the complete abolition of them, do not issue them, because I have seen children being frustrated having five 'O' levels, Grades D and E, and cannot get jobs, and I think it is further frustrating the student who has got these D's and E's.

I know the Minister has lots of work to do and I think that he would look into this particular area of certificates and see how best we can have the GCE equivalents, because I am sure that everyone knows from practical knowledge that the Pitman Examination is an easier examination. You take dictation and so forth in Pitman, whereas with the GCE you have to do essay writing and you are subjected to a three hour examination, so one is easier than the other, yet we have a situation where it is said in Barbados that the Pitman is on the same standard. I contend, from my practical knowledge, that this is not so, but as I said, there was a time — and I can understand that when students could not pass the GCE people were looking for students with alternative qualifications — but there was a time that the Pitman and LCC were given the same status, but I think we have to understand and ask ourselves whether the Pitman is equivalent to Grade A, B or C of the Cambridge examinations or the London, or whether it is equivalent to Grade D or E. It must be placed alongside one of those Grades, since the Pitman and LCC have one single grade, and I hope the Minister will bear what I have said on this particular matter in mind, and I am sure he will investigate it and at some future date make a statement in respect of the status of these various examinations.

His Honour E. E. ALLEYNE: Mr. Chairman, St. Michael North West is one of these constituencies which have seen a tremendous build up of population in the last five or ten years, and I do not believe that the other facilities have kept pace. I understand from the Minister that a new school is promised for Eden Lodge, and I want to know when that is likely to start.

I also want to mention the school of Edgehill Memorial where the building has certainly outlived its purpose and there is a crying need for a new school to replace the Edgehill School as well as the Eden Lodge School which is proposed. The teachers at Edgehill are doing a fine job. For example, they have now begun an unofficial adult education scheme whereby the parents of

the children go to the school in the evening and are taught in some things which they missed at the time they were going to school, and I believe that teachers who have that sort of interest not only in the children but in the parents ought to be rewarded for their efforts.

I want to make another point about the school system as it relates to the Cave Hill and Black Rock areas. I understand that officials of the Ministry of Education have been looking around the area looking for a suitable site for the school, and I want the Minister to tell us what is the situation with that at the moment.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, there are two items under this supplementary resolution that is before us and I do not think that either of them — in fact, I am stating that neither of them will find criticism from this side, both of them will be given our support.

In respect of the Caribbean Examinations Council, the amount of money being requested here is in order to enable Barbados to meet its commitments under an Agreement signed with a number of territories in the Caribbean area for the Caribbean Examinations Council. I had the honour to preside over the preliminary meeting connected with the Caribbean Examinations Council. As I recall it, this was some time in 1973, some time between the 9th and 12th January, when this particular Council had its inaugural meeting, and I think it is a tribute to Caribbean educators and Caribbean administrators that this need in the regional educational setup was made at this particular time.

1.05 p.m.

Indeed there are those who felt that it should have come before, but knowing the pace of regional development, I believe it was impossible for it to be established before that time. I recall too that the then Prime Minister delivered a feature address on the opening of the Council, and it was the responsibility of Barbados as headquarters for this Examinations Council to provide adequate facilities for that institution. The Government is now requesting a further sum in order to renovate the buildings at Block A at the Garrison, and as I indicated this will meet with our support. We will not go into the details of the sums being requested, because I am certain that the estimates would have been adequately worked out and a schedule of work implementation drawn up to the satisfaction of those concerned. I would just like to find out from the Minister whether any of this money is for reinstatement of roads along with the building, as these roads have fallen into a bad state of disrepair; the road leading from the highway around the Garrison from Dalkeith and running beside the block on the eastern side of the Garrison and between the Museum and into the Government lettings in that area and on to Dayrells Road and the Government Secondary school. These are

the roads which service this institution and I wonder if any of the provision here will be for the reinstatement of these roads which are in need of some repair.

I think there will be an opportunity later on when we deal with another Bill to go into the question fully of the Caribbean Examinations Council, so I do not propose at this stage to go into the matter in any detail but would await the Bill relating to the integrity of these examinations. In terms of the second item, the Project Implementation Unit, it is one of the requirements, as I understand it, of international agencies that developing countries that approach them for aid spend a part of their own funds to set up what is known as Project Implementation Units. There is no doubt that for any Ministry to enter into any substantial development in this country where we have to rely on funding from external agencies that there is a requirement by these agencies for adequate planning facilities to carry out the project. It was against this particular background and even before I made any approaches to international agencies for funding that the Ministry of Education was reorganized — I believe in 1968 or thereabout — with the establishment of a Planning Division precisely to deal with the subject of project identification, project preparation and project implementation within the resources available at the time. I must say that when the division started it was somewhat like the Economic Planning Unit itself where in the early days in the then Prime Minister's office it was literally a unit, meaning it had one person; but with a development of projects and relationships with a number of other agencies, when proposals come to fruition and projects are about to go on stream, it becomes necessary to staff these units adequately. How it was done in the case of the Barbados Community College was that a supporting Project Implementation Unit was set up specifically to deal with the implementation of that project in accordance with the agreements laid down by the Inter-American Development Bank; and the same type of structure was envisaged for the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic whereby there would be a supporting Project Implementation Unit to deal with the implementation of the project in accordance with the agreement entered into between the Government of Barbados and the Inter-American Development Bank. In this case this Project Implementation Unit — I gather from the Addendum — which would be located within the Ministry itself, and I am assuming that the Minister will give us some details on this as to whether this will be looking at the preparation of the broad projects in terms of what proposals there are for the primary and secondary schools, identifying these schools, the areas to be developed, the particular project to be elaborated as well as identifying the types of objectives and collating with statistics necessary to support the data. I would like to know therefore, whether the Planning Division, if

it still exists, will be incorporated into this particular Project Implementation Unit, or if this is a Project Implementation Unit limited specifically and solely to the world Bank Project and whether it will be existing side by side with the Planning Division of the Ministry. The details indicate that there is the sum of \$72,968 allocated for staff and I would like to know what staff it is proposed to provide in this Project Implementation Unit. I know that sometimes these international agencies stretch the resources of countries somewhat almost beyond their limit in providing this preliminary staff, and I recall we had to put up a strong case to cut back on the proposals submitted by the Inter American Development bank for the Project Office for the Barbados Community College. Even then we ended up, as far as I can recall, with a Project Manager, Project Engineer, Draughtsman, Secretary, Clerk/Typist and an Accountant, and I would really like to know in this case what is the staff that is being required for this particular project.

The whole question of the provision of facilities at primary and secondary level is a continuing exercise. Many efforts were made in the past to upgrade these facilities. The needs will continue as long as there are young people to be educated. We, as the previous Government, submitted proposals as early as 1973 to the World Bank for the development of facilities at the secondary level, and it is on the basis of that early approach, I believe, even before the Government took the decision to join the World Bank, the Ministry was holding discussions with these officials. So this is the type of development that we would require in this particular matter. The approaches were made quite early on, and I am pleased to note that the dialogue has been continuing and I do hope that it will come to some fruition shortly.

1.15 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like to draw to the attention of the hon. member for St. Lucy who has just taken his place that in accordance with the ruling of His Honour the Speaker, the hon. member must apologise to this House, to this hon. Chamber, for offending against the House and its dignity, and disobeying the order of the Chair on the question of the debate of the 7th July, 1978. You must offer an unqualified apology.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I would like to offer to you and this House my unqualified apology.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, it was very interesting to listen to the speeches made by the hon. members on the other side; because it gives us an opportunity to look in a very calm atmosphere at some of the problems that we have in Barbados in implementing projects, whether they be schools or

otherwise. I do not think that it is generally recognised that nowadays almost 90 per cent of the projects have been financed since 1973 or 1974 in all of the Third World countries by international institutions. These international institutions have their own procedures; and whether we like it or not, if we are to take advantage of the loan facilities, we must comply with the procedures that have been established by these institutions; and it does have the effect of prolonging the cycle of a particular project.

I think that this message must be got across so that when we do our comparisons with previous days we will remember that hitherto before 1973 or 1974 countries like Barbados used to be able to get a loan on the London Market, have its Public Works Department do its design on the project and implement the project in a rather short space of time. Nowadays, before one can request a loan from any of these institutions, a pre-feasibility and feasibility study has to be prepared and it has to be appraised by these institutions, and when the appraisal takes place, certain project conditions are laid down before the disbursement takes place; and the project life is in the vicinity of three to four years.

Now, in this case, it is, I think, a matter of congratulation to the Ministry of Education and to the Minister of Education in that he was able, with the aid of UNESCO to prepare the project document in a remarkably short space of time; and so detailed and comprehensive was our project document that appraisal and approval were granted in a relatively short space of time.

Now, for the information of the hon. member for St. Michael South, I regret to inform him that the request which was put in as long ago as 1973 was rejected out of hand and completely. The World Bank, as the hon. Minister said in his opening remarks is not interested in the provision of secondary education in Barbados. These projects are in relation to Primary Education, and to upgrading certain technical facilities that we have. The Hon. Minister will go into more detail; and I want also to advert to a point made by the hon. member for St. Michael North Central — a very valid point, namely that nearly the whole content of Education in Barbados has to be changed in the light of the job opportunities which would be available in Barbados and within those countries to which our people will be going. Indeed our economy is part of the economy of the western world, and the economy in all of these areas is not static. It is changing almost weekly and monthly. There is a tremendous amount of change going along, and anybody who has been following the employment pattern, the pattern of the employment picture in the United Kingdom, in the European Common Market, in the United States of America, or in any of the western

countries would note that there has been a tremendous amount of dislocation arising in a number of industries; and I can think in particular about the textile industry, the steel industry and industries of that kind.

So that what one has to do is to try and anticipate the changes that are taking place; and in Barbados we cannot afford to believe that we can continue along the path that we continued for all of these years. The Government itself used to be a very bitter critic of the former Hon. Minister of Education, the member for St. Michael South. I remember that we used to say that the hon. member was a great builder of school places, but conceptually his programme was wrong in that there was not that parallel change in the curricula, to cater to, to take care of the development that was taking place before our eyes here in Barbados. Now it is true that we have to suffer from that now; and part of the problem of unemployment that the hon. member and we all in here share, is a problem of lack of planning previously.

Now, I am very glad to note that one of the first acts that the Hon. Minister of Education did when he came in was to extend the school leaving age and to offer a new varied curriculum to people who were not able to make the Common Entrance Examination, but who were by no means cast off into this society; and I am pleased to say that as this school year has ended, the first crop of those children who would have had the benefit of those two years are now out. There are some 700 of them, and I know that discussions are going on between the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Education to bring into force immediately a modern system of apprenticeship so that these children and others can continue into a formal type of education whereby they will be apprenticed in areas in which this economy demands their skills at the present moment.

1.25 p.m.

Now the Ministry of Labour I understand now has their Youth Skills Adviser; he is now in place in Barbados. Certain of the industries have set out their requirements for skills to the Ministry of Education, and we do hope that some of the resources which have been generated from the very bitterly and unfairly criticised unemployment levy will go towards funding this industrial training scheme, and that in the very near future we will have the benefit of a new and modernised apprenticeship scheme tailored to suit, and we must appeal for the cooperation of the hon. member for St. Lucy. I know he is an educationalist; he is also a Trade Unionist, but I think that if one does any of the reading in his area about the problems that other societies face — and I want to make it clear that the question of unemployment is not confined to these small countries; the only difference with these small

countries is the percentage — one will see that the large countries, the industrial countries of the world, are going through problems now of tremendous unemployment arising from changes in technology and a reduction in the demand for certain traditional industries, and they are looking at their educational systems and looking to see how they can have programmes for training for the new skills and modernising their apprenticeship schemes that we have done nothing about; but of course in this we have to get the cooperation not only of the employers but of the educational authorities and the cooperation of the Union.

Now from my own investigation I think that it is a clear case that when the documentation is put in written form — and the Cabinet regards this as a matter of urgency — there should be conference between those relevant sectors so that we can get ahead with implementing this programme at a very early date. I know that there are areas of job opportunities that are available in Barbados which cannot be filled because we do not have people with the requisite type of skills. They can be trained. The experimental electronics scheme, an industry scheme, as opposed to an institutional scheme. An institutional scheme is fine. Those graduates will come out, but they are not enough. I know that there is a specific shorter scheme which has been devised with the cooperation of the Ministry of Labour, certain electronic firms, the I.D.C. and the Ministry of Education, and from the month of August I believe that will start. But we have to go further. We have the same thing in construction. In short we need a complete manpower survey. This is a matter of very great disappointment to me because I remember from the other side that we had this in our manifesto as long ago as 1966, and I cannot understand yet how it is that BIMAP has not produced a manpower survey. They have been contracted to do the manpower survey, and I cannot understand yet why they have not produced it. (*Asides*) It is not a question of lack of confidence. (A VOICE: Lack of competence.) Well, look at this. Do you mean we have a big Institute of Management and Productivity in Barbados and we do not have the competence to produce a manpower survey? The basic position is that this is indispensable to any proper planning.

What we in the Ministry of Industry are doing is circulating and with the cooperation of the employers in various segments of industry in Barbados we are asking them for their future manpower requirements and we are feeding this information, because we cannot afford to wait. This is a very important area, and other countries are going through the same exercise. So we must continue to press on as a matter of urgency with our programmes. I think this is an area of work activity, achievement and performance that this

Government can be justly proud of. There is no doubt that. The figures are there and the facts are there.

The hon. member had an opportunity to put his mouth where he ought to have done. He should have carried out some of these programmes which always come out of his mouth. The 14 - 16 year old programme is a very excellent programme. I have had an opportunity of talking to some people who have hired some of these young people and one of the most remarkable things they have told me is that these young men and young women have an attitude to the work which they are doing, because of the fact that they have been exposed over the course of the two years to a sort of preview of the type of work, which will augur well for the future. Now 700 are not enough. We want to transfer that now into the other areas, and I do look forward to hearing the Minister outline in further detail for the benefit in particular of the hon. member for St. Michael South, the whole of the programme that he has developed not only for primary education, but for secondary education, and indeed for tertiary education, vocational education. In short, the Hon. Minister has produced a programme which hangs together and not one which is lopsided in the form of school buildings alone.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, whenever the hon. member for Christ Church South Central, the Minister for Trade, leaves the area of his Ministries and starts to speak on education, a subject with which he is clearly not very familiar, he always goes on to one theme about criticisms of the former Minister of Education, by which I believe he refers to me, and he says that there is now some new development taking place, whereas before buildings were put up without any conceptual framework, and now buildings are being put up with some conceptual framework; but he refuses to say what this particular conceptual framework is. Let me put it this way; that as far as the construction of schools at the primary and secondary school level is concerned, this is a continuing need as I stressed before, and whatever Government is in power, there will be schools which become old, fatigued and which have to be replaced, and there will be extensions and adaptations required. So there is no point talking about any lack of conceptual framework. We had a conceptual framework and that is the framework which is continuing. Fourteen year old pupils have been brought back into schools as I have indicated before to this Honourable Chamber. Fourteen year olds were being retained in schools for a very long time in this country, because each new school that was put up meant that children were able to remain in school beyond the age of fourteen. Nay, more. We had a programme whereby some of those who passed in the higher grades of the school leaving certificate obtained

places at the age of fourteen into the newer secondary schools. So there is that framework there.

The third point which I want to refer to, the relationship of the school system to the work place, is precisely why the Polytechnic was set up. There were all of these discussions with industry that the Minister of Trade is referring to. Those discussions were entered into. The very Committee of the Polytechnic consisted of businessmen drawn from a variety of industries in this country, including the Trade Unions. So this input was done.

1.35 p.m.

Another input was done, the establishment of the Division of Technology of the Barbados Community College, the establishment of the Agricultural Division of the Polytechnic, so do not give the impression that education had no relationship with industry or the training and development of skills, and it is very ironical that you mentioned some training adviser on the development of skills who is now being placed. I am not certain what this is all about, but do not give the impression that the previous Government never did anything in these areas, because I will tell you right now that the very officer you are now talking about was advising the past Government and there were proposals for the establishment of youth training centres at various points throughout the island, including the north, the south, and there was intense discussion about the complex at Carringtons as a youth training centre. All these things were done.

There was a problem at the Roebuck Street School and we recognised that problem, and so we built the new school to replace the Roebuck Primary School, and what happened was that when this new programme of bringing in the 14 year olds started an immediate problem of additional schools arose, so that primary school was adapted as a secondary school - I do not know, temporary, I am not certain, the Minister can best explain it - I have heard it explained before and it sounded very ingenious to me, but that is what happened.

Only recently I read in the print media - I think that is the word now - there was a suggestion from the Barbados Union of Teachers complaining about the facilities at the Roebuck Primary School, and it will be incumbent upon the Minister to tell us how he intends to solve those problems. He should tell us whether he intends to purchase the property formerly operated as the Modern High School, because it is on Roebuck Street, as a replacement for the Roebuck Primary School, because it is in need of repairs, and if you talk to some of the older persons who have taught there at that school they will tell you how sometimes they used to get some peep shows when they looked across in the surrounding areas,

and some of the goings on in that area, but that was a very early introduction into sex education in schools.

I do not think this debate should really generate any heat today, I just wanted to rebut those statements.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman, one thing is most noticeable today during this debate, and that is, had the Opposition called the Heads when the Estimates were on we would have had all this discussion and an interesting debate would have taken place on that occasion, but unfortunately Education passed without having been debated and now so many members are anxious to speak.

I would just like to make a few references and I would start with the Hotel School. The Barbados Workers' Union recently made a statement in this area, and I believe that if Barbados intends to have a hotel school they should have the best and not have a school where children are not getting the very best. I think we owe it to the children of this island who go to that school and who are eager and anxious to learn in the various fields of tourism, that they should get the very best, and at the school at the present time I think there is a lack. There has been an Acting Principal and two Acting Deputy Principals for some considerable time, and I think it is a matter of urgency now, we cannot afford to drift along as we are. When we get the Workers' Union and Industry speaking out in favour of having these appointments made, I think the Government should take serious note and try to do something about it. Recently the Board of Tourism had to employ a simple Accountant, not a Chartered Accountant or anything, and also a Stenographer Typist, and it was amazing the difficulty we are having in filling these two jobs. How is it that in Barbados where there is so much unemployment that we cannot find people with the simple working abilities of Stenographer Typists and Accountants? Something is wrong with the educational system. We have done everything possible and now we have to go back and train the staff that is already on the Board to fill the job of Accountant, so I would think the Minister would give consideration to having these two subjects taught at schools so that we would have more of them. Perhaps the industries come here and advertise and then they start ringing friends to find out whether they can get people to fill vacancies.

I just mentioned these few points for the benefit of the Minister so that he would be able to do something about them.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution which we are looking at concerning the Caribbean Examinations Council has caused a number of points to be raised, and I would have liked to have confirmed my remarks specifically to the two areas under discussion, but inasmuch as other speakers have been ranging far and

wide, and in a way the Deputy Prime Minister has sought, as it were, to bring me to debate in an area, I believe I will have to make certain comments on them.

I want to say that the member who has just sat down, the member for Christ Church North Central, made a point which I intended to make on this whole question of industrial training, and that is, as he rightly said, that we in the Barbados Workers' Union are particularly concerned about the state of the Hotel School. I had the opportunity to look at the last published Civil List, and if you look at page 167 you will see that the only person appointed at the Hotel Training School out of a staff of about ten or twelve is the Assistant Accountant. The Deputy Principal is not appointed, the Principal is not, five or six Instructors, and I think if we are going to be serious as we should be, in industrial training that we should adopt a serious approach, approach it from the point of view that the institutions that have to deliver the services are well staffed and well managed, and at the same time we have to ensure that the facilities which exist at the various institutions are adequate to deal with the particular problems of training.

1.45 p.m.

This brings us back to the question of the facilities at the primary and secondary schools — I believe one of the major areas of consideration in this particular resolution. Now I remember the Deputy Prime Minister trying to make the point to the effect that the Democratic Labour Party administration was interested in the retention of school buildings. As the former Minister of Education, the hon. member for St. Michael South, indicated any government whether Democratic Labour Party or Barbados Labour Party or whatever party may be in power in a dynamic situation must be concerned with the provision of school places, because the school population at the bottom will continue to grow. I agree with the point made that we have got to look at the question of ensuring that the facilities which already exist are updated and I believe that the record of the Democratic Labour Party will indicate that there was such a programme of updating of facilities. This programme may not have proceeded as fast as one would have hoped, but a check of the records would show that I have been critical of the programme from time to time, and I think we have got to take a serious view of the facilities that we have in existence both at the secondary and primary levels and it is good to see the Government taking an interest in this particular area. There is no doubt that at the primary level there is considerable need for the re-organisation of the physical facilities which exist at the primary schools, and I think that when one talks in terms of delivering education — and I believe that the hon. member for St. Michael South East who is also I understand a headteacher and the owner of a school — would know the value and importance of facilities...

Mr. BRADSHAW: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I would like to inform the hon. member for St. Lucy that the member for St. Michael South East is not connected with the headteacher of any school at the moment.

Mr. GREAVES: I never said he was a headteacher. I said he owned a school. However, Mr. Chairman, to get back to the subject, we are talking about the facilities existing in primary schools in this country, and I think that those of us who went through the primary school would recognize that there are a number of deficiencies in these facilities. If you think in terms of a situation where pupils in a number of these schools have to be under one roof without any separation of classes; this is somewhat of an inhibition and there are certain problems connected with this, and I think this is one area which has to be looked at. Then there is the question of the provision of staff rooms, which is another matter that must be considered if one is thinking of improving the facilities in public schools. But at the same time we have to recognize that the mere provision of updated facilities in the primary and secondary schools is not going to solve all the problems in education, because if one takes the point that part of the objective of updating the facilities has to do with delivering better quality education, one must also recognize that facilities for teachers and better training, vocational type education — these are the kinds of facilities we have to look at and incorporate in our school system both at the primary and secondary level, and I believe that later on in the day when we are dealing with another aspect of educational policy in this country I will have something else to say on that.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to advert to the point which the Deputy Prime Minister made about status training and generally speaking industrial training, because I think that in a way there is a close linkage and I do not think this debate should proceed without some attempt to indicate the linkages which exist. I agree entirely with all that the Deputy Prime Minister has said about the value and role which industrial training can play in national development and the way in which it should be incorporated in the educational system of the country. But I would like to invite the hon. Deputy Prime Minister to check the record and the position of the Barbados Workers' Union, since he threw out a challenge to the Union in this regard, and he will find that I myself and the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union, Mr. Frank Walcott, have been for many years now making this point about industrial training. Only yesterday we had discussion with a gentleman who came here from the Organization of American States carrying out a social studies project for the OAS and this point was emphasised to him. It is not only a problem in Barbados but probably in all developing countries, particularly the Caribbean, the total lack of concern for industrial training which has been demonstrated for some time. Within the last five or six

years the point has been brought home to Governments in the area that if we are to solve the unemployment situation in these countries industrial training must play an important role, and this is a matter which we have recognized for a long time. As the hon. member for Christ Church North Central indicated, a couple of weeks ago we made the point about the Hotel School and the way in which we saw the management and organization of it and we were not satisfied with that particular area of training. We need to establish within our school system — and when I talk of the school system I am not taking the narrow view that education and training are to take place within the confines of primary or secondary schools; we have to look at this matter as widely as possible and recognize that training can take place in a number of areas; and I think that those who suffer from the shortsighted view that education or training should be confined to school system are making a serious mistake. So that the question of apprenticeships is one which has to be looked at carefully, and there is no doubt that the Minister will indicate when he gets up to reply that the Democratic Labour Party government had looked at the question of revision of the Apprenticeship Act and recommendations were made by, I think, someone from the British Ministry of Overseas Development and a number of recommendations were made about changing the apprenticeship system. But if we are going to move into the modern age and take advantage of an age where technology is playing such an important role — and those of us in developing countries must understand we cannot stop the onward rush of technology. To give you a simple example, take the question of the docks, an area with which you are entirely familiar, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have one minute more.

Mr. GREAVES: Do you mean that I have one minute more to speak or that in one minute you will be...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have been speaking for fourteen minutes and you have one minute left.

Mr. GREAVES: Very well, Mr. Chairman. As you are aware, Sir, the development of container cargo is something which we can do absolutely nothing about, and as a result we are going to have many persons thrown out of work because the kinds of jobs available will be changing considerably.

1.55 p.m.

We have therefore got to gear ourselves not only to training people who are coming out of the school system or entering into the working world, but we have got to have programmes of retaining for those workers who are going to be thrown out of work for circumstances over which they have no control. I think that we must therefore look at this in its broadest sense and a programme has got to be developed; because as the

Deputy Prime Minister said, and the point has been made over and over again by me also, we have got to have a proper manpower survey whether or not BIMAP is capable to do the survey I do not know. It would seem as though they have demonstrated that they do not have the capacity, the competence or the ability to do the survey, otherwise from what I gather it should have been produced months or over a year ago. But the point is that this manpower survey has got to be done. I am winding up now, Mr. Chairman. This manpower survey has got to be done.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is now 2 o'clock, and I must report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now 2 o'clock and this sitting stands suspended until 2.45 p.m. today.

RESUMPTION

On the resumption:

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Question Time. The hon. member for Christ Church East this morning made a very special request and apologised for his absence when notices ought to have been given and has requested that he be allowed to give notice later on today. I now so call on the hon. member for Christ Church East. His question re Income Tax Appeal Board.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: To ask the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance —

1. When last has the Income Tax Appeal Board sat?
2. How many cases are at present before the Board?
3. If the Board has not sat within the last year, will the Minister state why not, and further, what steps are being taken to ensure that the Board sits at a soon date to deal with the backlog of cases?

Thank, you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Michael South — his Question to the Minister of Communications and Works — No. 6.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, Question No. 6.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I am aware that Piper's Avenue is in need of some repairs. The problems of Piper's Avenue have been evident for many years. These problems are engaging the attention of the Ministry and will be dealt with as soon as possible.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Will the Minister state whether he intends to deal with these problems as soon as possible within the present financial year?

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is asking me to say how soon is soon. There are many roads to be done all over the country, and according to the priority needs they will be dealt with.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, will the Minister state in view of the fact that he has said that he is aware of the problems, would the Minister state what he intends to do to correct the problems?

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: When we are ready to move into that area we will rectify the problems.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister indicate what he means when he says when we are ready to move into that area?

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: If we consider that the question justifies an answer, I do not know. There is always a question, Mr. Speaker of priority; and that area, although it needs repairs, is not in such a bad state.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, will the Minister state exactly what is wrong with the road, and what are the specific proposals he has for rectifying what is wrong?

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I do not know, Mr. Speaker, how much clearer I can give the hon. member.

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it that the hon. member was in possession of that information when he asked the question.
2.50 p.m.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, could the Minister state when he said the area had been in need of repair for many years whether the phrase "many years" incorporated the period under the DLP administration when the present hon. member for St. Michael South was still then a representative for St. Michael South and a member of the DLP Government at the time?

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, very deep into that period.

Mr. SPEAKER: This brings us to the end of Question Time.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: We now come into Private Members' Business.

RESOLUTION RE BARBADOS CIVIL SERVICE

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I am not replying on behalf of the Government, but I am expressing my own personal observations in supporting this Resolution. I think one of the salient points we should remember in dealing with the civil service in Barbados is to look at it in relation to what has happened with Government in Barbados in the course of the last 25 years. The civil service is unquestionably the principal instrument for carrying out the policy of the Government and for delivery of services to the public. We in Barbados have suffered in my humble opinion to a very large extent in the delivery of services consequent upon the drastic centralisation which has taken place in the provision of Government services in the last seven years. It has had a profound effect upon the civil service, and I think that it is an area which should be the subject matter of an in-depth enquiry specifically to determine whether a number of those services which were hitherto performed under the intimate direction of people who were politically responsible and periodically accountable to electorates, now that that has been removed, whether the lack of control now obviously exists in respect of these functions because of the fact that we have now a system whereby this Legislature is responsible for policy making as well as supervision.

I do not think, Sir, that one can fail to take into account that there has been a change and a difference. I also would like to look at the civil service from the point of view of an evaluation and an in-depth study as to the question of appointments, dismissals and other disciplinary procedures. I do not believe that it is well known in this country that in truth and in fact the power of patronage which is alleged to exist in the hands of politicians in truth and in fact does not reside there at all. All of us have had bitter complaints from our constituents over the course of our period of representing our various constituencies for however long we have been in existence, and when one tries to explain that in truth and in fact there are institutions which are responsible for the appointments and discipline, it is very difficult for the general public to believe that this power resides in quarters other than in the hands of politicians.

I have always heard that an important factor in the dispensation of appointments is the power to select the select few from whom the appointment is to be made. There is no doubt about it at all that in a very large area

of the public service that initial power of screening or delimiting the amount of eligible candidates to go forward so to speak resides not in the hands of the politician, but in the hands of the public service itself. I believe it is more graphically put by saying you cannot be pulled out of that unless you get into the hat.

Now this is a very important point, particularly in relation to a large number of jobs where the number of applicants for the jobs far exceeds the number of jobs, and perhaps it is in the area of the beginning grades or extra grades of the service that there is great cause for concern in Barbados at the present moment, and I cannot conceive of a situation which can give cause for greater dissatisfaction than the situation which exists at the present moment, where you have minimum criteria for appointment in the form of the number of certificates of education; but you have a large number of people who are in possession of those certificates of education and no other additional criteria to select from among them. I would be exceedingly glad if only to ensure that as a politician I could be constantly relieved of the pressure which arises when people who have qualifications which satisfy the minimum criteria and who come from one's constituency cannot understand how it is that there are others with lesser qualifications than they, but still with the minimum qualifications which are required, are preferred to them. In short, I would hope that an examination of the civil service would attempt to produce a workable formula for sub-selecting or for further selecting in those grades of the civil service where there is a tremendous amount of competition and there are few jobs available.

3.00 p.m.

There is no doubt it, as I had to say previously, that the content of the work that civil servants have to do today has changed not only because of the fact that we have centralised the totality of Government now within a double Chamber system and we do not have Local Government, but also because of the fact that the way how Statutory Boards have developed in Barbados they have not become agencies really of the Civil Service and of the Central Government as a whole, because in the absence of independent funding for these Statutory Boards they have to depend almost totally upon grants from the Central Government, and therefore they are regarded as being nothing but an extension of the Central Government. Of course, we do have a further classification of these Statutory Boards between those which are trading organisations and therefore have an independent source of revenue, and in fact I think an examination of the role of a Statutory Board or a State Organisation in Barbados can justify that there are at least two types, those with independent sources of revenue and therefore not depending to the same extent on Government grants, and therefore also not depending upon the same degree of control as those which do have

to depend fully on Government grants, but looking at the content of the work of the Civil Service, one has to appreciate this point about the totality to Government being centralised in Barbados.

Obviously, then, those will require a variety of qualifications, training, experience and things of that kind, and I do not believe myself that the machinery which we established in a much narrower area of governmental authority is really suitable for the very varied and wide area of authority which today Government commands in Barbados. We also have of course to remember that the whole method of Government finance has changed greatly in the course of the last five to six years.

As I said earlier in a debate, I do not believe that it is quite appreciated the difference of having to justify to international institutions capital projects and tailoring one's applications to suit procedures which they have developed and which are more akin to the private sector type applications than the hitherto traditional Government applications which were in existence when these countries were colonies and they went for their money by a bond issue, or they received grants from the metropolitan countries. Obviously the skills that are now needed are much more precise in the financial area, much more analytical, rather than the general administrative skills which were needed in the past. This again is another reason which should demand very clear and precise examination, and I think it is also important for those who are responsible for training our potential civil servants to recognise that our university in particular must in future produce people with the precise skills if they are to be of any use to Government.

One can go ahead and have a look at the reality of the functioning as opposed to the theoretical assumptions upon which the Public Service Commission functions. I have always been a believer in the need and the necessity for your appointing organisation to be on top of the whole system of appointments. I do not believe that part time members of an important body like that can really be regarded with the degree of acceptability as one would like to have in such an important body. I believe that we must recognise that there is dissatisfaction among both members of the present Civil Service and potential members of the present Civil Service with the Public Service Commission and the other Commissions. It is not that people are saying that the individual members from time to time do not have their confidence, but the truth of the matter is that the way how the institutions are set up, the way how they function in fact, they are not in a position to be on the ball in relation to matters that they have to deal with and there is this feeling that in truth and in fact they are nothing but rubber stamps for those who have to do the pre-selection.

If one bears in mind all these factors, the cost and the importance of this machinery – and it is important because in these territories certainly the area of the initiative of Government has increased and will continue to increase in the future, not only in the social and the political fields but in the economic fields – and therefore the machinery for implementing or helping to initiate, or documenting the initiative and implementing the political initiatives must be constantly reviewed, and in addition I think we should also remember that all Governments in the world today are operating against a background in which citizens are fed up with the amount of taxes they have to pay.

3.10 p.m.

In addition I think we should also remember that all governments in the world today are operating against a background in which the citizens are fed up with the amount of taxes they have to pay, and this can be judged by the popularity of the tax revolt that has shown itself in the form of referenda in California and other areas, as well as the blunt refusal of certain sections of the community to cooperate with the tax authorities and pay their taxes, because there is a feeling that one is not getting in this inflationary period a just return for the sacrifices they have to make in relation to the payment of taxes. Of course the cost of services has risen, inflation has eaten into today's salaries, differentials which were regarded as sacrosanct before have been eroded between the various grades in the Civil Service and there is a great demand upon the public purse which is limited by the ability of the Ministry of Finance to raise an acceptable tax rate. All of these are important factors; we are not unique in having to deal with these matters; academic journals and other business journals such as the Economist, Business Week, etc., are dealing with these matters, phenomena which have come into immediate focus, and one must look at all of this because the Civil Service and Government in a country such as we operate take a large share of the gross national product to run and carry on the Civil Service.

I am very much in favour of the Resolution and I do hope that by the time the debate reaches its final conclusion the mover of the Resolution will be able to accommodate the suggestions made by some of the speakers on the other side as to amending that specific part of the Resolution which deals with the machinery for effecting the common desires of both sides, so that we can have a consensus upon the terms of the Resolution because whether we are in power or the other side we all have to be sure that any plans we have to implement are not frustrated by circumstances beyond our control, and that the machinery for implementing the plan that we make functions in such a way and at such a pace and efficiency as to ensure that within our respective terms of our office we are able to carry out the programmes which we pledged. Accordingly, Sir, I endorse the sentiments that

have been expressed by the mover of the Resolution and, subject to the points I have made, will support the Resolution.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, the Resolution which was tabled by the hon. member for Christ Church East is one which I rise to support. The Civil Service forms part of the three main arms of Government, and from time to time we have come to examine the other two parts, that is the Legislature and the Judiciary, and we ought to look at the Civil Service from time to time and make recommendations which will make it a more effective arm of Government. The Civil Service has got multifarious functions to perform and when we consider the modern trend of government we have got to understand that it is the Civil Service that has got to help in making the policies of a government come to fruition, and it is therefore in this light that we must examine the Civil Service, not with a view to destructive criticism but rather constructive criticism. And as this Resolution sets about to call on government to examine all aspects of the Civil Service we in this honourable Chamber must support it.

You see, Sir, the Civil Service is a very important organization. If it is lackadaisical in its approach it will retard the progress of Government and we must look at it from this angle to see that it is always well oiled like a piece of machinery so that it can carry out the operations of Government in a fluent and efficient manner. And as we look at this Resolution and look at the Civil Service as a whole we must ask ourselves if, as some members may feel, that because there have been some improvement over the past few years and that there have been some recommendations and some policies and measures adopted with a view to improving the Civil Service, if that is all that is required, because as I have said I will continue to contend that the Civil Service needs to be looked at and analysed and brought up to date, and this should not be done on a five or ten year basis.

Mr. Speaker, we have got to look at the Civil Service and examine it to see whether the public that is paying for the Civil Service is getting the best out of it, and if we find that the general public is critical of the Civil Service, then any responsible government has a bounden duty to look into these criticisms and see how best they can find solutions to resolve them. But in spite of the fact that some of these criticisms are not justified, we must look at all the criticisms and see how best we can avoid the pitfalls which a Civil Service can fall into. In the United Kingdom we have seen how the Civil Service there operates. For instance, it has its own Civil Service examination, whereas in Barbados all that is required is for the individual to have the minimum requirement of four "O" Levels and have satisfied the Civil Service Commission. So you will see that if we are going to examine the Civil Service we must examine it in the light

of what happens in Barbados, and I have always said that what may be relevant to the Civil Service in Canada or in the United Kingdom may not be relevant to our Barbadian society. It is unique, it is good, but you should not let it rest at that; we owe it to ourselves to make it even better, and that is why I am willing to support this Resolution.

3.20 p.m.

I do hope that members of the Civil Service, people who are involved in the Civil Service, will realise that this is not suggested to be critical of them to the extent that it may dampen the enthusiasm of our hard working Civil Servants; but rather to see how best we can improve its efficiency and maximise the operation so that we can get the best out of it. I am not one, Mr. Speaker, to join or assist in any criticism or any mouthing that has been levelled against the Barbados Civil Service. I am not one who will agree with any member of this Hon. Chamber past or even present, who would refer to the Civil Service as an "army of occupation." But the initiative must be taken from the top.

I always feel that if at the top level of the Barbados Civil Service we have got conscientious workers, that that conscientiousness will redound to the bottom ladder of the Civil Service; and we must, in examining the Civil Service, ask ourselves whether those at the top — the Permanent Secretaries and the Senior Assistant Secretaries have been conducting themselves and functioning at a level which will cause the Civil Servant at the bottom rung of the ladder to try to emulate. That is important. We must have the initiative taken from the top; and we must understand that there are Civil Servants at the bottom rung of the ladder who are looking to see what is going on at the top.

We must see that in Barbados it is uncommon, Sir, that you have adverse criticisms of the Civil Service. Dishonest criticisms I will not lend my support to; but we cannot ignore the criticisms none the less. When we hear certain people say that some Civil Servants are political, it is not a criticism that I support; but Mr. Speaker, we have to go into this particular area; because we cannot have a Civil Service which is supposed to be responsible for the execution of Government policy being directly or indirectly influenced by political affiliations. This is a very important area. It should be unbiassed. It should be free to take decisions. It should be free and bold enough to advise Ministers on certain issues without any fear of recrimination. That is what a strong Civil Service ought to be doing; but you find in certain respects where some Public Servants or Civil Servants because they feel that they could be victimised, they refuse to give the sort of advice that is vital to proper decision making.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, we have got to look at all this. We have got to look at the re-organisation of the

Civil Service with a view to eliminating altogether all the political interference. I am not saying that it is evident in the Barbados Civil Service; but these are possible criticisms, we have got to make sure that this is not a true criticism of the Barbados Civil Service; because it is not the direction in which a Civil Service ought to be going.

Now, Sir, we have got to examine the method of promotion in the Civil Service. This has brought some discussion, some area of concern, how Civil Servants can or may rise from the beginning of the Civil Service to the very top; and I have heard, and it is evident in the Barbados Civil Service that we have not seen a female Permanent Secretary. Something has got to be wrong. I have been able to see some of the best Clerical Officers, Senior Assistant Secretaries, in the Barbados Civil Service; but when time comes for the actual appointment of a Permanent Secretary, then I do not see it; and we have got to ask ourselves why it is that women can give of their best service right through the ranks of the Barbados Civil Service, and when it comes to the top position, that cherished position of Permanent Secretary you do not have them. This is one of the areas that we must look into and see why they are not qualified for this particular position.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must say that I am sometimes appalled and alarmed at the operation in some departments. It is not applicable to all of them, but as I say, these may be a small percentage of departments; but none the less we have got to look at them, because we have got to look at the Civil Service as a whole, and not as an isolated piece; and we must try to find out why it is that some departments are not as efficient as others. The public has made complaints and asked to have something done; and time and time again the same public is critical of the Civil Service because they are saying that the work is too slow. We agree that in every country where there is a Civil Service there is this red tape where things have got to be done methodically, and it takes time; but at the same time we must understand, the Civil Service has got to understand that it has got a public duty to perform; and it is in the interest of every Civil Servant to ensure that he performs a public function to satisfy the general public which is responsible for paying him his salary.

As we look at this Resolution, I do hope that Civil Servants as a whole in this country will realise that they themselves are taxpayers, and they pay themselves in one way or another; because it is from their salaries that taxes are deducted; and that we can get more out of them; that the general public can expect more from them; and if they do not give of their best, the man in the street, the average Barbadian will be the sufferer in the end. I say that because if the work is allowed to backlog, it means that the time factor is important. That more and more

money will have to be voted to get the jobs completed, and the taxpayers of Barbados will be called upon to pay that tax.

I do not subscribe to any Civil Servant feeling that because he is in the Government Service of Barbados, he has got a sacred right to behave in any sloppy manner. I do not subscribe to that; but as I have said, you find some of them, a few of them, Sir; and we have got to call upon each and every member who draws money directly or indirectly from the Treasury of Barbados, to realise that he has got a responsibility to assist the Government to carry out its legislative programmes.

The Civil Servant is important. No country can operate; no policy can come into being; nothing can be done without the Civil Service; and that is why we must understand we cannot be over critical of the Civil Service. Some of them have a reason, Mr. Speaker, for behaving in the way in which they behave, whether it is indifference or anything like that. They have a reason; but we will hope that whatever reasons or indifferences will be eliminated as soon as possible so that we will have a more satisfied Civil Service, less disgruntled so that we can get on with the job. This is not a question of a Civil Servant or anyone thinking that because of his political bias or affiliation that he has got a right to sit on the people's work.

3.30 p.m.

He is not impeding the work of a particular party or Government; he is impeding the work of the taxpayers of this country; he is also impeding progress and he is doing nothing to develop the country. So we must look at the civil service in this light and we must examine and we must have a review. I would not be able to recommend, Mr. Speaker, what shape this review should take, but I would like a working group which would go into all aspects of the present day civil service in Barbados with a view to not criticising them, but to make positive recommendations so that we can have a more effective civil service so that John Public will be satisfied that he is paying taxes and that he is getting proper quality service for the taxes he is called upon to pay.

Mr. Speaker, as I said before, I am supporting this Resolution and I do hope that it is not misconstrued that this Government or a member from this Government would bring such very vital information at this particular time in seeking to use some devious tactics in getting at the civil service, but rather they should realise that we feel that the civil service should have a better deal. We understand there are certain fundamental problems which cannot be arrested and we today are supporting this Resolution with a view to having the civil service looked into with a more analytical view so that we can improve it so that all of us in this country can be better off in the future.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, after twelve years of independence the need still exists to redevelop structures appropriate to the profession of Government. Public Servants as practitioners of this service or of this profession should now be moving into the key issues of the nation affecting the welfare of the people of this country. Unfortunately very few public servants recognise that they are involved in the task of nation building and are unaware of the expectations which the people of this country have for their contribution. They seem to be mal-adjusted for orientation and direction.

The task of the public service must be diagnosed and prescribed by undertaking major reorganisation of their talents, abilities and training. The nation and its public service should by this time be capable of refashioning or restructuring effectively the processes of national development decision making.

Sir, the system of responsible democratic Government demands that the people's representatives should be responsible for the administration and management of the bureaucracy, but it is also the right of the bureaucracy as a group to demand that recognition of their rights in a democratic framework while moving to make its contribution to the development of the country. Sir, the feeling of frustration and impotence at the exclusion of young officers from the main stream of decision making results from the undemocratic processes now in vogue which does not confer authority, and the young public servant has a basic right to be involved in the policy formulation both in regard to themselves and in the national development of their service.

Sir, as a medical practitioner I am well aware of the fact that the brain reaches its maximum development by age twenty-five. Thereafter, if anything does happen, there is a decline in the efficiency of the brain. After that period of time every day about 100,000 brain cells die and each day that continues to be the case, with the result that what one must expect to be happening to all of us after we have passed that age is that slowly and slowly the efficiency of the brain gets less and less.

Sir, the point I am trying to make is that in developing a country in this period of time one must make the utmost use of young people because one will find that after a certain age people become a bit conservative in their approach to dealing with issues; they become conservative in their understanding of the problems confronting the country, and what we are faced with very often as a result of this conservatism is a resistance to change.

Sir, I have been involved in Government for some time, and I have been a bit annoyed by the slow process which confronts you day by day as a Minister in trying to overcome the problems of this country. If you take a

letter as it reaches a Ministry, it goes to the Registry from there to some Senior Clerk, Administrative Assistant, Assistant Secretary, Senior Assistant Secretary, Permanent Secretary, and then maybe after a lapse of two to three months it finally reaches the Minister, and on the way many of those letters or many of those issues do not reach the Minister. That gives you an example, Mr. Speaker, of the amount of time which is wasted very often on many important issues where a quick decision is required.

Sir, when you look at the high cost of the public service in this country, it is certainly not matched by quality and quantity of service given by these people. When you go further and look seriously at the behaviour of the public service and the public servants in Barbados, one has to recognise that the public service has been developed by our colonial masters for a specific purpose, and that purpose has been one of total control of whatever is going on in the country. So we have in effect what some refer to as parametral structure where everything goes up to the person at top, it takes time to reach there and likewise it takes time for the decision or the opinions of the person at top to filter back down. This was all right during the colonial years when the Governor or Colonial Secretary wanted to make sure that nothing happened in the country unless he willed it, and therefore for him a structure was devised where everything had to go up to him and then eventually after he had perused it and made his decision, slowly to come back down. What has been happening in this structure is that people who have had brains, and very good brains, have just been put in a position of pushing files from one table to another. They have not been called on to exercise their intelligence. I am saying that what we want nowadays is a delegation of authority, and that delegation of authority must be matched with accountability.

I am surprised that when you look at the conditions in this country as they affect the civil service and as the civil servants perform, you will observe that they have a Union, but unfortunately the prime consideration of the Union of the civil servants is for material gain or financial reward. It is not beyond them to be able by now to have put forward strong proposals for the reorganisation of the public service in this country, but unfortunately they have not turned their attention to that problem although they are the people involved in that service, and whatever goes on in that service affects them. I would like to say here and now that it is high time that the Union of the civil servants look at what is really going on in this country and expend some of the time and energy they now expend on calling for wages and for better conditions of service on dealing with the problems of the civil service as they affect policy formulation and decision making with a view to improving it or making it to be done quicker.

3.40 p.m.

Unless they are prepared to do that, we are going to find that Government, regardless of which party is in power, will always be constrained by the peculiar behaviour of the civil servants, and I am saying here that while it was good for the present party in power who have criticised us when we were in power, they are now realising as we have realised that many of the problems which they are going to experience as a Cabinet do not come from inability of the Cabinet members to decide what needs to be done or what should be done, but the problem come from the fact that when the machinery is to be put into operation to give effect to the decisions which have been made at Cabinet, or made in the Ministry, you find that that machinery moves too slowly or sometimes does not move at all. It is there that you have your problems, and unless we are prepared to look seriously at that problem rather than getting around and accusing one another for political advantage, you will find that regardless of who is in power this type of situation will continue, and when you come to the end of your time you will be able to say only why you have not been able to complete your programme.

Sir, you must also blame the politician, because I get the feeling sometimes that politicians in Barbados are happy with the setup, with the Civil Service as has been fashioned by our colonial masters, and some politicians are happy with the situation. They are in the position to ensure that nothing happens unless they have decided, and I am saying that very often it does appear that we are better accomplished at running a colonial system than the colonial masters who provided it. I think when we start to look seriously at the Civil Service we have to look at the country as a whole, because we should realise that the Civil Service cannot be better than the country which provides it, because the people who go into the Civil Service are from the public at large, and whatever defects may be existing in the country, attitudes towards work, attitudes towards political parties and things of that nature, they take with them when they go into the Civil Service, and unless we are prepared in this exercise to examine the society as a whole and see how it affects the Civil Service, which is only a microcosm of the society at large, we will be defeating our own efforts, because when we take the people out of the society and put them in the Civil Service they take with them all those peculiar traits and attitudes which we deplore.

When I do agree that there is a need for looking at the Civil Service, I have become a bit weary of Commissions, working groups and committees, and I wonder if the Civil Servants themselves are not in a position to come forward with positive ideas as to what needs to be done to bring this Civil Service more in line with modern day thinking. The whole approach to the ordinary routine of Government needs to be changed, because we find too often there are too many long delays and when we look at what is the final result of these long

delays it is an increase in the cost of the project. To give an example of what I mean, I am aware of a project, a school to be built in the Deacons Road area, and that project has been on the drawing board for many years. Over the years the increase in the price of that Fernihurst school has been so interesting that it is not surprising that one has had to make a decision to scrap it, because all along you find the slow approach to decisions which have been made has been responsible for a substantial increase in the cost of that project, and that is not the only project, because there will be other projects which one can look at and observe that due to the slowness with which one sets about to put the machinery to work, what you suffer in the long run is a heavy increase in expenditure.

This is one of the things you cannot impress on many of the people in the Civil Service, and when you find that you are saddled with high costs the Government is left with very little alternative but to seek to raise this money either by increased taxation or by borrowing, and I would like to see the civil servants being so aware of the needs of the country that they will be willing to participate in giving very quick and effective service or to assist in the very quick and effective decision making process of this country.

Sir, the art of Government has to be seen as a science, and as any scientist will tell you, the Civil Service has a spirit, it has a body, it has a person, and because it has these things they must be realised by the civil servants themselves and the factors of growth, change and development as they affect each and every one of us in our own way must be seen to affect the Civil Service as an entity with a body, a spirit and a will. Unfortunately we get the impression that among the civil servants they do not seem to recognise this factor, and unless they are prepared to recognise this factor they will not be prepared to stand up as often as they should for more and more of the rights and privileges which are their own.

I have heard remarks coming from one hon. member talking about political interference, but at the same time while there may be reasons to assume that this is so, one has to bear in mind that with the type of Government we have nowadays the representatives of the people have every right to manage the Ministries or Departments falling under them, and quite often this charge of political interference goes a far way in making civil servants feel that they have the right to resist what may be the right and duty of the representative to do. Unless we are going to be quite clear in our minds about what we mean when we say political interference, we are only adding confusion in the minds of the people who are already not clear about whether the people who have been put into power by the people of this country have the right to run the affairs of the country or whether as a group of people they have the right to decide when the

Minister should do this or when the Minister should not do that.

If you go further into the Civil Service you will find that there are civil servants who will determine what the Minister should know, how much he should know and when he should know it, and the way in which they bandy about the files will tell you. There are civil servants who will tell you whether or not they will advise the Minister on a particular project, and this is the type of thing all along that they have done, because over the years, especially since independence, they have come around to the view that if they can do this against a background of charges of political interference they are likely to get away with it. It is the responsibility of the Minister to know whenever that is going on in his Ministry or Department, and I find it a bit strange that some civil servants may want to accord to themselves the power to know whether or not the Minister should know these things.

One may not be able to go through the problems of the Civil Service in a short exercise such as this, but I am hoping that those of us who are concerned with improvement in the Government's machinery, those of us who are really concerned with the high cost of Government and its consequences, that is, high taxation or high borrowing, will take the opportunity of trying to impress upon whatever comes out of this Resolution the areas in which re-organisation or modernisation of the Civil Service can be done.

3.50 p.m.

I have already had a serious look at the Civil Service as it affected me when I was in the Civil Service, and I have made notes and have for my own use records of some of the areas where I feel a lot can be done. I am not trying to presuppose what the Commission will come up with but I feel that maybe some of this information could be of benefit to that particular group. While understanding the reasons why the hon. member has brought this Resolution, I am still saying that it is within the ability of the civil servants if they will take some time off and look at themselves and see what is happening, to come forward with worthwhile solutions or ideas as to how the Civil Service can be improved and made to function more effectively both to the satisfaction of the party in power and to the people of the country. I said on one occasion when I was a Minister that a mistake in the Civil Service is that civil servants quite often sit in a room completely shut off from the outside and make decisions in that situation and very often you find that the decisions made in that situation go a long way towards increasing hardship on the people they are supposed to serve. Unless Civil servants are going to get involved within the community and get to know how their actions are affecting people, what are the

consequences of some of the decisions being made by them, then they are not going to be in a position to believe that what they are doing is adversely affecting people. Just to mention a point, very often people in this country, especially in the upper strata of the society, are often embarrassed when having to seek advice from civil servants, and this should not be and this is something that happens frequently. Why does it have to happen? It happens because very often in Barbadian society people are apt to take their personal problems into their work place. To explain what I mean, a man in a district may have a problem with his neighbour and then one day his neighbour turns up at his office to be served by him, and what looms before him is that he has been having this problem with his neighbour and now is an opportunity to get at his neighbour. But when you are seeking redress you find your neighbour has great difficulty in getting redress because he finds it difficult to get anyone to believe that the problem which he is encountering with this civil servant stems from the past, that out there where they live they are not on speaking terms. This is a commonplace situation in Health and other areas where these personal problems go a far way in influencing the behaviour of a public servant towards the public at large. And very often what we are considering as political affiliation or political bias is not political bias but is a result of the social conditions existing between civil servants and the people at large. These are some of the things we have to examine in the civil service, and if we are serious about improving it we have to look at the society in which these people function, because they are part of the society and it will be difficult with circumstances and conditions remaining as they are for the civil service to improve unless we improve the society and seek to remove some of the social defects.

We have also to begin with the politicians, because the politicians themselves are responsible for a lot of the problems confronting the civil servants, and the way politicians in Barbados have behaved for a long time has gone a long way not so much in encouraging the civil servants in their behaviour but in protecting them, and unless politicians themselves are going to look at Government as a business and approach it on the correct basis and not what you may call the soap box basis, you will find that civil servants will use that type of climate to carry out their performance in a way which redounds not to the best interest of the country but rather as an embarrassment to people and an addition to the high cost of Government. Unless they are prepared to do this I think an exercise of this nature, even if it had gone through and we come out with wonderful ideas, we will find that nothing has been achieved because some of the important aspects and some of the principles involved have not been touched. The fault of the Civil Service has to be the fault of the society as a whole and we cannot make the

civil servants believe that they alone are responsible for the problem; they are as much the victims as they are the perpetrators and unless we can see it in that light we may set out with good intentions only to further alienate them rather than get them to use their resources to work for the better development of Barbados. And when we say Barbados, the civil servants must realize that they are part of Barbados and that whatever they do for the improvement of Barbados will be for their benefit and for the rest of Barbados.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is there any other hon. member who desires to make a contribution to this debate?

Dr. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Speaker, may I ask that further consideration of this Resolution be postponed?

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is seeking postponement of further consideration of this Resolution. If there is no objection, further consideration is postponed.
4.00 p.m.

RESOLUTION RE UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Item 2 was called — A resolution to call on Government to take prompt action to ensure that unemployment benefits are paid for a stipulated period to contributors to the National Insurance and Social Security Scheme.

Mr. SPEAKER: I recall that the Minister of Finance had sought to request some consideration to the delaying of debate on this Resolution because, I think it was a case where the Government had some intention of making a statement or some proposal like that on a Resolution of this sort.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, consultations have taken place between the mover of the Resolution and the Government; and we are perfectly in favour of the hon. member commencing debate on his Resolution today. The investigations have not taken place, but I appreciate the hon. member's point that he does not want to be caught with the Rules of Parliament, and we are willing to start today. We will not be able to conclude it today.

Mr. SPEAKER: Item No. 2.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I want to begin this Resolution; but I just want to make a point as the Prime Minister has pointed out last week, that we do not want to get into any jurisdictional row about Private Members' Business. The Resolution is here on the Order Paper, and under Private Members Business, under the conventions that we practice in here, the Government has no control over Private Members Business; and I want to begin debate on my Resolution today.

The Resolution deals with the payment of unemployment benefits for a limited period of time, and it reads as follows:—

Whereas the ILO Conventions on Social Security make provision for the payment of unemployment benefits;

And Whereas in Barbados unemployment benefits are not payable under the National Insurance Scheme which has been in operation since 1967;

Be It Resolved that this House call on Government to take prompt action to ensure that unemployment benefits are paid for a stipulated period to contributors to the National Insurance and Social Security Scheme.

Now, this Resolution was given notice of on the 30th May, and obviously because of the three months limitations, I think that it would be useful for me to at least open debate on this Resolution, knowing full well that it will not be possible to complete the debate on this matter today. On the previous occasions, when the Prime Minister asked to have this Resolution postponed because of some particular problem that he had in that he wanted to collect some figures on unemployment with a view to turning this debate into a full scale debate on unemployment, I indicated to him then that my Resolution was on the question of the payment of unemployment benefits; and whereas I see some connection between that and the whole question of unemployment in this country, one has got to recognise very clearly that we must not be led down the path purely and simply of unemployment.

It is easy for the Government to adopt a sort of strategy that one can adopt as far as this Resolution is concerned. I am particularly happy to be in a position today to initiate discussion on this Resolution. It stems from my concern for, and my involvement with the working man in this country. There is no doubt in my view that this Resolution when adopted, and when the general terms are implemented, will be fundamental and far reaching for the workers of this country.

Sir, the Democratic Labour Party has a very fine record in the field of labour legislation in this country; and the National Insurance Legislation was one of the very important laws relating to the workers which was implemented by the Democratic Labour Party; and as my Resolution indicates, this came into being in 1967. The scheme has now been in existence for a period of about 11 years; and it has worked successfully during that period of time; and I would personally like to pay tribute to the National Insurance Board, to the manager of the Board and of course to the staff who have had the responsibility for seeing the scheme get off the

ground, go through the embryonic stage, to where it has, as it were, developed into the adult stage, and if I could say in passing by way of comparison, the scheme in Trinidad and Tobago is, I believe, a little older than this one; but it has had a number of problems of inefficiency and loopholes of all sorts which are being exploited, not by the workers, but by people who are, as it were, making money on the side out of the National Insurance Scheme by setting up businesses to fill in forms for sickness benefits and what have you. We do not have that sort of problem developing in our scheme here in Barbados; and I think that it is indeed a tribute to those people who have been managing and directing National Insurance Scheme for this Scheme to be in the kind of position that it is in today.

My indications are that the National Insurance Scheme has somewhere in the vicinity of over \$100 million in reserves. I think that the figure at the end of April was somewhere in the vicinity of \$109 million; and that is a very clear indication of the kind of way in which our scheme has developed. Now, because of the very solid foundation on which the scheme had been based, and the way in which it has been operating, the scheme has been able to provide a number of benefits which are included in the 1952 ILO Convention on Social Security.

As you are aware, Mr. Speaker, this convention dates back to the 1920s, and the 1952 Convention brought together a series of Conventions developed over the years; because when the concept of social security was developed, and indeed when it was implemented, it did not start with all the various benefits which are now provided for in the fully developed National Security Scheme. It took years for these benefits to be developed and integrated within the various schemes.

When our scheme started in Barbados, it was fairly obvious that because it was new we could not begin to have all of the benefits which are normally associated with such a scheme. Unemployment benefits were not included in the initial stages of the National Insurance and Social Security Scheme. As a matter of fact, a number of the benefits which are now included were not originally included, so the scheme had to start off creeping until it could walk; and now we are in a position where we can take off into a general trot before we move into a hundred yards sprint; but the point is that I think that we have now reached the stage in our development where I think that some very serious and important considerations should be given to the implementation of unemployment benefits as provided for in the National Insurance and Social Security Scheme. I want, Mr. Speaker, to make the point at the very outset that this Resolution calls for unemployment benefits to contributors to the scheme.

4.10 p.m.

Lest anybody might get the impression that the Resolution is calling for payment of unemployment benefits to anybody in this country who is unemployed, this is not the purpose and intent of this Resolution at this stage. This is not to say, Mr. Speaker, that one could not conceive of a situation at some time in the future where some consideration would not be given to that kind of situation, but at the present time my Resolution is dealing specifically with those people who have contributed to the scheme and who for one reason or another would have found themselves unemployed for a number of reasons. I will develop this point later on because I think it is very important that we understand very clearly what we are talking about.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, my Resolution indicates very clearly that I cannot conceive a situation where unemployment benefits would be paid for an unlimited period. That is, if a person becomes unemployed after contributing to the scheme and for one reason or another do not get a suitable job, or where he or she did not feel inclined to take another job, that they would be paid permanent unemployment benefits. That is not the intent of this Resolution because I am not as unrealistic as to expect that the scheme or indeed our society at its present level of development can bear that kind of financial pressure at this present time; so that I think we have to get in perspective these two fundamental areas as far as the Resolution is concerned, so that we would not be going off on a tangent and trying to give the impression about the Resolution that is not there.

Mr. Speaker, the question of unemployment has some very far-reaching social and political consequences; it is a concern which I believe all of us should direct our attention to. The State, Mr. Speaker, has a responsibility to its citizens in many areas. The provision of employment or the creation of an environment to induce employment opportunities is one of those areas. Hence if we have unemployment existing at any level within the society, then the State also has some kind of responsibility for that situation, and something should be done about that particular area. As I said, the provision of jobs or the creation of a climate for employment opportunities is something which must be of some concern of the State, and if one can therefore for one moment direct one's attention to the question of unemployment and what it means for people who have to undergo this scourge, one must recognise that unemployment has to be rejected or indeed the consequences of unemployment at some point in time must be cushioned. I am dealing now, Mr. Speaker, particularly with those people who would have been working in a particular job — it might very well be the first job they might have had for a long time, they might be bread-winners of the family — in any case they might be people who do not have any other

means of income. In short, their income could very well be regarded as their property, and if they lose their jobs for one reason or another, then you can imagine the kind of difficulties and problems which these workers would encounter, and when one takes into consideration that they would have been contributing to the National Insurance Scheme in which could be incorporated unemployment benefits which would enable them to draw some amount of money for a limited period of time, then one could very well see the point I am making. In short, we have got to look at this matter, the provision of unemployment benefits, as providing some kind of cushion during the tough, hard and long days of unemployment, days which have led a number of people generally speaking to some demoralisation, which have led a number of people into drinking, and which have led a number of people into feeling some kind of alienation from society that they have lost their job and have no means of assisting themselves over that particular period.

What this Resolution seeks to do, Mr. Speaker, is to give at least some kind of support to those workers during this particular period. I just want to give you some indication about the kind of experiences which a number of workers have had in the area of unemployment whether they have been temporarily unemployed or whether they have been permanently unemployed. The distinction I want to make there is that there are some workers who are employed in a seasonal kind of job. Take for example the workers in the tourist industry who work in the hotels. As you very well know, there are certain periods of the year when workers are without the wherewithal or an income because of the seasonality of the job in which they are working, and quite apart from the fact that I feel that the tourist industry has reached the point now where it should be providing work for the workers in the industry on the basis of five days a week — I honestly believe that — quite apart from that there is.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think that is what this Resolution is all about.

Mr. GREAVES: I said quite apart from that; that was not the substantive point I was making, but quite apart from that, I think we have got to realise that the seasonal aspect — I am giving this as one example — of the work imposes certain difficulties on people who have worked for years in the industry and who have come to rely on the industry for providing their bread and butter. Now the situation is that at certain times of the year, particularly after the season, that is after April which is the off season periods of May and June in particular and in the month of October, because if you were to check the employment situation in the industry you will see that in the period May and June and October, there is a heavy unemployment in that sector

of the industry. You will recall, Mr. Speaker, that some weeks ago there was an advertisement from a group of hotels in St. James that their workers would have been put on short time, some would work two to three days and some week on week off, while others were laid off from the beginning of the off season, and during this time the people have got to go and look for new jobs which in any case are not there, or have got to sweat it out and wait until the beginning of the season. To me this kind of uncertainty and the fact that workers would have some difficulty in being able to tide themselves over that period makes life difficult for themselves and their families.

I feel very strongly that if we had a system where unemployment benefits could be provided for this type of worker and workers in that type of situation that the pressure which they would normally have to undergo would be reduced considerably.
4.20 p.m.

I believe that it should be the policy and the intention of any Government to ensure that its citizens are as comfortable as possible and that whatever measures Government can devise to cushion any kind of economic shock or insecurity which would result from these situations, that they should try to project those policies as much as possible, and this is why I will repeat that it is for this reason that I consider it absolutely necessary at this point in time for us to give some serious consideration to the implementation of the additional benefit under the National Insurance Scheme.

I want to say further that if you study very carefully the National Insurance Act and the way in which it operates at the present time, that it makes it very difficult for the kind of worker whom I spoke about earlier, or the hotel worker, to qualify for another kind of benefit, sickness benefit for example, because I recognise that we are not dealing with sickness benefit, we are dealing with the possibility of including unemployment benefit.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would much prefer if you would speak of unemployed workers generally.

Mr. GREAVES: Yes, but Mr. Speaker, I hope you will not deny me the opportunity to develop my point. I can explain this for the other workers, but I will move on.

Mr. SPEAKER: Would the hon. member get on with his debate?

Mr. GREAVES: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, with your permission. Now, as I was saying, when you look at the situation where a worker, if let us say he is a seasonal worker, under the National Insurance

Act the worker has to qualify for benefits, if you take for example the sickness benefit under the National Insurance Act, the legislation stipulates that in order to qualify for sickness benefits a worker must have paid eight contributions in the 13 contribution weeks immediately prior to the submission of the claim, so that if you examine the implications of that and you relate it now to a situation where a worker becomes unemployed for a particular period, it means that the worker would not even qualify for sickness benefits, so that if during the time of lay off or short time when the person has been put off for some time, you will see that he would not even qualify for sickness benefits, so that this makes his position even more critical.

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope the hon. member for St. Lucy understands he is making his own situation much more critical by pursuing that line.

Mr. GREAVES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I have made the point and I am about to move on.

The other aspect that one has to look at and which I believe should reinforce the point which I have been making about the need to provide unemployment benefits in the manner which I have indicated earlier on, is the question of the technological change which we see taking place in Barbados. Barbados is part and parcel of the world, some people regard Barbados as the centre of the world and what goes on in the outside world has nothing to do with Barbados, but in truth and in fact we in many instances find it difficult, particularly in the area of technology, to develop our own technology here, and there are a whole set of reasons for that, so that work systems, methods and very often machinery are brought into this country and forced on us. In a number of instances we cannot do anything about it, and as a consequence of this a number of people are thrown out of jobs.

I feel, Mr. Speaker, that this is a matter which we have to again look at very clearly and very closely because of that kind of situation where a worker might be thrown out of a job through technological advances whether it is in the area of printing, whether it is in the area of communications or any kind of work situation that you can think of, then I feel that that worker would feel denied, and indeed I would feel that he would be denied, and he would have a right to feel denied if the scheme to which he has been contributing for a number of years does not respond in that situation to be able to assist him in cushioning that kind of shock.

I know that some people might argue, or the argument might be advanced, that there is a severance payments scheme, but my view is that that is another kind of consideration because in truth and in fact I regard that as a reward for the years of service which the person

might have put in at that work place and would have lost the job through no fault of his, but in truth and in fact we are thinking of the worker not only getting some return from the scheme which he has been contributing to, but at the same time the scheme providing him with an income which would enable him to get him over or to tide him over this difficult period.

You will notice that I have not indicated any amounts. I recognise very clearly that this is a matter which would have to be gone into. We will be discussing more or less the general principles of this, and I well recognise that actuarials will have to be done to determine whether or not this particular Resolution and the context of this Resolution would have any particular merit, and I would recognise and I am sure the Government would indicate its concurrence with this when we come to vote on it, but I realise it is not anything that is going to be achieved overnight but it is to be part and parcel of an overall strategy dealing with a number of things, because if you are going to be talking in terms of the provision of unemployment benefits, and if you would recall Mr. Speaker, I indicated that there were certain limitations, that is, that it would be limited as far as the period of time that this unemployment benefit would be paid, so it would seem to me that we have got to develop in my view a well co-ordinated programme which will go hand in hand with this particular suggestion, and I would think, Mr. Speaker, that the time has come for us as part and parcel of this arrangement — and there are two additional things which have got to be done, one, the establishment of an employment agency or a Department of Manpower and Employment, and two, training and training programmes — because what must happen is that at the same time while a person is out of a job and looking for a job there must be some reasonable possibility of his getting a job, because I recognise that the person would become a charge on the State, so that it is the responsibility in my view of the State to give some kind of additional assistance to the worker to enable him to get a job as soon as possible, and that is why in my call for the establishment of an employment agency or a Department of Manpower and Employment there are a number of things which I conceive would happen here.

In the first place, those persons who are unemployed would be registered. You know, Mr. Speaker, at the present time we have a Department of Labour, that is, a section which is supposed to register unemployed people and what have you, but we recognise quite clearly that that is not functioning, and I think we have to look at this in its broadest sense because this must fall into the category of national planning and development.

4.30 p.m.

So that that agency will enable unemployed workers to be registered. At the same time jobs which are

available in the society should be channelled through that agency. And thirdly, the unemployed workers who are registered with the agency should be given the opportunity for jobs through that agency. I realize this caused some ripple among hon. members and some see it as a way of taking away some of the influence some hon. members may have in getting jobs for people, and others may regard it as a way of getting rid of some of the problems of people coming to them day in and day out for jobs which they cannot provide. But the point is that this is a matter which has to be treated as a national matter, so that I think this agency could play a very important role in this matter and secondly, as I indicated, a number of people might very well be losing their jobs or finding themselves unemployed because of certain technological changes and we have to be constantly developing our programme of training to enable our people if they are trained for a particular job and then find they are without that job, to be retrained for another job which would be open in the society. This in my view would be of tremendous assistance because it would have the effect of not only diversifying the skills which would be available within the society but would enable different kinds of economic activity to take place and further diversify our economy and provide opportunities for workers to widen their skills and then the question of their being unemployed for any length of time would be reduced considerably. So that we can see very clearly that the Resolution which I am asking this hon. House to approve is a kind of resolution which has very far reaching implications and is in my view fundamental to our society and to ensuring that we continue to have a stable society in Barbados. And I do not believe that there is any one of us in here, in Opposition or in Government, who would want to live in a situation where there are some people who go to sleep with their stomachs full and others who go to sleep hungry or starving.

I see, Mr. Speaker, you are indicating to me that it is time to wrap up. Do you mean wrap up Private Members Business or have I spoken long enough?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chair is always in charge and has a responsibility for that aspect of the debate.

Mr. GREAVES: You said wrap up Sir, and I was not too sure what you meant.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member will wind up his debate.

Mr. GREAVES: I am just seeking your guidance, Mr. Speaker. Are you suggesting that I have spoken long enough? I have.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member must take his seat. Is there any other hon. member who desires to make a contribution to this debate?

Dr. CADDLE: I would like to move, Sir, that further consideration of this Resolution be postponed. As a correction, Sir, I beg to second the Resolution and in addition beg to move that further consideration be postponed.

Mr. SPEAKER: You just can't have it that way.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that further consideration of this Resolution be postponed.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Lucy has requested that further consideration of this Resolution be postponed. If there is no objection, further consideration is postponed. We are still under Private Members' Business and we come now to Item No. 3.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, Item No. 3 is standing in my name and I would like to indicate that I am not ready to proceed with this matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Lucy is not ready to proceed with Item No. 3. We therefore move on to Item No. 4.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate that I am not ready to proceed with Item No. 4.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Michael North Central has likewise indicated that he is not ready to proceed with Item No. 4 standing in his name. This brings us to the end of Private Members' Business, and it is now time for Government Business.
4.40 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: When the suspension was taken earlier in the day the House was in Committee of Supply, and to that it now reverts.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for St. Lucy may continue.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, in the time remaining you will recall that we were talking about the physical facilities at the primary and secondary schools. I just want to make the final point on this particular matter and enquire from the Ministry of Education about the St. Lucy Secondary School; because at that school there are providing some additional facilities to the former building, but I noticed that the work has ceased on that project

and the building is incomplete. I am wondering if in his reply the Minister can give us some indication as to what is happening down there, and what problems are being encountered, if any, and when the additional physical facilities at that school will be ready.

As has been pointed out by speakers on more than one occasion on this side, we of the Democratic Labour Party recognise very clearly that the provision of physical facilities is very important, and that is the policy which we have been pursuing; and we are glad to see that the Government is taking an interest in this particular area and is pressing ahead with this very important area in Education. Finally I want to say that this is not the end all and be all of providing a well rounded and proper educational system in Barbados. There are other factors which must be taken into consideration.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank all hon. members on both sides of the House for giving support to these two parts of the Resolution in the way in which they have done. I am glad to see that hon. members on the other side giving their support to this important aspect of our development. A number of points have been made by all speakers; and I will try my best to answer the substance of as many as I can; but so many points were raised, that I have serious doubts whether I can answer all.

The hon. member for St. Michael South made some rather interesting remarks about this Resolution, and although I appreciate the substance of a lot of what he said, I must express my misgivings of some of the wrong statements that he made. Perhaps I should mention, as this is a World Bank project, I should state categorically that it has absolutely no connection with the proposed project that was flaunted by the Government in 1973. At that time, according to my recollection, the Government asked the World Bank for finance for a number of educational operations in this country; and they were told that the World Bank was not financing primary education unless there was great illiteracy in the country that was seeking the money. They were giving no assistance in loans for university education, and no loans for secondary education unless there was a heavy technical and vocational content in that education. At that point the previous Government abandoned the idea of seeking a loan from the World Bank for the development of educational projects.

This project was initiated in 1978 when the Ministry of Education asked the Director General of UNESCO to send a team to upgrade and report on the project of a few years ago. After the report was prepared by UNESCO we made a report to the World Bank and asked them to send an appraisal team down to Barbados to take a look at the proposals that we had in hand and if possible to finance them.

They spent about two or three weeks here and have had talks with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Planning and agreed in particular to finance Education in Barbados to the tune of approximately \$28 million. The proposals, broadly agreed on, are in the areas of Primary education; and in this area we propose to have the construction of 10 primary schools with a total enrolment among them of approximately 5,200 on the basis of a classroom of the size of 35. With respect to primary and secondary schools, to some extent we were able to impress on them that the educational plant in this country was very badly run down; and it was necessary for the rehabilitation of the existing plant to bring things up to a modern, acceptable level; and the World Bank has agreed to finance the rehabilitation of both primary and some secondary schools.

The rehabilitation, as explained in my opening comments is for six secondary schools in Barbados, with major emphasis on the provision of facilities for crafts, technical training, home economics, music and the like. They are also going to be giving assistance for the purchase of equipment and furniture for the new Trents Secondary School. They will not give finance for the building of new secondary schools. We are now in the process of building the Trents School, but that will be built out of the taxpayers money totally; and as I mentioned in the House only a few weeks ago, at some stage in the not too distant future we propose to build another secondary school at Wotton in Christ Church.

We also have as one of the proposals accepted by the World Bank the provision for teacher education. I have made it quite clear to the World Bank that we feel that there must be an upgrading in the qualifications and professional training of teachers. They bought that idea; and we are also setting up a teacher resource centre and new library facilities at Erdiston College. Further, they are going to finance in planning and industrial training under the aegis of BIMAP and we provide equipment and furniture for the carrying out of that particular project. Finally, they will be financing technical assistance in the area of personnel and equipment for all aspects of this programme.

Now, I want to make it quite clear, Mr. Chairman — I say this because of a number of observations that have been made on the other side in this regard. For too long primary education has been made to take a secondary position to secondary education. There is no doubt at all that over the past many years great emphasis has been placed on the provision of secondary school places, and on the upgrading of secondary schools.

I am not prepared at this stage to make any criticism of the other side in this regard. I am only stating that as a fact. I have been taking a serious look at a number of representations that have been made by

teachers and other people involved in education, and I have decided that it is time that we swing the balance back towards primary education. It is for this reason that we are seeking to take advantage of the loan that we are getting from the World Bank to be directed towards the upgrading of primary schools. We are not only trying to provide facilities, but to carry out certain cost effectiveness in the schools by rationalising the use of plant, the use of teacher allocation and the very siting of the schools; and I will be coming to Parliament before very long in connection with this matter.

4.50 p.m.

What we are trying to do is to amalgamate a number of primary schools. We have had primary schools in this country with rolls of less than 150; we have had indeed only last year a primary school in Barbados with only 27 children on the roll. This was the Welch Village School in St. John, and I am sorry the hon. member for St. Michael South is not here, because he was Minister of Education at the time when it was proposed to shut down the school, but the school was in the constituency of the hon. member for St. John, and as the hon. member for St. Michael South has himself admitted on a previous occasion, certain electoral niceties made it necessary to keep the school of 27 open. We are looking at this whole question of maintaining expensive plant, duplication of services, and we are going to close down some primary schools in Barbados and amalgamate, and indeed we are going to close down other schools and rebuild.

I have mentioned some of the schools already and I believe the hon. member for St. Michael North West raised a question. We are looking in the Cave Hill area for a site for building a new secondary school, and that school is intended as a replacement for the Edghill Memorial School which is badly in need of areas for playing facilities, and indeed those of us who know the school know it is almost literally sitting in the middle of the road and poses a serious threat to the lives and security of the children who attend it. We are hoping to build a new school for approximately 600 to 700 in the Cave Hill area that will take in the children from the areas that are building up around there and also take over the Montgomery School and the Edghill Memorial School. We also propose to build a new school, as I said earlier, in the Pine-Wilkey area. There has been a lot of housing development in that area. Indeed now I see we are taking people from Bridgetown and taking them up to the Wilkey area, but no provision has ever been made for the building of a secondary school to accommodate the children of that area.

This brings me to a point that was made by the hon. member for St. Michael North Central when he mentioned the demise of the St. Giles' School. The hon. member can be assured that I feel as keenly as he does

the difficulty that St. Giles' School now encounters, but it was precisely because of the planning or lack of it of the DLP Government that the St. Giles' School is now going through that period of difficulty, because the Government built a number of new secondary schools in areas adjacent to the St. Giles' School. I think they built the Pine Primary School, the Charles Broome Memorial School, at one time the Stow Primary School and there is a fourth which I do not now remember; but they built four new schools in an area of relative proximity to the St. Giles' School and would have been obvious to even the most unthinking that a number of parents would have opted for the shiny new plant that was being put down in Government Hill, in the Pine and in these areas and give up the old buildings that were existing at St. Giles' for so long.

There is spare capacity in the St. Giles' Schools, and as I pointed out, we are building a school at Eden Lodge and Grace Hill, and we are building one at Cave Hill, and this answers the next question, which is the one about the Roebuck School. A lot of play has been made of the fact that I decided to build a secondary school in White Park Road for the Roebuck area. It is true that the previous Government had intended building a primary school on the site. I do not know what the hon. member for St. Michael North Central means when he said we built a school in White Park Road. I do not know who exactly he means.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to assure the Hon. Minister that if there were any remarks made to that effect, I did not make them.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Anyhow, when I went into the Ministry I found there were plans to build a new primary school to replace the Roebuck school and I gave instructions after taking advice that they proceed with the building of a secondary school instead. Now as far back as 1973 when the hon. member for St. Michael South was trying to get the World Bank to finance an educational project in Barbados, he put up to the World Bank that he wanted six secondary schools to be built in three years. It was not feasible for all the best reasons. I would like to see the day when you can build six secondary schools in three years. But I only mention this to show the urgency which the previous administration felt for the need for secondary places. No new secondary school other than the Garrison Secondary School was built since the period to which I am referring, so the need must still have been there, and I gave instructions in my Ministry that we would change whatever planning there was and build a school in White Park that would cater to certain secondary needs. In spite of this, I have seen, and it is remarkable, so-called professional organisations whom one expects to be responsible, carrying on all their discussions through the newspaper, but I personally visited the Roebuck School some time last year and after I visited

the school I went back to my Ministry and said I was dissatisfied with the conditions obtaining in the Roebuck Primary School and I made that quite plain at the time to the Headmaster, a Mr. Downes at the time, and to the members of the staff, because I believe that the conditions surrounding the Roebuck school are not conducive to proper education, particularly at the primary level, and then several months later people are making statements to the press suggesting they have now found something and that they are going to score points out of this.

Let me just say here to the hon. member who beat this point so much that I have just asked the officers in my Ministry to give me some idea as to the residences of the children who go to the Roebuck school, and it is remarkable that just a very small percentage of the children who attend the Roebuck school live anywhere in the area. They come from Bank Hall, Bush Hall, Waterfords, Carrington Village, Tweedside Road, areas somewhat removed from the Roebuck school. The Roebuck school belongs to the Moravian Church, and the condition in which I have seen it a few months ago means that we will have to spend a tremendous amount of money to put it into proper shape. In the meantime as the hon. member for St. Michael North Central has pointed out, there are hundreds of empty places available in the St. Giles' School.

In addition to that we are building four schools in the St. Michael area; so what I propose to do is not to spend \$200,000 to \$300,000 of the people's money putting the Roebuck school back into shape and returning it to the Church in two or three years' time. I propose at a convenient time to close the Roebuck Primary School. I have looked at it very carefully and I am satisfied that there are enough facilities in schools on the perimeter of Bridgetown that can accommodate the children who go to the Roebuck Primary School, particularly so since the children who themselves attend in the main come from the immediate environs of that school.

Now another point that was made by the hon. member for St. Michael North Central — you must bear with me if I deal with them one by one — and which was taken up by the hon. member for St. Michael South refers to the Project Implementation Unit.

5.00 p.m.

The hon. member for St. Michael North Central wondered if it was just not a name given to something that was already in existence, and the hon. member for St. Michael South made a comment also to that effect, and he talked about the Planning Division in the Ministry and so on. Let me just say this, because I do not believe there is much contention in this regard. If we are to keep to the timetable that we in the Ministry want to keep to in respect of this, there are certain

things that we must set in train immediately. Of course, there is a building unit in the Ministry of Education. It is a unit that looks after the normal day to day small building needs for the many schools and educational facilities directly under the control of the Ministry, but that unit is not geared to take on the type of project that envisages the building of ten schools in three years.

I think the hon. member for St. Michael South has asked what is the position of the personnel that will work in this unit. I will tell you what it is. We have asked the Establishments Division for three Architects, we have asked them for a Quantity Surveyor, a Structural Engineer, two Draughtsmen and a Stenographer, and since then I am of the view that it will be necessary also to provide one administrative post preferably of the rank of Assistant Secretary to strengthen the capability of the Planning Division in the Ministry. You see, the building section in my Ministry, Mr. Chairman, comprises an Architect who has been made available to us under the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, we also have one Buildings Officer, three Building Maintenance Supervisors, one Senior Draughtsman and one Draughtsman, and they are purely people to cope with the day to day demands of the Ministry of Education. We also have an Engineer who has been supplied to us also under the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, and he is attached primarily to the Polytechnic, and although we have the use of his services perhaps only on a relatively part time basis, and I feel that the implementation of the World Bank Project can be undertaken by the building unit in my Ministry but only with the strengthening of the new officers that I have mentioned that are necessary.

We are not talking about repairing a school and adding on domestic science facilities and a few toilets, we are talking about spending \$28 million in three years and building a minimum of ten schools.

I also was of the view that the Architect that is currently re-cruited under the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation should be assigned to head a special implementation unit on this World Bank project, and I have asked my Ministry to talk with the Ministry of Communications and Works for the release of their Architect on secondment to this project, because I want the preliminary designs to be completed by October this year, so that by April next year we will be ready for the signing of the Agreement with the World Bank, so it is necessary to have these people in now, we cannot wait, we do not want this to be one of those projects that have been started and the files passed up and down among Ministries for months and sometimes years, and I heard the hon. member for St. Michael North Central mention the school in Black Rock, Fernihurst. Well, the previous administration passed the file back and forth

and talked about Fernihurst for about four years and the result is, if my recollection is right, that the estimate for building Fernihurst in 1976 was about double what it was in 1972 or 1973, so I do not intend, Mr. Chairman, to have this type of thing happening with this particular project. If we have \$28 million to spend and want to spend it now and get \$28 million worth, for that \$28 million is worth so much through inflationary pressures, because equipment and services go up, it is for this reason that I am asking that I get the staff immediately so that we can get things set in motion for the signing of the loan bond in the first half of 1979, and that we will be well on our way before the end of next year.

There were other points raised here by various other members and I think that I should make very quick reference to them. I appreciate the caution given to me by the hon. member for St. Michael South East about the exposed wires at the Wilkie Cumberbatch School. I have made a note of it and I will take action immediately because I agree with him that it will pose danger to the health and security of the children in that school. The hon. member for St. Michael North West raised the question about the land at Cave Hill for the building of a school to replace the Edghill Memorial School. Perhaps I had better say on this point that when the Cave Hill Development was conceived they had a plan up there for building facilities, building a school and other services. I went into Cave Hill myself to look at what was left and I was aghast to find out that a substantial portion of the land that was left in that particular development to provide services like schools and so on had subsequently been, without proper organisation, had been cut up and sold by a previous Minister. Now, nobody can seriously think that you can build up an area the size of Cave Hill, Oxnards and Husbands without making provision for building facilities, supermarket facilities — I think they built a church already — and schools and all that, and as I say, it is a matter of profound regret to me that that sort of thing should happen with land that was earmarked for the building of a school should have been seriously cut up to somebody's advantage. Anyhow, we still believe that there is an area in Cave Hill we can use, and I am taking a personal look at that.

The hon. member for St. Michael South raised a question about the CXC and Block A. I believe the hon. member was merely making a pitch for roads in his constituency, but I can assure him that it is not part of the plan to spend \$30,000 for the repair of any roads in the constituency of St. Michael South and that question might better had been addressed to the Minister of Communications and Works. The Hon. member also mentioned that the Ministry of Education is responsible for project identification and project implementation. That unit still exists, contrary to his

belief it is not a unit that wound up, there are several members in the Planning Division in my Ministry, both administrative and professional, and they are responsible in large measure for the preparation of this project for the World Bank, and I believe that, although I do not like to talk about civil servants, good or ill, in these debates, I believe that I would not be going too far wrong if I commended the members of my Planning Division for the very able and speedy way in which they handled the preparation of this project request.
5.10 p.m.

Now the hon. member for St. Michael South also made the point about something to do with the conceptual framework of schools, and this was made in his second speech and there was a great deal of sound and fury in his voice. And he was making an attack on the hon. member for Christ Church South Central, but I think he completely misunderstood the purpose of what the hon. member was saying. I believe that what the hon. member was saying is that when the hon. member for St. Michael South was Minister of Education he was more concerned with providing physical school places than in the delivery of an appropriate education to meet the needs of Barbados in the 1970s and that was the point I think was being made, and the hon. member talks about it as though he was referring to a contracting job, like how you would build the school. I am not going to spend any lot of time criticising the hon. member on that front but would make it absolutely clear, and I believe that any thinking citizen would agree with me that the thrust of secondary education in Barbados over the whole of the last fifteen, twenty or twenty five years was ill-based; there was too much emphasis on the grammar school type of education producing a lot of people with moderate competence in Scripture but totally incapable of finding themselves as useful members in a work force that is becoming increasingly industrialised. This is a change in direction and we will continue that change. One of the tragedies of educational policy is that every single person feels that he is an expert on education and everybody has ideas on how to solve this or that; but in Barbados we are dealing with a conservative and reactionary society and the moment you begin to talk about making any change in the educational system in Barbados there is a big hue and cry that this or that institution was there before you and will be here long after you are gone. But I propose to cut a few, no matter how much hue and cry there is, because I know there is a certain impermanence about me anyway and I intend to bring about a radical change in the concept of the type of education to be delivered in the schools in this country. I know for instance, Mr. Chairman, I went into the Ministry of Education and found a high academic content in the courses offered at the Polytechnic. Here you are giving young people a two year course to be trained to earn a living with their

hands and you are keeping them in a class room and teaching them a lot of quasi-academic stuff and giving too small an input in practical training. I have changed that; I have asked that the balance between the one and the other be made more realistic.

You heard about the return of the fourteen years old to school. It sounds a little bit facile for the hon. member for St. Michael South to get in here and say they were keeping the fourteen years old in school because every time they build a new school it meant that more fourteen years old were kept in schools. That does not answer the question that every year over a thousand children were put out of school at the age of fourteen and that every September these fourteen-years old used to be back at the schools begging the teachers to let them go back to school. And the Democratic Labour Party administration treated this matter with a certain amount of insensitivity; and it does not fit well in the mouth of the hon. member for St. Michael South to get up and make the type of comment he made in that regard. But I was determined that they be given another chance, and that is exactly what the Deputy Prime Minister meant when he said that the hon. member for St. Michael South was more concerned with school places, because he felt the only way to educate children was in shiny new six million dollar buildings. But my view was that Government has got a lot of properties available, so let us utilize them. There are community centres in this country that are shut down all day. There are Government properties in Barbados that have been closed for two or three years. I said open them and use them to educate the children. And I said I did not want to teach them any more academic subjects; give them something creative — technical and vocational training, something to train them for earning a living.

I heard a debate earlier this afternoon on the Civil Service. If you tell civil servants what you want and give them a deadline, they have to do it. When I said I wanted the children back at school within three weeks and a new curriculum prepared, they said it couldn't be done. I called a meeting of the Senior Officers in my Ministry and told one of them that I wanted a costing in twenty four hours; I told another that I wanted him to let me know how much furniture I must have and what it would cost, in forty eight hours; I told another I wanted him to sit down with the people from the National Development Curriculum Council and give me a curriculum suitable for these children by the end of the week. I told each one of them what I wanted and set deadlines; and after this I made an announcement that the children would be going back to school. I then called the Minister of Finance and said that I wanted \$4,000 for the project. And that is the only way I understand it. That is the difference between the hon. member for St. Michael South when he was Minister of

Education and this particular Minister. When they give me a job to do and do not give me the wherewithal to do it they can keep the job. I am not like the hon. member for St. Michael South who disagreed on many important issues of education with his Prime Minister and did not have the nerve to say if you do not let me do the job you assigned me to do you can keep it. There are two different men speaking.

Now the hon. member for Christ Church North Central mentioned the question of the Hotel School. The Hotel School has been a matter of serious concern and I share in these fears. I know there is a lot of feeling in this country that we should not go back and talk about the other governments. But nobody is going to tell me what to say, because all the problems at the Hotel School are the sorry legacy of the Democratic Labour Party administration. That is why I am very careful when people are being appointed in high positions in my Ministry. I want the best; I do not want DLP or BLP. That is what happened at the Hotel School, and the hon. member for St. Michael South knows exactly what I mean. When you make these arrangements over a drink of Scotch in a hotel room in Toronto things must go wrong.
5.20 p.m.

That Hotel School situation is a legacy of that type of nepotism and party card holding that characterise the Democratic Labour Party administration. Now I am being asked to carry the can; but I will straighten it out. I can tell you what I have already done. I have got a team to come down from the Bahamas Hotel School.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The member for St. George South indicated that I know what he is talking about, and that I know about nepotism. I would like to make it clear that I do not know what he is talking about. If he is talking about nepotism and party cards, I do not know what he is talking about. In any event that would be imputing improper motives to me, and I will ask him to withdraw it because I know not what he is talking about unless he can explain it.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member pushes me into making certain disclosures, I will make them; but at the moment I believe that there is a strategic time in which to disclose certain things. I do not consider that the strategic time is now; but if he pushes me I will do so; because the hon. member knows what was happening at the Hotel School. He knows the problems concerning the Acting Principal and his temporary appointment. He knows what was happening in respect of the Deputy Principal. He knows why a lot of positions at that school have not been made permanent; and if he gets up and says that he does not know, then he does not know what was happening in his Ministry when he

was Minister of Education. If he wants to get up and make another point of order, I am willing to give way.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I am not making another point of order in this respect about he knows, and he knows and he knows. He refers to nepotism and something about card carrying. He has not dealt with the problem at all. In so far as the Hotel School was concerned, there was a study of the Hotel School, and there was a proposal that Barbadians should be recruited for positions in the school; and on the recommendations of the persons who carried out the investigation, those who made the decision made them in terms of Acting appointments. All I am saying is that I have no knowledge of what he is talking about where the question of nepotism and card carrying are concerned. This talk about pressing is not going to scare me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That was a very long point.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I made the cardinal mistake of presuming that the hon. member would have known what was happening in his Ministry when he was Minister. He has now got up and made it clear that he did not know what was going on. I forgive him for that. I would not bother to pursue that.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I made a point.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you asking the Chairman to rule on your point of order that was not a point of order? You were attempting to explain a situation.

Mr. SANDIFORD: On a point of elucidation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think that you have done that already. You certainly have.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Thank you. On a point of elucidation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Again?

Mr. SANDIFORD: Not again, for the first time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I ruled that the first time that you got up on a point of order, it was not a point of order.

Mr. SANDIFORD: All right, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member is batting on two wickets. In the first place he was saying that I knew and then he was saying that I did not know. He cannot really bat on both sides of the wicket that way.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: All these charges and counter charges have no place at this time. Let us continue with the debate.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Now, in respect of the Hotel School, Mr. Chairman, I have commissioned some people from the Bahamas Hotel School who have perhaps one of the finest schools in that regard in the Caribbean. They are asked to prepare a report that will rationalise the whole training procedure and personnel in the school structures and so on; and they have given us a report; and I am currently with the Minister of Tourism working out a system that will improve the overall capacity of the Hotel School to deliver the type of goods for which it was set up.

I am also taking a look at other post-secondary educational institutions in Barbados to see how we can fit in the training from one into the other. I will have more to say about that at a later stage; but while I am on it, let me say that one of the problems in our educational system in the past has been that there are a number of disparate educational institutions in Barbados that bear no relation one to the other. For instance, I discovered after I took over the Ministry that there are no credits from the Community College to the University, and no credits from the Polytechnic to the Community College, and no credits from Erdiston Training College to the University Degree in Education. I found that they were all separate institutions that have very little connection with one another. That is why I must talk, without being too vehement about it, about the legacies that we have got. I cannot help saying that; but I am trying to get a number of them solved.

Now, I would like to deal with one other point made by the hon. member for St. Lucy. I agree with him when he said that conditions at primary and secondary schools are not so good and need updating; but let me say to him that the conditions in the primary and secondary schools in Barbados did not happen overnight. It is not in the last two or three years that large numbers of them were in a state of disrepair, and not at all suitable for the purpose for which they were intended. A building does not deteriorate overnight; but he made a point that the hon. member for St. Michael South missed — that facilities are one thing, but places are another.

You have got to think about curricula. You have to be concerned about what you teach, how you teach it, and even have to be concerned about who is teaching it. I am not talking now about unqualified teachers, and personnel in the schools and so on. They left that one with me; and I notice that the BUT did not try to hang the former Minister of Education or the former Government on that; but they left that one with me and they seek to hang me; but they are wasting time.

The hon. member for St. Lucy also talked about teacher training and the need for a vocational and technical slant in education. All of that is in the World Bank project — a teachers' resource centre at Erdiston, the

extension of teacher training, the extension of the library facilities at Erdiston, the making of teaching aids at Erdiston as an integral part of the course – all that is in it; and when he talks about a curriculum, it is here also; because it has been impressed on all and sundry that the Curriculum Development Council of Barbados will have to step up its plans for making curricula that are relevant to the needs of Barbados.

5.30 p.m.

The hon. member in 1973 could not get any money out of the World Bank for education, because he put up proposals to the Bank – I do not know if he is going to question that too – but the hon. member had discussions with the World Bank people both in Washington and in Barbados in 1973 and put up proposals about building secondary schools. He put up to the World Bank people that he wanted six secondary schools built in three years. I do not know what kind of proposal that is, but we are getting assistance for secondary education, not by putting up new buildings but by getting exactly what the hon. member for St. Lucy asked for; by getting equipment and material for vocational, technical and industrial training. I must keep driving this home because of this grammar school education that the DLP administration kept pushing out. They were afraid of a few parents who would jump up and keep noise, a certain timidity that characterised the incumbency of the hon. member for St. Michael South. I am not going to be timid about it.

I got in touch with the Chairman of the IDC, the hon. member for Christ Church East and told him to come into my Ministry with his people from the IDC, because I understood that INTEL wanted to come into Barbados to build a new million dollar factory and create 2,000 jobs; but we did not have the type of people in Barbados trained for the work. That is a situation of long standing. The DLP administration was not training for that, and I told the hon. member for Christ Church East who is the Chairman of IDC to come into my office and bring his experts and let us talk about this. I told him to get in touch with INTEL in California and tell them that I was prepared to mount a training programme in the Community College in Barbados, but they would have to pay for it. They want people to work for them to make money, they have to pay for it. Secondly, they should send down to Barbados the curriculum that they wanted and we would lay on the people in short courses, for however long they wanted, six months, nine months, a year, and we would train the people to fill these 2,000 jobs. Moreover, I said, I did not only want you to pay for it, I want you to send down from California one or two of your people who will work with us at the Community College in delivering this training to meet that vital need; and I am happy to say that if they fall for it, we will agree. We are willing in the Community College to train people in this particular area, but the hon. member for St. Michael South set up a Community College, with 20

grammar schools in Barbados, because I include the Comprehensives since they teach them the same Latin and French too. All these schools teach Scripture, Latin and French and all that stuff, and he sets up a Community College here in Barbados and puts people up at Two Mile Hill to teach people Latin. I would have thought that the Community College as a new institution would have been catering to a particular area that was not yet covered; but I am going away from that for good or evil, and the Community College in conjunction with the Polytechnic will have to provide and deliver the type of education that is necessary to put people in jobs.

The Deputy Prime Minister talked about fourteen year olds who have returned to school. Let me just tell hon. members this, Mr. Chairman. I have got a little private survey done of those children at fourteen who were turned out of school and went back to these centres for two years. Some of them dropped out as was to be expected. As far as I know they drop out at Harrison College too, so it does not matter that some of them dropped out; but a lot of them stayed, and I found out from the survey that I have had carried out that they have been getting jobs more easily than the ones who have been leaving school with "O" levels. Do not fool yourself; any mechanic in Barbados can work for twice as much as somebody with four "O" levels; any plumber can work for three times as much as some Temporary Clerks in the Civil Service, and this is what the hon. member for St. Michael South was afraid to confront when he was Minister of Education, because he felt there would be a big hullabaloo in Barbados by middle class people expressing their indignation over his tampering with the type of education he was giving their children. That will have to stop. I cannot cater in my Ministry to any narrow sectional interests. I have got to cater to the over-all well-being of all the people of Barbados.

I have been asked, Mr. Chairman, to bring this Resolution before the House to get things kicking. When this Resolution is passed, and hon. members on the other side have already intimated that they are in agreement with it, I hope that as soon as it passes the Other Place that I will be able to have the scheme started and start to work on this project so that we have the design scheme to be submitted by October to the Bank, and that we will be ready to start to sail some time during next year.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the comments which have been made by hon. members. I hope that I have covered most of the points which were made. There is just one more I can answer very quickly. The hon. member for Christ Church North Central mentioned the difficulty in having people with some accountancy training to work in businesses in Barbados. It is not the first time I have heard it; so I like to solve these things as soon as they come up. Only last week I made a submission to Cabinet – I think my colleagues can

confirm that — that teachers in the Government service should be given leave to go to Cave Hill to study accountancy or a main course in accountancy. There were a lot of priority areas before and accountancy was not one, but I recognise this need after wide consultation, and I have put accountancy as one of these priority areas for which teachers should be granted leave if they are studying it either as their main subject or as a subsidiary subject. I would be grateful if hon. members on both sides will continue to give the kind of assistance they have given in this debate. Regrettably, Mr. Chairman, I have been in here for nearly two years and nobody ever debates education. I heard the hon. member for Christ Church North Central say that we do not normally debate education, and I do not know why not. I do not profess like so many others to know all the solutions, and I am grateful to hon. members from both sides for debates of this nature to bring out some of the very interesting points that have been raised during this debate.

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

On the motion of Hon. L. R. TULL seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.
5.40 p.m.

On the motion of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, the Resolutions were agreed to.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Order No. 2 is in my name but it really relates to the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works and I am asking leave for him to deal with it.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY
ACQUISITION OF LAND AT ST. STEPHENS,
BLACK ROCK, ST. MICHAEL,
FOR THE SITING OF A RESERVOIR AND A PUMPING
STATION

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Resolution seeks to compulsorily acquire an area of land in the region of St. Stephens, Black Rock for the construction of a four million gallon reservoir.

There is no problem with the negotiations of this area, it is owned by one person and there were no title deeds to be found, and therefore this action had to be taken on this matter, but in the light of the importance of the construction of the reservoir in the area I thought it should be opportune to bring members up to date with developments of the area and the reason for the reservoir.

I should like at this very early point to mention — and I am sure that Your Honour will appreciate my mentioning it — that on the question of the protection of the water resources and development of natural water generally in the area, that in the very picturesque area of Boscobelle, St. Andrew, we will shortly be constructing a 1.5 million gallon reservoir there as well. As a matter of fact, this will be a job in order to assist with the ready flow of water in that area. For a very long time the people in the area of St. Stephens have been complaining to the Ministry of Communications and Works, and I suppose to most of their representatives about the paucity of water supply in that area. The water mains that feed the area of St. Stephens and the surrounding district come from the Belle Pumping Station, and any disruption in the area can lead to tremendous harm and inconvenience to the people in the surrounding districts. The supply which you get in that area can only last for eight hours in any one day, and with the construction of this new reservoir we will be able to have provision for a complete day's supply in case of any breakdown at any of the pumping areas. This water will be mainly coming through Molyneux in St. James with an 18-inch main coming right on to the area of St. Stephens.

We have to complete this reservoir by 1981 and we also plan to run a main which will link this reservoir to Brittons Hill as well, and in this development we will be bringing a trunk main along the area of the Spring Garden Road which the Government proposes to build there in order to feed supplies to the flour mill, the feed plant and the industrial sections generally. That area has been developing very rapidly within the past number of years. Unfortunately provisions were not made for the supplies of the area in other things certainly did not keep pace with the development there, and therefore Government considers that since water is of utmost importance to any developed or developing country that it is necessary for this resource to be made available to the people in the area. I am sure that with the plan we have in mind that we will take care of any developments along the Spring Garden area, because I suppose it is well known that the Government intends to utilise most of the land which we are going to have in that area for industrial purposes.

I should like to mention here as well, and I think this might be a good time to do it, that we are actually at the moment consuming in the region of 25 million gallons of water per day. This might not be the case now we are getting rain, it might be something like 20 million gallons, and the digging of a well at St. James and the Whim we hope to add an additional two million gallon of water to the supply.

We also have plans in mind, and we are working on those plans, to bring all water consumption in this island from 25 million gallons to something like 54 million gallons by the year 2000. It is felt that that amount of

water will satisfy the needs both for industrial and domestic supply, and by industrial supply I do not just mean the factories in the Harbour area and the Spring Garden Road, but I am also thinking in terms of agricultural use as well, because we are giving serious consideration to development of our agricultural resources because we are conscious of the fact that too much of our money is going abroad for foodstuff, and therefore we are looking very seriously in this direction.

I consider overall that the acquisition of this land for this very desirable project, this four million gallon reservoir is very vital to our domestic and our economic development, and I move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. SISNETT: Mr. Speaker, while I want to support the Resolution before this House, there are a few points which I would like the Minister of Communications and Works to clarify for some of the residents of the St. Stephens area and the people of Barbados at large, and it is concerned with a development at Free Hill, Black Rock where there are approximately ten or fifteen houses — I am speaking subject to correction. The development has been completed now some six months, and while I rise to support the Resolution it is mainly because of one of my constituents who has had a fire in St. Michael North East and has been promised one of these houses in the Free Hill area and has been living with some friend for the past few months while he is awaiting the allocation of a house.

Mr. SPEAKER: I wonder if the hon. member is aware that the Resolution is in respect of putting up a pumping station.

Mr. SISNETT: I am aware of that, Mr. Speaker, and as the development of which I am speaking is yet to have water facilities attached I am quite sure you will be willing to give ear to what I am saying. I am told that the housing facilities in this area at St. Stephens are completed and yet the facilities for water have not been supplied to the area and it has been over six months since the people who have been allocated these houses have been told that there are no facilities for water or electricity, and I am wondering whether the Minister can shed some light as to the delay of the provision of the basic facility of water in the area. The houses have been built by the National Housing Corporation and the water has not yet been laid as far as I am told, and with a reservoir going into the St. Stephen's Black Rock area, I am wondering whether the Minister can shed further light as to whether there are any problems relating to the provision of water in the St. Stephens area.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, it seems you have been a bit lax during this debate for you have allowed it to range to the picturesque district of Boscobelle in St. Peter...

Mr. SPEAKER: I was just trying to see if I could help the last speaker to put out the fire.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, like matters of education which are for continual development, the water resources of this country are also for continual development, and the proposal to construct a reservoir in the St. Stephens area to improve conditions there is one to be welcomed; there is nothing partisan about this particular matter because all the people of Barbados are entitled as of right to benefit from the resources of the country, including the water resources. I think the record of the development of the water resources of this country over the years by the previous administration — and the present administration is following that policy — is one of which this country can be proud. I do not want to recount some of the developments that have taken place within my memory as an active political participant, but I would like to mention places such as the Lodge Hill reservoir, the Rising Sun reservoir, Providence, Carlton, Mount Stepney, Rock Hall, Half Acre in St. Lucy, Fort George, Shop Hill, Bissex, Vineyard — there are quite a number of such developments which have taken place over the years and this present project is a continuation of this development. I believe we have seen output rising from about twelve million gallons a day, the consumption in 1961, until it was pushed up to about 22.7 million gallons a day a couple of years ago. I am not sure exactly what it is today. But what I am very concerned about is not only the development of water resources but also the protection of the water resources, and that when we install these reservoirs we are certain that the surrounding areas are not subject to any forms of pollution or any type of seepage to contaminate or affect the drinking water supply. And in this connection I would like to know from the Minister whether there have been any changes in the boundaries for the water zones of this country within recent times, because I think the water system in this country can be considered as one entity and what affects one part of the system must affect the other parts; if there is an outbreak of illness resulting from contamination of the water supply, this is something that can affect the whole country. So I would like to know whether the stringent, protective measures which were used in the past for the protection of the water resources in this country are still being employed and whether there have been any changes in the zones, for example, whether areas have been taken out of one zone and put into another. We would like to get some information on this particular matter.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, before the Hon. Minister replies I would just like to make a short contribution in terms of clarifying parts of the speech made by the hon. member for St. Michael North.
6.00 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is clear that as housing is a basic need, so is water; and the 10 houses at Free Hill, Black Rock, which are completed, are to be allocated on Thursday this week, some time between 2 o'clock and 9 o'clock when the Board meeting is finished. One of the problems in the Free Hill area which has been passed for housing development has been the lack of a large main to satisfy the area; and the Ministry of Housing, as well as the National Housing Corporation, has had discussions with the Waterworks Department with a view to experimenting with a type of PVC main for the area. I believe that the technical expertise in the Waterworks Department is of the view that it would perhaps cost very little less than having a main of the traditional cast iron type. The problem with the cast iron main....

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I am being disturbed by the Prime Minister in the back there. I would like him to keep quiet.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I was saying that the cast iron main doubled in price between 1976 and 1977 according to the figures supplied to the National Housing Corporation by the Waterworks Department; but at the moment I would wish to assure the hon. member for St. Michael North East and the House that the units which have been built at Free Hill all have individual supplies by what are popularly called stringer pipes. It is not entirely satisfactory because the development is scheduled to carry 44 houses; and you cannot have 44 sets of individual pipes; but we believe that perhaps by the end of September we will have the details of running the main properly worked out, and the main will be installed so that when the other 34 units at Free Hill are finished, there will be an integrated system of houses and proper mains, and the stringer pipes which are presently there will of course be detached.

I believe that the Minister will be able to state that one of the problems at Free Hill where the 44 houses are planned for development, is the distance that they have to run this main. It is not from the Paradise area. It is more from the inner Free Hill area. They may have to run it down University Hill; but these are details which are being worked out by the Ministry of Communications and Works; and at the same time there is a need in terms of the long term planning of the water development of that area — having regard to the development at Oxnards, and Wanstead, and the additional development that we are going to carry out next year at Weston part of which I hope will start this year, which is the flat land at the bottom of Oxnards — the Waterworks Department has to

be assured that the density of housing that is being carried on in that area can also cope with the water resources. As I have said, I think that there is an integrated plan that has been worked out, for the houses to have an adequate water supply; because at times I believe that the member for St. Michael North West has said that the residents in that area have tended to suffer from water shortages at certain times of the year; but the new plan which the Ministry of Communications and Works under the able leadership of the Hon. Minister has devised, I believe will settle once and for all the water difficulties in that area.

As regards the gentleman whose house was burnt down, I believe that I know Mr. Cumberbatch. I believe that the member for St. Michael North East was referring to Mr. Cumberbatch.

Mr. SPEAKER: Was that because of a lack of water?

Mr. SIMMONS: Yes, Sir, there was not enough water to put out the fire.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that the hon. member has made his point about the shortage of water in the area.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I just wanted an opportunity to clarify.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The member for St. Philip North is Attorney for the member for St. Michael North East; so he has put his case.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, if I can clarify that...

Mr. SPEAKER: On what is the hon. member rising?

Mr. SANDIFORD: On a point of order. I am referring to the relevant Standing Order.

Mr. SPEAKER: I thought that you had risen on a point of elucidation.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Well, I can elucidate as well, if you ask me to.

Mr. SPEAKER: If you now say that you rose on a point of order, then your point of order is fraudulent.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I have not made it yet, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Sufficient that you say now that you rise on a point of order, your point of order is fraudulent. It must be fraudulent. So please take your seat.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Thank you, Sir.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, it is important; and I am craving your indulgence to give me a little latitude to correct what may have been a misimpression, very important from the point of view of the National Housing Corporation's policy; and what the member for St. Michael North East said was a mistake, as distinct from an untruth which was told by the member for St. Lucy that I am Attorney for the member for St. Michael North East.

Mr. Speaker, I have said several times that in cases of emergency where there is a flood, excessive water, causing damage to houses, and somebody becomes homeless, the guide lines which the various sub-committees of the National Housing Corporation follow will be waived to take care of the emergency situation. No promise has been made to Mr. Cumberbatch about getting a house. No promise can be made. There are 328 applicants at the moment for 10 houses which have been built at Free Hill; and that is the problem that faces the committee on Thursday – to allocate 10 out of 328.

Mr. ALLEYNE: Mr. Speaker, I think that I should make it clear to the member for St. Michael North West that I am very happy that the Minister has moved with the speed with which he has moved; because in March, 1977, I made a speech in this Hon. Chamber asking for the water problem in the Free Hill area to be looked at seriously. I had been observing this problem long before September 1976, as indeed the hon. member for St. Michael North Central can vouch when he was the relevant Minister. So keen was my interest in the people of St. Michael North West, that I contacted him on a Sunday when the constituents came to me and pointed out that they had had no water supply for about four or five hours. The problem is particularly acute in the Free Hill area where the water presently comes from the Black Rock main road and has to travel up the hill; and I think that they live on a day by day basis. Today you get water and tomorrow you do not get it.

I want to say that I look forward to this new reservoir easing the problem, and making it much more convenient to these people getting their supply of water. I think that the Minister will discover that he has one or two problems when the reservoir actually starts to go up. Although I do not wish to be irrelevant, I must state this, that it is going to be exceedingly difficult to get to the reservoir from the Free Hill side; because the access road is virtually non-existent. It is in a very bad state of disrepair. I suspect that as soon as the reservoir begins to go up, that that problem will have to be looked at first.

I may have something to say later on when another Resolution comes before this hon. Chamber, but at the

moment that is all that I have to say on this particular Resolution, Mr. Speaker.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member had not spoken, maybe I would not have got up. I would like to join with him in complimenting the Minister for the action that he has taken in solving the problems of the area; and I would like to draw to your attention, Sir, that both myself and the hon. member live in the area. When there is no water we are both affected; so we do not have to depend on people coming to us to tell us about the problems of the water, because we have already experienced the problems of the water; and it has been there for some time and the reasons are well known to the Ministry of Communications and Works; and it has always been proposed that a reservoir would have to be built some time; and I am glad to see that the Minister has taken the necessary action to have this scheme implemented.

6.10 p.m.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, there are not many points that I would really have to reply to. There is just one thing I should like to mention, though, and it is well that the air be cleared. The cost of the laying of pipes has gone up by over 300% within the past six to eight months, and the Waterworks Department has discovered that in the laying of mains in these developments, because National Housing must pay like anywhere else, they have got to give a proper survey of the estimates when they are made because there are a number of people who come to me complaining that the Estimates which they got originally were exceeded by three times when the final bill came in; but the Waterworks is protected because of the clause which they have in the agreement. As a matter of fact, I suggested only quite recently at a meeting which I held with the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department that if I were out there as a developer I would challenge the agreement in a court of law, because to me it is a kangaroo agreement, since it is loaded in favour of Government, whereby whatever estimate they finally come up with you have got to accept even if you have tendered an original estimate. I have never been quite happy about this.

There is only one thing I would like to add further, and it is that Government is subsidising water in this Island to the tune of 60% as a result of calculations which we have made and surveys carried out. The question of Free Hill is one where the National Housing Corporation wanted us to carry out an experiment with PVC pipe. I myself was not quite satisfied that in Barbados with the coral formation which it has it would be the best type of experiment, since the PVC pipe would have to be bedded and you would invariably have to bed it in sand, concrete or something, and I thought that sand is a very precious and scarce resource, because very

shortly I shall be making very great claims on behalf of my constituents for the amount of sand which is being taken away.

Mr. SPEAKER: And remember St. Peter.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I will do this as well because we are brothers in the sense that we are contiguous to each other. I will be making very great claims on behalf of these two constituencies with respect to the resources which we have there, and I thought that we should not allow the PVC pipe to be used because we would have to use too much of the sand which we now have, and which of course is in very limited supply. We have had a very serious look at the question of the PVC pipe. We have calculated the cost of the cast iron pipe and we have come to the conclusion that the difference is so very slight that it would be pointless opting for the PVC pipe. The National Housing Corporation were hoping that as a result of the use of the PVC pipe the cost of laying of the mains would be so much less than what the traditional type of pipe is that it would actually allow them to sell their lots and their units at a more reasonable price than what they would have to sell at if the price was high. That is as far as that is concerned.

The hon. member for St. Michael North West mentioned the question of the access road leading to the reservoir. I assure him that by our standards in this Government we would not traverse an area or have our reservoir in an area, or rather know that people are living in an area and would not seek to upgrade the facilities there; so long with the building of this reservoir we will also have constructed there a proper road for the people in the area.

On the question of pollution as raised by the hon. member for St. Michael South, today he is in a good mood and certainly he has come up with a number of good questions. When a reservoir is being constructed we always carry out surveys of the area. Of course the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department is virtually the Government's watchdog in the area of pollution of the water supply, and he would not allow such an area to be utilised for a reservoir or allow people to build houses around a reservoir unless he is sure that it was free from pollution. There is another thing. There is a world of difference between a reservoir and a pumping station. Water is pumped to the reservoir whereas with a pumping station like the Belle itself where the water is coming from under the ground, if pollution is taking place around there it would be harmful to the water supply; but when you are building a reservoir you have got to put in concrete and of course the area is surveyed, and the pollution that could normally affect a well where you pump cannot affect a reservoir where you collect your water. The reason for the reservoir is to have the water there that if your pumps broke down by way of a

black-out from your electricity or otherwise, you would still have a supply to last for a long time. In this area that we are dealing with you only have an eight-hour supply if you had break-downs with your pumping equipment, but what we seek to do by having this 400 million gallon reservoir is to make sure that if you have a break-down at any time you would have a supply of 24 hours there in the area. The question of pollution is no problem.

Now as far as zones are concerned, you have shifts of zones as far as your water supply is concerned from time to time. This is nothing that is stationary. As far as I know and from the reports I have had, in the area of St. James there was a shifting of the zone, and there is no action taken by way of building or otherwise or any interference with any zone unless this comes up from the Town Planner but primarily from the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department. I am not aware that there is any shifting of boundaries to any extent or anything like that. I know that it was said that in the area of St. James along the boundaries of Trents there could be a shift in some particular direction.

Dr. CADDLE: If the hon. member would give way, could you enlighten us on the point that the school at Trents is being built on lands that were considered to be zone I?

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I assure you that it is not built on an area of land that is such. Formerly it was regarded as that, but it is not so today. The technical people said it is not within the zone. As a matter of fact it is not impossible to find that technical people differ. Lawyers differ sometimes. Sometimes as you know lawyers say you have a perfectly good case, but when you go into court you realise you do not have it. Equally so engineers might say a building is built on a perfectly good foundation to find out that the building will collapse. These are things that will happen, but the building of the school in St. James I assure the hon. member is not on an area that is restricted to building. He can have my assurance on that. Very stringent measures are taken to protect the water resources of Barbados, because if there is one thing you have to be very protective of in this country, it is our beautiful beaches and the water resources from pollution. I assure hon. members that there is no problem with respect to that.

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

RESOLUTION RE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT LODGE HILL, ST. MICHAEL

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 3 stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of External Trade, to move the passing of the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition

of land at Lodge Hill, St. Michael, for the erection of a Water Storage tank.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Minister of Communications and Works is very intent on solving the water problems of these areas, I will ask that he deal with this.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution is again just one to regularise a situation. There is no contention here on this matter, but I should also like to mention here with respect to this area at Lodge Hill that Government has there an existing 500,000 gallon tank, and this can hardly scratch the surface by way of meeting the needs of the heavy development within that area.

5.20 p.m.

Sometimes, Mr. Speaker, when I think of the problems which this Government is called upon to solve, and recognising the very limited resources of the country at this point in time, I am saddened to think that with all the money which was around in the late sixties and early seventies that a number of these matters were not tackled. Take Lodge Hill, Eden Lodge. Quite obviously it would have been known at that point in time that with these developments taking place that your infrastructural redevelopment would have to go hand in hand with all the plans for that area. Unfortunately that did not keep pace with these developments and at the moment that tank which a three and a half million gallon tank can only supply the needs of the district if there are no problems there for four hours in any one day.

Quite recently the hon. member for St. Michael North West has been very much on my back, he has been calling me night and day and at awkward hours as well in order to restore the water supply in that constituency, because you only had to have the appearance of a shower of rain which would cause water to come down and have interruption in order to have a breakage in the area and no supply to the people. I remember once I had to immediately put in train the actual use of water tanks there in order to help people to have at least some supplies for their domestic purposes, and we consider that that amount of water is not sufficient to satisfy the needs of those areas with the type of developments which are taking place there, and we consider that we should have an additional million gallon tank, and that would bring the supply to one million, five hundred thousand gallons, and that will supply the needs of the area in any 24 hour period.

I think that this is a good arrangement, it is useful from the point of view of saving electricity, because when you have to do quite a lot of pumping during the period

in order to get the water there and there are no resources you are putting more pressure on your electrical equipment and you are burning a lot of electricity. The Ministry of Communications recently had to spend a fortune for electricity as a result of this lack of storage facilities for water.

With those few comments, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. SANDIFORD: Just briefly, Mr. Speaker, this is really the day for St. Michael North West, as I understand it, and there is a reservoir to be constructed and a storage steel tank to be constructed as well, and while the member for St. Peter cannot get into these debates, I will have to tell him that the way to get things done in St. Peter is to get on the back of the Minister. Those were the words of the Minister himself.

Mr. SPEAKER: Not me!

Mr. SANDIFORD: Well, I am certain the representative for St. Peter listens with a great deal of ability.....

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order. I wonder if the hon. member as a former Minister of Education would not use his words with this *double entente*.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I do not even know what is *double entente*, I would have to ask Mr. Speaker, not me! But, Mr. Speaker, I was particularly interested in the statement by the Minister that this will give a 24 hour healthy supply, and I was particularly interested in his assurance that the strengthened measures to protect the water resources of this country are being observed, and he did indicate that there is one area in which the zones had been shifted, and I believe that at some future date he may wish to look a little more closely at that.

But, Mr. Speaker, this again is a Resolution which we will certainly be supporting on this side, and it is only out of consideration for those who will not be able to participate in this debate that I rise to remind the Speaker of some areas, including the picturesque area of Boscobelle in St. Peter.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, I just want to have a point clarified. Already we have passed a Resolution which will enable the Minister to set up a reservoir in the St. Stephens area, and therefore I would like to enquire from the Minister if the construction of this tank is a temporary measure, bearing in mind that this reservoir might very well meet the needs of the people in the area.

His Honour E. E. ALLEYNE: Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to have my voice heard so often, but quite frankly I was put in this Hon. Chamber to do a job and it is being done, and if I am able to get on the Minister's back to get work done I can only encourage other hon. members to get on the backs of other Hon. Ministers.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the hon. member inviting other hon. members to become jockeys?

His Honour E. E. ALLEYNE: Seriously, Mr. Speaker, this particular problem in St. Michael North West is much more serious than people think.
6.30 p.m.

This particular problem in St. Michael North West is more serious than people think, because this storage tank is going to service another area of St. Michael North West and in the last four or five years we had something like 600 new house spots available to the people in that particular area. We are now talking about Eden Lodge, Lodge Terrace, Oxnards, etc., all of which as I understand it are fed by the Lodge Hill reservoir, and so I think that the Minister is correct when he anticipates the difficulties which I have been talking about and which I suspect will be increased when the new development by the Housing Corporation in Wanstead gets going. To that extent I am happy to see that the people in St. Michael North West were right in reposing their faith in the hon. member in getting the job done and done quickly. At a more appropriate opportunity I may be forced into telling this hon. Chamber a number of other things which have been done in the constituency, but for the moment all I am concerned about is they get something vitally important for their existence, and that is water.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I just want to reply briefly to the hon. member for St. Michael North Central and let him know this is not a temporary measure but a permanent one. As a matter of fact, the type of elevation you have at Lodge Hill is different from St. Stephens and therefore the area of Lodge Hill serves a different purpose from that of St. Stephens, I have said that a main will go from St. Stephens on to Brittons and will pass through the industrial area of the Deep Water Harbour, through Spring Gardens to satisfy the needs of that area, and I am sure the hon. member for St. Michael South will be happy to know that as a result of that service he too will be assisted; and it might be good to mention that a reservoir will shortly be built in the area of Waterford and as a result a 22 inch trunk main will be going down to Bush Hall and moving into the Bank Hall and adjoining areas to take care of Bridgetown and the thickly populated areas of St. Michael to give the people the service that they expect and are entitled to from this Government.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Minister on the great detail he has given, which shows that he is completely on top of his portfolio. I hope the people in these constituencies will appreciate it as well as the general public and see the sort of work and detailed planning that a Minister with tremendous capability is bringing to the affairs of this country.

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

BILL TO AMEND RUM DUTY ACT, CAP. 90

The fifth Order was called — To move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Rum Duty Act, Cap.90.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, this is a very simple matter. This Bill metricates and increases the duty on rum pursuant to the Budget. It may be expected that very shortly other amendments to the Rum Duty Act will be brought down because the Government is considering appreciating the duty on rum. At present rum pays an excise duty and other spirits pay a consumption tax. Caricom rum pays no tax at all in Barbados; it does not pay excise because it is not made in Barbados and it does not pay consumption tax because we do not charge rum a consumption tax. At the same time rum is defined as meaning any spirits, including vodka, gin, whiskey, etc., according to the Rum Duty Act, which means that locally produced gins and vodka, as far as I can judge, are assessable to excise duty and consumption tax, so that we end up by discrimination against ourselves in favour of overseas producers, and so we are hoping to reshape the Excise Act. Excise of course is one of the oldest taxes and goes back I believe to the 16th century — the hon. member for St. Michael South would correct me if I am wrong — but it goes back in history to the time when as hon. members will recall, Commissioners of Excise were able to sue Dr. Johnson for the definition which he gave to Excise in his celebrated dictionary. And it is such an old tax that time has tended to overtake it and we think that there may be better ways of taxing Rum in this country. There should be ways of giving an incentive to local producers to produce not only rum but alcohol, and I am sure the hon. member for Christ Church South Central, the Deputy Prime Minister, would be quite cross if I did not tell the House that under the system of taxation of Rum which we have found, it is cheaper for manufacturers to bring in alcohol from outside for drugs and other non-domestible purposes than to use locally produced alcohol. We really have been in a bind with rum duty and the antique forms which we found on taking office. This particular Bill is urgent as it has to be passed before August 15th and therefore we brought this down in advance of a general review of the Act and I hope that very soon I

will be able to tell the House that we are providing the legislative framework for the expansion of distilling in Barbados and giving an opportunity for local producers to make spirits for drinking — specially gin and vodka as there are now launching themselves into — and also to produce alcohol commercially to satisfy the growing market for one or two of the new industries making drugs and other products. It will all go to employment and the raw material will be Barbadian raw materials and I hope that it will not be long before I can introduce such a Bill to the House.

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

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister took us to Dr. Johnson, and while I will not deal with Dr. Johnson's definition of excise, it does remind me of the great lexicographer in his dictionary when he defined oats as the food used for horses in England but as a staple for people in Scotland. He could not avoid his "Englishness", if I may use such a term. But if I may deal with the point made by the Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance that the duty on rum also embraces vodka and gin, it is my understanding that in a number of cases the difference between rum, gin and vodka is very small, particularly in terms of certain distillations which are encountered.

But I would really like to know whether the appropriate Minister can tell us something in terms of the duty imposed, and about the promotional activities in terms of rum. I remember visiting certain areas and finding that Bacardi was very much on the shelves but I was hard put to see any label from Mount Gay or any more recent award-winning distillation — Cockspur I believe one is called — and may be within the context of this Resolution the Minister can tell us something of the promotional activities as far as rum is concerned.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, last year, as I understand it, was a very good year for rum exporters and basically there are a number of new areas of development in the export of rum which has taken place over the last few years in Barbados. One is that one exporter has been able to develop on the UK market a very good demand for bulk rum, that is, rum shipped not in bottles but in container vessels coming here from Europe.
6.40 p.m.

Increasing efforts are being made to develop the market in the US. One must appreciate that the United States, however, despite our strong presentation both by the Ministry of External Trade and the Ministry of External Affairs, and individually with the representative of the U.S. Trade Department, as well as the CARICOM level, we are still up against a discriminatory tax system

in the U.S.A. which was justified in the past in favour of the United States' Domestic Production out of Puerto Rico and out of the Virgin Islands, and which incidentally has the effect of penalising our rum *vis a vis* whiskey. There is lesser duty on whiskey in the U.S.A. notwithstanding that there has been an increase in the sales of Barbadian rum to the U.S.A., particularly the competitive brand to Cockspur.

The United States market is of course a market to which rum is shipped in bottles. Ironically, this year we have been having a bit of a problem in respect of the export of rum in bottles as opposed to bulk rum because of the fact that the glass manufacturing of bottles for rum comes either from Jamaica or from Trinidad; and in Trinidad there has been a strike or a go slow in the carton industry, and in Jamaica there has been a lack of raw materials to produce sufficient rum bottles to cater to our industry. We have had representations from the manufacturers, and we have taken this matter up with our counterparts; and it appears as though we will have to look for alternate sources of supply certainly in respect of the Jamaica situation; because what Jamaica has done as a matter of policy is that they are restricting the importation of bottles from outside of the CARICOM area; and it has meant that the existing capacity in Jamaica is not enough to satisfy the domestic demands of the beer industry, which hitherto was not supplied by the glass factory, at least not a large percentage of it. Now they have to supply the total requirements, and because of foreign exchange restrictions, Barbados suffers.

Nevertheless, we have been importing bottles in the past on some occasions from Mexico; and we have also been trying to see if we can get over the problem of the carton limitations. It does not affect our local consumption, so the hon. member need have no fear that he will have his usual quota by the cask or anything like that — I mean for entertaining his friends. I am not suggesting at all that the hon. member is a great imbibor. The basic position is that there has been so far a significant development in the export of rum. We would like to see it go further; and we do hope as a result of increased collection of resources from the Employment Levy that the small proportions that have been promised for additional export promotion will be able to give some help in advertising Barbados rum.

Now, Bacardi of course is a very large multi-national corporation; and the unique position about the Barbadian rum industry is that it is indigenously owned by far; and we are competing in a World Market under certain conditions which make it very difficult to make a dramatic break through. It is going to be steady progress, and of course the more Gold Awards that we win — we now have two brands of rum which seem to be able to win Gold Awards from one another. They shared in successive years — the basic position is that the more

awards we win, the more we expose ourselves to international competition; and our rum will sell on the sheer weight of its superiority over other rums.

Rum is also a thorny and difficult problem under the Lome Convention. As is known it was envisaged that there would have been an increase in the quotas to us in the non U.K. markets by a certain percentage each year. Unfortunately, the administration of the alcohol regime in the Common Market has not been unified; and the effect of this is that the E.E.C. Commission is not responsible for the outlining of the protocol on rum; and it means that each individual country has its own peculiar regulations. Now, we have been traditional exporters, certainly from Barbados and most of the Caribbean area, with the exception of Guyana and Jamaica. Guyana once had multi-national interests in their rum industry, but they do not have it now.

The basic position is that we have been having difficulties in getting licences to send our rum into the non U.K. and part of the E.E.C.; but a tremendous amount of representation has been made. The West Indian Society of Spirit Producers have provided a memorandum, and we have agreed at the joint E.E.C. — A.C.P. meetings, and we are hoping under the successor agreement to Lome that the protocol would be so re-arranged, that all of the difficulties and the bottle necks that we have had will be removed notwithstanding the fact that there has been a slight increase in the German market; but one will appreciate that rum is competing in Europe with their own indigenously produced alcohol, and there is no hope at all of invading the French market because the French have their own rum producing in their territories of Martinique, Guadeloupe, Reunion and other territories; but the Caribbean area as a whole has been fighting to see that the realities of increased exports of rum in the non European markets comes about.

So, that, basically, is the synopsis. As the Prime Minister has said, we are finding as a result of the new stills that have been established in Barbados that we are producing a very good neutral alcohol in that it is very pure; and because it is very pure, one is able now to make additional drinks out of neutral alcohol. It is not rum. It is defined as rum in the old 1909 Act; but we will now have to differentiate and bring that up to date. That is as much of the information that I can give at the present moment.

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

On motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS seconded by Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

Clauses 1, 2 and 3 were called and passed.

On motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. L. R. TULL, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. L. R. TULL, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

RESOLUTION TO SANCTION THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CHRIST CHURCH FOUNDATION SCHOOL SCHEME, 1978

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 4 stands in the name of the Minister of Education to move the passing of a Resolution to sanction the Government of the Christ Church Foundation School Scheme, 1978.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, earlier this year a Bill was brought before this Chamber to make provision for effecting the amalgamation of the two Foundation Schools. This Resolution seeks to lay before Parliament the Scheme of Government for the amalgamated Foundation School and to have the sanction of this Chamber on it.

The changes in the Scheme of Government that was laid before the House today and the Schemes of Government for the Foundations Schools are, I would say, only cosmetic. We have circulated the Draft of the proposed Scheme of Government to the Barbados Secondary Teachers' Union, to the Headmaster of the Boys' Foundation School, to the Acting Headteacher of the Girls' Foundation School, and to the Governing Body of the Boys and Girls' Foundation Schools for their comments. We have received comments from the BSTU and from the Governing Body of the schools, and they are in general agreement with the changes that have been made. I do not believe, Mr. Speaker, that there should be any contention on this. As I said, there is no substantial change.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: The time is now 7 o'clock. This Sitting stands suspended until 8 o'clock this evening.
7.00 p.m.

On Resumption:—

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

THE CARIBBEAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL
(EXAMINATIONS) ACT, 1978

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, the Caribbean Examinations Council will be conducting its first public examinations in 1979 for secondary school leavers, and it will be testing them in a number of subjects at the same level as the General Certificate of Education 'O' Level. To ensure that the possibilities of leakages of information and other malpractices are reduced to the absolute minimum, or indeed to be controlled to the extent of which they will never occur, the Registrar of the Council has sought to have Governments of the participating territories pass legislation in respect of the territories to protect the integrity of the examinations.

They are seeking to cover the areas such as the illegal use of examination papers, the leakage of examination papers, the impersonations at examinations and so on, and indeed any improper conduct in respect of these examinations. The Government of Barbados, acting on the advice of the Registrar, has made certain consultations with other participating territories with the intention of finding a general uniformity of legislation in the area. They have begun to look at the West African Examinations Council model, particularly the legislation of the Government of Nigeria in this regard, and we have made the type of adjustments that are suitable to our situation here in the Caribbean. We have sent letters I think to all the participating countries to get them to send on to us their comments on our draft Bill, and we have received a lot of replies and therefore we are now in a position to submit this Bill to Parliament.

I want to say that the Caribbean Examinations Council is a new departure in Caribbean initiative and co-operation. As I have said earlier in the course of a debate on another measure this afternoon, there is a great reluctance in our society to accept change. We have got so accustomed to writing the examinations of examination boards in the United Kingdom that there is a lot of misgiving in this country as to the validity of the examinations that will be set by the Caribbean Examinations Council, but I want to drive home with a certain degree of force that I am satisfied that the Caribbean Examinations Council has had the type of research done, the type of provision, the type of exposure we have got, the quality of personnel to set and mark examinations of an acceptable level, a level that we have grown accustomed to in this country.

We have on the Council a Vice Chancellor of the University of Guyana who is the Chairman of CXC, a Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies with rep-

resentation of the University and the University of Guyana, there are also representatives from all the participating territories and in each of these territories is a Council, a local body that monitors and looks into all aspects of these Caribbean examinations set up. As I said, I am satisfied with the type of preparation that has been done to make me feel confident that the Caribbean Examinations Council is the type of regional system that will succeed like other educational systems that have been integrated in the Caribbean over the past 20 years, and I speak particularly of the University of the West Indies which from very small beginnings has established itself as a major international educational thinking. I have no doubt that with the support of the community at large in these territories the Caribbean Examinations Council will take its rightful place in the educational set up of these islands.

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

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

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I said earlier today that the previous administration did have quite a bit to do with the establishment of the Caribbean Examinations Council, and that I did have the honour to preside over the inaugural meeting of the Caribbean Examinations Council at Marine House. However, that does not mean that there any politician sitting on the Council itself, and perhaps it is best to get any cobweb out of the way first of all lest it be thought in any of the participating territories that this would be a body in which the politicians would be awarding certificates to students. I make that point because there are so many misconceptions which can surround regional bodies, or indeed national bodies, that it is best that that particular point be made.

The Council is made up of two representatives from the territories of Barbados, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica, with one member from the other participating territories, and the first Chairman of the Council was Professor Roy Marshall, then Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies. The establishment of this particular regional body is to my mind one of the cardinal developments in education in the region, and its establishment, trying to look down the road to see whether it would be successful, assuming that it would be successful, I believe not only would it have importance within the region as such, but its impact on the national educational systems in the region should be of tremendous importance.

Examinations in the world today, and particularly in this region in which we live, are of tremendous importance if for no other reason than that they tend to be a form of pre-selection or identification of persons for the job market, because we tend to judge persons whether

they are going into the Public Service or whether they are going into private enterprise or whatever particular field they may be embarking upon, we tend to judge them in terms of their academic preparation and in terms of the specific skills, training and so on that they have had, and it is the function of the educational system to provide that type of training and that type of background, and it is the purpose of examinations to assess and evaluate the attendance and performance of students after they have gone through a particular programme in training.

8.10 p.m.

It is to be hoped that this particular body, the Caribbean Examinations Council, would not so much dominate education in the region but the educators in the region, and by that I refer to teachers and administrators; in fact, so to get into the area of curriculum development that they would be determining what type of examinations they would be having rather than the other way around, for too often the true independence and purport of education tends to be distorted by examination bodies which tend to become arbiters of what is taught when it should be the educators and administrators to do this. By the same token I hope the body would not be dominated by any university institution, whether the University of the West Indies or the University of Guyana, or any other university, to the extent that the purposes of the particular educational system would be distorted to any extent. I make that plea because it is not unknown for educational systems to be distorted by the requirement of examining bodies — in our case examining bodies which have been external to the region, which have tended to dominate the whole process of education to a very large extent; and I hope this particular body, structured as it is with the expertise of the educators of the region at its disposal, would be able to work out a system which would integrate national education systems with this regional examining body.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, and bearing in mind the importance of this particular measure before us, I would say that it is absolutely necessary that the integrity of the examinations be protected. I think this is fundamental. It is absolutely necessary that there should be full confidence that the examinations are fair, that they are reliable, and that there is full and maximum security in relation to the examinations and all possible measures must be taken to protect the integrity of the examinations. We will be supporting this measure. I believe it must have been some time in 1974 or thereabout that the Council did pass a Resolution or agreement that the integrity of the examinations should be protected by some kind of law. We have heard of some infelicities in terms of the conduct of examinations in West Africa and other areas, and I think it is fundamental that this precaution be

taken to have such a Bill on the Statute Books in order to protect the integrity of the examinations.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I believe that there are certain fundamental problems still related to the Caribbean Examinations Council and I would like to identify the area of public relations first of all. This is a regional body and regional bodies have been known to exist, to have their own spirit, to have their own being, and it is sometimes felt they can exist in a kind of vacuum, without the Caribbean people being fully aware of developments in relations to these examinations, because such bodies like the Caribbean Examinations Council — I believe it now has its own acronym, CXC — tend to exist in some rarefied atmosphere in providing service to the people of the region and to those who are particularly interested. The students themselves, their parents, friends, employers, and generally speaking the regional community at large must be aware at all times of the development and activities of such bodies and I believe it is true to say that this has been one of the weak areas as far as this particular body is concerned, that the general public has not been brought up to date on the developments and activities of the body to the extent that it should have been. Now, after the inaugural meeting and the initial phase of recruitment of staff and working out the preliminaries, etc., have been got over I would have thought that there would have been a greater effort made to involve the people of the region in the activities of this particular body, but I would say generally that as regards parents, employers and educators there has been a weakness in the dissemination of information relating to this particular body, and this can have important repercussions and effects on the functioning and indeed on the very success of the body.

Another probable area I would like to identify is the whole question of acceptance and recognition of the certificates to be issued by this particular body. I would have thought that in introducing this measure the Minister would have addressed his mind to this particular problem. He did indicate that people are not apt to accept change and that they are always suspect of any new development, so in this particular area I thought he would have given us some further information on this — what exactly is the position of the schools in the participating territories in respect of acceptance and recognition of these particular examinations; how many schools will be entered for these examinations; whether there is any indication of this; what will be the position of the older, so-called government grammar schools; the position of the newer secondary schools in this country; will they be all entering their candidates for these examinations or is there some reluctance, or exactly what is the position.

And maybe the Minister from his consultation with his colleagues in the region when he meets them whether at the Council of the University of the West Indies or at meetings with Ministers of education or at whatever regional body, we would want to know what is the position in respect of the writing of the examinations by the schools in the region.

8.20 p.m.

What is the position in respect of the writing of examinations? Examinations by the schools in the region? Particularly, what may be the position of the largest territory participating in this matter? What is the position of Jamaica in this matter? Are they entering in a large scale in these examinations which we are told will be held for the first time in 1979, or is there some hesitancy or some reluctance to come in on a full scale with this particular matter?

Thirdly, let me go outside of the region, but on the same topic of acceptance and recognition. What will be the position in terms of acceptance and recognition in this exercise in the region? Now I have no doubt that some letters would have been sent off to a number of examining bodies, and that there has been close consultation with the Cambridge Examination Syndicate, that some contact would have been made with the London Examination Body. I do not know of the others in the United Kingdom. I believe that there has been a relationship with the educational testing service in Princeton, New Jersey; but it is not at that level that I am really talking about. I am talking about recognition and acceptance at the point where it really matters, that is, for those students who may wish to go on to higher education. Has there been any contact with the major educational institutions to which Barbadian and Caribbean students tend to go to inform them that here is a new examining body, so that when the particular officials in the Education Departments of the major universities in Canada, in the United States and in Britain are faced with this strange looking certificate — I do not know if it is strange; we will get to that later — in terms of their assessment and valuation, whether they will have any prior information on this new examining body on the educational scene, and that this piece of paper should be treated with a great deal of respect?

Make no mistake about it. Sometimes those of us in the Caribbean and those of us in Barbados in particular, believe in some type of Copernican system that the World revolves around Barbados, and that Barbados is the centre of the universe. I think that it comes as a great shock when it is realised that there are a lot of people in the world who have never heard of Barbados, and this includes so called educated people. So we must just not sit back and say that our students have this certificate, that they have sat this CXC

Examination and this piece of paper proves it. I would like to know if those institutions have been advised in advance that this new examining body has been established and that they can expect students to present certificates from it. I believe that that type of advanced information can do a lot to smooth the path of acceptance for our students who may go to these particular institutions. They are familiar already with Oxford and Cambridge and London and the Associated Examining Boards — the A.E.B. — and the others, but this will present a little problem; but if I know how these examination officials operate, they may not be too eager to do the necessary research to find out.

Now I come to a fourth problem area. Exactly what type of certificate will be awarded by this Caribbean Examinations Council? I have been hearing mention of something called Basic Proficiency and General Proficiency Certificates. Now these are new words which we will have to learn in the vocabulary of examinations in this particular region; because this will be an innovation, if in fact those are the terms that are to be given, and if in fact two types of certificates are to be awarded. As I have indicated, there has been very little publicity on these particular areas; and I would have hoped that the Minister would have thrown some light on these particular areas if the students are going to take the examinations in 1979.

Those of us who are parents, those of us who are educators, those of us who have a general interest in the product of the educational system would like to know what exactly is this Basic Proficiency; what exactly is this General Proficiency; and what type of recognition will be given to these two types — I do not know if I can call them two levels of certificates; because it may turn out that they are on the same level, but testing different things. I do not know, but the onus is not for me to explain. I think that it is for those who are charged with the responsibility of the educational system to explain to the people of this country — because this is what we are dealing with here at this moment — exactly what is involved in this General Proficiency and this Basic Proficiency.

A large number of our students go on to the University of the West Indies either at Cave Hill, at St. Augustine or at Mona. What will be the position of the University of the West Indies in respect of these two certificates — Basic Proficiency and General Proficiency? (Asides) Let the Minister deal with the subject.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the hon. member address the Chair.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I must apologise, I certainly could not address those remarks to you; and

I am very sorry; because you are very knowledgeable about Education.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not the point at issue. Carry on with the debate, please.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I thank you very much sir. What is the position of the University of the West Indies in respect of these two certificates — the Basic Proficiency and the General Proficiency? Do they recognise both of them for purposes of admission in a university, or do they recognise only one of them — the General Proficiency? What level are they operating at? And who will be the people who will be taking the General Proficiency and who will be those taking the Basic Proficiency? And while on that point, as far as the certificates to be awarded is concerned, how many grades will there be on that particular certificate? Will there be three grades, two grades, four grades, five grades or six for that matter? How many grades?
8.30 p.m.

I think this is the type of information which parents have an interest in, and we do not want to talk about the integrity of the examinations in any elevated or high-flown way. We want to talk about it at the point where it really matters in practical terms. If there are to be four grades from the Examination, Grades 1, 2, 3 and 4 or A, B, C and D, how many of those grades will be recognised by the University of the West Indies for admission purposes? I think the Minister is well placed to give us some information on these matters.

I do not quite recall whether the Minister told us how many subjects will be examinable in 1979. I think he did say the examinations will first take place in 1979, but we are interested in knowing how many subjects would have to be protected as regards their integrity in 1979. Will there be four subjects, five subjects, six subjects? What are these subjects that will be tested in 1979? And looking a little further down the road, what about 1980, because that is not so very far away either? All of this is information which we would want to know something about. (*Asides*) I have only gone to 1980 because from this side we will be taking care of 1981 and onwards; so there is no need to get worried about that. After that it would be our problem to clear up all these things. (*Asides*) Your own weight will bring you down.

There is also the question in terms of the assessment, — I believe I must be on to the sixth problem — the type of assessment that will be carried out as far as the students are concerned. Will there be any innovation in this regard? Is this the normal one examination essay-type questioning, or will there be experiments with other forms of assessment and evaluation in terms of continuous assessment whereby the work of students, whether it is for two years preceding the examination or

the year of the examination, will be taken into account, or whether it is a one shot type of essay-type examination, or whether there will be experiments with the objective type of testing? I believe here again that these are the issues that the people of this country are interested in, and this Honourable Chamber would like to get some information upon it.

I believe the educators speak in terms of criterion referencing and norm referencing, to use the jargon of those who are in the assessment and evaluation field, and we would like to know which of these methods, if any, would be used in the examination. In other words, if somebody gets an "A" or a first grade this year, will that "A" or first grade be the same next year, will it be related to the standard of performance in any particular year depending on the quality of the candidates who are entered for a particular year? I believe that latter case is known as norm referencing and the other one would be criterion referencing. We would like to know too as far as the schools in this country are concerned when the syllabuses actually went into the schools. The Minister has told us, Mr. Speaker, that the examinations will be written in 1979, and we would want to know whether the syllabuses were in the schools for a full two years at least so that the students and the teachers could have had adequate familiarisation with the syllabus and be able to give the necessary instruction and to ensure the necessary preparation for these examinations that are taking place. Maybe the Minister can assure us that this was in fact the case, and give us some dates in respect of these particular matters.

Now we are at question eight; where do we go from here? Are we going to get into the area of Advanced Levels or however it may be styled, or are we simply going to stay at this particular level, whatever the level may be, the equivalent, I think the Minister said, of the Ordinary Level subjects?

Mr. Speaker, these are some of the problems which I wish to raise on this particular occasion, as I have indicated, as well as the most important subject, and we support the question of the protection of the integrity of the examinations to the fullest extent possible, but when we are talking about the integrity of the examinations, we take it in the very broad sense; and there are all of these related problems about which we would like some information.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, after that extremely incisive, illuminating, analytical presentation by the hon. member for St. Michael South let me just indicate.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you saying now there is no need for you to say anything?

Mr. GREAVES: Not at all, Mr. Speaker. I can still find something to say. This Bill has to do with the

protection of the integrity of examinations held by the Caribbean Examinations Council, and the major concern of the Bill has to do with the way in which the examination is protected and safeguarded, and I think it is important, as the hon. member for St. Michael South has indicated, that we endeavour at all stages of the introduction of the Caribbean Examinations to ensure that we have the kind of protection which is normally associated with examinations of this nature.

Now one section of the Bill deals with impersonation, which I think is a matter which has reared its head in the Caribbean and also in Barbados around examination times, where in the past there were a number of situations arising where people would go and take examinations or write examinations for other people; and this has been a problem, so much so that I believe that the Ministry of Education has had to introduce a system of identification cards to ensure that people who take examinations are the same persons who are identified on the cards with the proper name. I think it is important that one gets across this point very forcibly in the early stages and that all attempts at impersonation in these examinations would be stamped out, because as has been indicated, I am sure, and as has been appreciated, one has got to recognise that the examinations which will be set by the Caribbean Examinations Council and the certificates which are going to be awarded have got to reach a particular standard, and one has got, I believe, in these examinations, to determine what we are after, what we are aiming to achieve, whether we are only concerned with providing certificates and producing pupils out of the system who are only concerned with getting certificates to go into the usual University and academic type of education.

8.40 p.m.

The member for St. Michael South raised a number of questions relative to the examination, and I think that one of the matters which should be re-emphasised which he identified quite clearly is the question of public relations and the question of the involvement of people in the Caribbean in the entire examination system. I think that you would recognise, and indeed the Minister of Education indicated in his introduction the resistance which is generally encountered amongst people of the Caribbean to change. There is no doubt that the CXC and the certificates which will emanate from that body, will be introducing what will be considered as a fundamental change in this society of ours, and we have therefore got to ensure that a lot of groundwork is done to prepare the people in the Caribbean for this very important change, and most particularly I think we have to aim at preparing parents, who are probably conservative when it comes to the question of education, because they know a system and they are reluctant to change because they are concerned with getting their children to pursue a particular kind of line as they see other people have

pursued in the past, so that is going to be one particular area we have to look at, and then the question of acceptance by employers in the region of the certificates which will be issued by the Council.

I think that the CXC will introduce a new kind, in my view, of examination in that for probably the first time a real and meaningful attempt will be made to set examinations in the Caribbean which are of an indigenous nature both from the point of view of the subject matter, from the point of view of the books which are used, and indeed the way new material is presented and dealt with, and this in my view would be opening up wider areas, because when you look at this matter you will see that it has much wider ramifications than just merely the writing of examinations and the preparation of examinations, because it would seem to me that one very important area is the preparation of books, textbooks and other manuscripts for people who would be involved in preparing these examinations, whether as teachers or as students, so that is going to be a very important area of activity. I am sure it will create an additional incentive for Caribbean skills, to get involved in this area, an area in which they have not been particularly involved up to now, because I think it is a sad commentary in my view on the people who can be considered as professionals and people who are involved in education that there is a very serious lack of material in the Caribbean whether in history or other areas which relate to life, generally speaking, in the Caribbean, so I would see this as providing an incentive or fillip in that area.

The question of standards is another matter which I think we should concern ourselves with because whether you like it or not the Caribbean Examinations Council will have to relate its standards to some standard which is going at the present time, but let me put a case which I am sure will arise in 1979 when the examinations are set, because you will find people who will have some certificates awarded by Oxford and Cambridge, London, Pitmans or whatever overseas examinations bodies who will be in possession of certificates awarded by CXC, and if the person has to apply for entry into a university or a training institution in another country and will be using a certificate from the CXC, then it is fairly obvious that some kind of relation has got to be established, and people who would be charged with the responsibility of making an assessment must be aware of the standard which the examination would have been set at, so I think that that is going to be very important, and it makes us on this side somewhat a little concerned about what seems to be in some areas the general attitude of some of the territories, because as I understand it, the changeover or the proposed changeover to the Caribbean Examinations Council has not gone down very well with all the territories, and even although the Minister said in his introduction that this is one area in which one sees coming alive Caribbean unity, I think that there have

been a couple of ripples on the Caribbean Examination Council's sea, as it were, and this is a matter which I think has got to be faced wholly and squarely.

For example, as the member for St. Michael South has indicated, one would have to know what the position with Jamaica, which country some years ago sought representation to lower the entry requirements of the University of the West Indies, and what is the position of Jamaica on this question of standards. Then we have also got to look at it practically and really see this problem which seems to have developed in the Caribbean in terms of co-operation and what have you, the position of Trinidad & Tobago. Are we sure that Trinidad & Tobago will be associating itself fully with the CXC or whether they will be thinking in terms of going their own way as one is hearing that they may be adopting a slightly different position on the University of the West Indies? I think these are matters which one must take into consideration and must give some very serious thought and attention to, but I think that in giving our wholehearted support we are contributing to very important social and educational implications for the CXC and what it will mean for the Caribbean, and I am sure that this will be the forerunner to some very important and economic changes in the Caribbean, because I believe for the first time that young people in the Caribbean will be given an opportunity to really look at, study and try to analyse the problems in the Caribbean context, and that we will be able in years to come to produce people who are able to make a meaningful contribution to the development of the Caribbean.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, I will try my best to reply very quickly to a number of questions that were raised by the hon. member for St. Michael South. I must say, however, that the way in which he delivered himself in this debate suggested that he was playing the role of examiner because he seemed to be displaying his knowledge rather than really trying to find out the answers to the questions he raised. There is no doubt, from the contribution made by the hon. member, that he knows quite a bit about the workings of the Caribbean Examinations Council, that he knows the answers to the questions that he raised, and that he seemed to be only taking part in an exercise to find out if the Minister also knew the answers. If that is all he wants perhaps I can trot out answers to him very briefly to the number of points he raised. There was a list of them and if I do not answer all of them he can feel free to get up and refresh my memory.

I will say in respect of the area of public relations that I am totally in agreement with the hon. member that not enough publicity has been given to the workings, the operations and plans of the Caribbean Examinations Council, and there are a number of reasons for this, and perhaps the first one is that the Council was for a long time badly understaffed and therefore they did not have

the personnel to do the job of public relations that was necessary. I consider it, like the hon. member, a very important part of the exercise of the Council for the coming year, because as I pointed out already, people do not easily take to change and it will have to be the role of the Caribbean Examinations Council, writing the first examinations, to do a massive public relations job to sell the whole idea and the whole concept of a regional examinations board to the people of the area.
8.50 p.m.

And it will have to be the role of the Caribbean Examinations Council right up to the writing of the first examination to do a massive public relations job to bring the whole concept of a regional Examinations Board to the people of the area. So I am totally in agreement with him on that score.

He also raised the question of acceptance. The whole question of the acceptance of the CXC examinations depends on what happens after examinations are set and not before, because — let me put it this way — steps have been taken by CXC to obtain recognition from English Matriculation Boards. But the general policy of examination Boards in Britain is to make decisions on exams after the exams are set and marked. In other words, people are not going to anticipate whether the CXC examinations are going to be good, bad or indifferent; they will wait until the examinations are set and then give due recognition. But I submit that there is no reason at all for us to think that the examination boards of the universities in other countries that have accepted the standards of the University of the West Indies would not accept high school standards that have been accepted by the same University of the West Indies. But a number of other points must be raised on this question of acceptance. The hon. member in a display of knowledge has pointed out that there were two examining bodies — the Educational Testing Service of Princeton, N.J., and the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate that have been involved in the planning of these examinations. I would think that the member would be of the view that if the Cambridge Local Examinations Board has been playing an important part in the Council and helping to set standards, it is reasonable to believe that a number of universities and Matriculation Boards in Britain would accept the standards. Equally, the Educational Testing Service of Princeton N.J., is a highly reputable examining service, and I would also think that their association with the planning of the Caribbean Examinations Council would go a long way towards the acceptance of their certificates. I should point out further that a number of established examining bodies have played some part in the development of the Council to date and these include the West African Examinations Council, London University Examinations Council, the Joint Matriculation Board,

the Metropolitan Regional Examinations Board and the Royal Society of Art Examinations section and the Scottish Certificate of Examinations Board. All these have played a part in coming to the assistance of the Council during the past two years. I must also point out that the Canadian International Development Agency has also provided the service of a consultant in testing research and development, and this consultant will continue to work with the Examinations Council right up to the examinations in 1979. Bearing in mind all these contacts and the cooperation of all these bodies, it is reasonable to assume that the standards set by the Caribbean Examinations Council will be recognized in many places.

Another question asked was in respect of whether the standard would be accepted by the University of the West Indies. I really don't expect the hon. member would want an answer to that. It seems passing strange that the Vice Chancellor of the University of Guyana and the Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, plus three representatives from the University of the West Indies nominated by the Vice Chancellor and one other representative of the University of Guyana nominated by the Vice Chancellor of Guyana, should be members of the Council — and incidentally the Vice Chancellor of the University of Guyana is Chairman of the Caribbean Examinations Council — it would be strange to think that all these should be members of the Caribbean Examinations Council and yet the hon. member wonders aloud whether the University of the West Indies would accept the standard of CXC.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, on a point of elucidation, the precise question I was asking related to the grades of certificates and what recognition would be given to those grades. If there are four grades of the certificates, is the University of the West Indies accepting all of the grades or only some of them? And there are two sets of certificates, as I understand it — basic and general — and I would like to know what recognition they are giving to what.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before the Hon. Minister replies I must draw to attention that it is now 9 o'clock, the hour of interruption and I must enquire if the matter under consideration is controversial or not.

Hon. L. R. TULL: As far as I am concerned it is not controversial.

Mr. SPEAKER: The matter is not controversial, let us therefore proceed.

Hon. L. R. TULL: The hon. member raised the question of grades. I am sure that he raised it in a different context in his main speech. The Caribbean Examinations Council proposes to have two

certifications: one is the General proficiency certification for the purpose of satisfying university and faculty entrance requirements. The holders of the General Proficiency Certificate by the CXC will be considered as having obtained the equivalent of the General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level in the subjects taken.
9.00 p.m.

I will read for you now the classification under each grade. Grade 1 is defined as a candidate having a comprehensive working knowledge of the syllabus set. He can write it down. Grade 2 — the candidate has a working knowledge of most aspects of the syllabus. Let me just tell the hon. member that only Grades 1 and 2 are acceptable for university and faculty entrance. The hon. member knows this. I do not know what he is fretting himself about. There are Grades 3, 4 and 5 which are of lower levels and if he wants me to spell them out for him I can do so; but as far as the hon. member's query is concerned, Grades 1 and 2 are the levels required for entrance into the University of the West Indies.

Now, he also raised the question of the Basic Proficiency. The Basic Proficiency is — I hate to use the word hybrid. No, I had better not use the word hybrid; but the University considers this Basic Proficiency Certificate as separate and apart from the General Proficiency certification; and the University is currently considering the Basic Proficiency Grade for university requirements; but to my knowledge they have not made a final decision in respect of the Basic Proficiency certification. They have done so in respect of the General Proficiency certification.

There are other questions which have been asked about assessment. Now, I understand, Mr. Speaker, that the assessment is one which is going to be school based; that is, that you are not only going to write a one shot exam. I hear the hon. member talking about the one shot exam. He asked about the school based assessment, which means that he knows all about it. I do not know why he is pursuing me on this. The Council has decided that there will not be a one shot exam — pass, fail, you get this grade, that grade or the other grade; but that there will be a school based assessment which means that it will be necessary for the schools to keep assessment records of pupils over a period of time.

Now I cannot go ahead and give the hon. member any further details on this because it has not been spelt out with sufficient clarity at this stage exactly how they are going to keep these records. He is asking for information, and I am giving him what information is available. They have not yet started to write the exams. They are going to write the exams in 1979; but I understand that an essential part of the scheme for the

school based assessment is a set of procedures by which the marks compiled by a school will be adjusted to bring them into line with the Caribbean Examinations standards, whatever that means. But I am not going to stick my neck out just to satisfy the curiosity of the hon. member at this stage. The Council has determined that there will be school based assessments in which there will not only be a one shot examination, but there will be an assessment of a pupil's progress over a period of time in the school which will determine what his final marks will be in the examination. I hope that that satisfies the hon. member.

He has raised one other question. He asked where do we go from here? He also asked when were the syllabuses sent out. As far as I know the syllabuses were not sent out in every case for the whole two-year period. Everything is constantly under review. It is obvious, Mr. Speaker, that if two years are required for preparation for a subject for this CXC examination next June, and that the syllabuses were not sent out to any particular school in time for teachers to prepare their pupils for two years, then that school will not be taking the examination. That is commonsense. In fact I would not allow it. If you send out the syllabuses, say a year before the exams when it is a two-year syllabus, obviously I would not expect any thinking Head Teacher to enter pupils for that subject in the exams next year. I understand that some did not go out before the two-year period; but you have got to understand that at this time exams are optional. In 1979 students at schools can opt to do either the CXC examination in the subjects they are offered, or they can opt to do the Cambridge examinations to which they are accustomed.

By 1980 there will be a change; and I have already issued directions that by 1980 students will write subjects offered by CXC, or if they want to take overseas examinations — that is their privilege in a democratic society, but they will have to pay for them themselves. All the invigilation and examination fees and everything will not be met by the Government of Barbados. Where do we go from here? We are going on to the higher stage; but that will come in time; and this will not come by 1980; and the hon. member is making some very strange noises about 1981. Perhaps he will be able to answer them in due course. They say that "Hope springs eternal in the human breast". Keep hoping.

He wants to know what subjects will be offered. I think that that is the last question that he raised. In getting ready for June 1979 there will be Mathematics, English, History, Geography and Integrated Science. The syllabuses for those five will be completed and we are ready for testing people by the local Examinations Board in those subjects.

Now, a number of other questions were raised, and I cannot answer them. I was asked what is Trinidad doing. Now I cannot say what Trinidad is doing. You will have to ask Cutty Joseph. I am asked what is Jamaica doing. Equally you will have to ask whomever is the Minister of Education in Jamaica; and I hope that the hon. member for St. Lucy is not suggesting that what Trinidad does we have to do. We set the lead in these things, and Trinidad had better try and watch us and see what we are doing. I do not really know what is happening in respect of those territories. All that I can tell you is that there are 14 participating territories in the Caribbean Examinations Council; and Trinidad and Tobago is one of them and Jamaica is one of them.

I have been present at a University Council meeting a few months ago; and I heard the Vice Chancellor of the University say in plain, unequivocal terms that the University of the West Indies stands clearly behind the Caribbean Examinations Council and it has their full backing. What other territories decide to do now is a matter for them; but I have not heard of any territory jumping off the band wagon at this stage. There was one territory which I shall not name, in which the Minister of Education had made a statement prior to that council meeting — perhaps about two weeks before — when he said that his territory was not going to take the Caribbean Council's examinations at that stage because he was not sure about their acceptability; and I was present when the assurance was given by the Vice-Chancellor of the University that the University stood foursquare behind the Caribbean Examinations Council — I was present to hear that Minister, two weeks after he had made his statement in his territory say that we in our territory will be participating. All that he needed was that assurance.

I do not know if there is any other question that has been raised. Yes. Let me just say finally because I believe that I have answered all the questions raised by the two hon. members. Mr. Wilfred Beckles has been appointed Registrar of the Caribbean Examinations Council a month or two ago. I have had Mr. Beckles in my office, and he and I have sat down and discussed a lot of the implications of this new examinations system; and it was brought home to me that Mr. Beckles sees the importance of a massive public relations job on the Caribbean Examinations Council; and I have told him that I am prepared to lend him all the weight and authority of my office in carrying out his public relations job.

9.10 p.m.

He has started. Hon. members on both sides know Mr. Beckles well and know that he is a man of profound intellect and a very hard worker. I have every confidence in him that he will do the type of job that he is expected to do. He is an Oxford man, not Cambridge.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, I would not like to let the Minister be mistaken on this point. Mr. Beckles is distinctly a Cambridge man.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Anyhow, the Registrar, Mr. Beckles, according to the Attorney General is a Cambridge man, but he is working in collaboration with an Oxford man, and the two of us together will do the type of public relations that the hon. member for St. Michael South is asking for. He has already started, and I should bring to the hon. member's attention the publication of some recent booklets giving all the information that he has asked for. The information that he has given in the booklets I have managed to imbibe, and if I can find them I will show them to the hon. member, because it is because of the very information that he has put in these booklets that has enabled me to answer not all but the majority of questions that were raised by the hon. member. I am sure also that the publication of these booklets enabled the hon. member for St. Michael South to ask the type of questions that he asked in here this evening.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker,....

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

Mr. SANDIFORD: I am rising on a point of order. I would like to refer to the statement by the Minister that I have been enabled to ask questions because of some publication. Until he held up the publications there in his hand, I have never seen them otherwise, and I think he is really imputing improper motives to me in terms of asking questions in this Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER: When the Minister was saying that you knew this and knew that, I merely took it that the Minister was saying that you ought to have known.

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

On motion of Hon. L. R. TULL seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

Clauses 1, 2 and 3 were called and passed.

Clause 4 was called.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 4 stand part.

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

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw to the attention of the Minister Clause 4 (e) "makes any another use of such paper or its contents, is guilty of offence." I would like to put to him that the word "an" has been left out.

Hon. L. R. TULL: We accept that as a typographical omission.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, this is a small point. but it refers to a person, which means any person, who after procuring possession of a paper and (a) permits that paper to be used, gives or permits that paper to be given to any other person etc., and the only exception I see here to it is Clause 4(2) where it applies to an invigilator. I am wondering if a person who lawfully has a paper for purposes of consultation may discuss the contents of the paper with another person who may be entitled, maybe an official of the Council purely for purposes of argument, would in fact be guilty of an offence. In other words, if a person who prepares a question paper or after it is prepared he has a paper and discusses it with some other person would be guilty of an offence, because the only exception I see in this relates to an invigilator, and I am just raising the question for purposes of argument.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I see the point made by the hon. member. All I would say is that I do not believe that in an instance such as this that a prosecution would take place, although the category of persons whom he seeks to absolve from liability is recognised. It seems to me at that stage I doubt whether they would consider as coming within this particular section. All I can say is that the Bill drafted was presented to CXC and to the other Governments and has been approved as a model Bill to be used in all the other territories, but I will bear in mind the point raised by the hon. member and will take it up with the legal draughtsmen both here and in CARICOM, and if necessary recommend to the Minister bringing down the proper amendment.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Just one other query on this particular section. This is by way of query. In as much as "Invigilator" may be used in this particular Clause and in relation to examinations in a technical sense, would it be necessary for this word to be defined in the Definition Clause?

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On that one, no, Sir. The normal rule of construction would apply that it would have its natural and ordinary meaning, and it is not necessary to define it.

The question that Clause 4 as amended stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 5 was called and passed.

Clause 6 was called.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I beg to move that Clause 6 stand part.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that. 9.20 p.m.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Another query here on clause 6. I believe teachers from time to time have been in the practice as soon as papers have been distributed and the candidates are actually writing the examination, they have been in the habit of trying to obtain a copy of the paper, and do obtain copies of the paper, and I am wondering if they might be guilty of an offence or if the invigilator who gives them would be acting on behalf of the Council. I believe that might be taken care of in the rules which have to be drafted on this particular Act, but I just want to be certain because as a teacher myself I would not want to be in any position where I passed the law which I might be breaching later on.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I imagine that the implied consent for the teacher in the circumstances as set out will be applied to enable him to take the contents of a paper under this section out of the examination room.

The question that clause 6 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 7 to 13, inclusive, were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. L. R. TULL, seconded by Hon. H. deB. FORDE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, as amended, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. L. R. TULL, seconded by Hon. H. deB. FORDE, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I believe that there is just one outstanding matter left on the Order Paper in respect of a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Court Process Office and related matters. The Attorney General is in charge of that. I understand that it is not quite ready to be proceeded with and I am proposing to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 19th September as we do anticipate that there are some Committee matters which could take up members' time and I do not think we should ask the House to sit again, except to sit one more time, but in view of the fact that the matters given notice of today can await the passage of time until the 19th September, I beg to so move.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second that. I just want to say to hon. members on both sides of the House that when we resume in September we should have a very heavy legislative programme involving the complete reform of the land laws, and I would hope to have permission to circulate those Bills in the meantime so that hon. members will be familiar with them, and I propose to submit memoranda explaining the Bills, but there will be at least eight Bills on reform of land laws, including other legislation the Government wants to deal with before we rise in December, Sir.

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 19th September, 1978 at 12.00 noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
9.30 p.m.