
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1976 – 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 14th February, 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); Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, M.A., (Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning); Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B., (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs); Hon. F. G. SMITH, Q.C., S.C., B.A., (Leader of the Opposition); Dr. R. B. CADDLE; Mr. E. E. GREAVES, B.A., Ed.M.; 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 and 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; Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, M.Sc.

Prayers were read.

Mr. TAITT entered the Chamber and took his seat.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of 31st January, 1978, are before you for confirmation.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, these Minutes have been circulated and subject to any corrections or errors spotted by any hon. member, I beg to move that they be confirmed.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there is no objection, the Minutes stand confirmed.

The Hon. H. deB. FORDE, the Hon. L. S. CRAIG and Mr. SANDIFORD entered the Chamber and took their seats.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the following:—

The Annual Report of the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation for the year 1976–77.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:—

Resolution to grant the sum of \$1,800,000 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1977–78, Part II — Capital as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1977–78, No. 30, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

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

Bill to amend the Law Revision Act.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:—

Bill to amend the Property Transfer Tax Act.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Law Revision Act, be read a first time.

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

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

On motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, a Bill to amend the Property Transfer Tax Act was read a first time.

OBITUARY SPEECHES

RESOLUTION RE DEATH OF THE LATE MRS. ELMA CLARISSA TAITT

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, may I crave the indulgence of this Honourable House to pay tribute to the mother of the hon. member for St. Michael South West whose mother passed away a short while ago.

Mrs. Elma Clarissa Taitt was born in St. Andrew almost 80 years ago and during that time she was the mother of five children, and throughout her entire life she has set an example by her behaviour, by her conduct and by her christian attitude which certainly is worthy of emulation by a younger generation. Whatever this House may feel about each other, I think I have often said that perhaps the only thing that has ever been shared out fairly is death, and it is one aspect of life which brings us all close together.

I would like on behalf of the Opposition and of this House to extend to the hon. member for St. Michael South West and to his relatives our sympathy at the passing of this christian lady. She was really and may be described as the salt of the earth, unpretentious, affable, courteous and easily accessible to youth of the district in which she lived, always ready, willing and able to lend a helping hand to those who were in greater need than she herself was, and I think if christian life is to be appreciated it must be in the good old saying that it is better to give than to receive.

After a full life she has been called to higher service by her Maker and I think having met her on a few occasions, that on her arrival at the pearly gates she must have heard the welcome, "Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of the Lord."

And so without more ado, I would like to move that this House extend its sympathy to the hon. member and to his sorrowing relatives, and that a copy of such Resolution be sent to her family.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Government, I would like to associate the Government side with the remarks of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition and to extend deepest sympathy to the hon. member for St. Michael South West and to his relatives. I

myself did not have the pleasure of meeting the hon. member's mother, but those of us who know Barbados and know the economic and social conditions under which people live who have lived as long as the hon. member's mother must recognise that she must have been a lady of very great character and strength, for she lived to see one of her progeny rise to a very prominent position in Barbados, and he himself must owe something to her encouragement.

12.25 p.m.

She lived to see one of her progeny rise to a very prominent position in Barbados, and he himself must have added something to her encouragement. I myself was not aware of the death of the hon. member's mother, so I do not want it to be thought on the other side that it was any disrespect by me in not attending the funeral.

Accordingly, Sir, I beg to second the Resolution of the hon. member.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I too would like to join in paying my tribute to the passing of the late Mrs. Taitt, the mother of the hon. member for St. Michael South West. It was not my pleasure and privilege to have met her, neither was I aware that she was born in the noble parish of St. Andrew. I am hearing such a revelation for the first time today, although I know the hon. member has always said that he was connected with the constituency of St. Andrew.

Whenever I attest to the fact that St. Andrew is a great place and has produced great people, I am satisfied today that I have always been correct in making such a pronouncement. It was over a week ago that it was drawn to my attention that the dear lady had died and I was hoping that the opportunity was being afforded me to attend the funeral when the time came. Unfortunately, the funeral took place last Saturday, I knew of the time, but I had a very important engagement which did not permit me to attend the funeral. However, I am happy to know that the late Mrs. Taitt has lived in this community and that it was her privilege to have produced a son as the one she has produced, who now adorns a seat in this Hon. Chamber. As a matter of fact, it is said that the tree is known by its fruits, and the fact that that tree has produced such a fruit, one can say that that was indeed a very good tree.

I should like on behalf of the constituency of St. Andrew, and not only on behalf of the Government, on my own behalf as well, to offer sincere condolences to the relatives of the deceased and to let the hon. member for St. Michael South West realise that we on this side of the House appreciate the services which he rendered, and the fact that his mother has produced one who has been able to serve the country as faithfully as he has served it, and that we feel like him sad on the occasion of the passing of such a noble soul.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I rise merely to thank the hon. members, and indeed the entire House, for the sentiments which they have expressed to me and to my family, and on behalf of my family I wish to acknowledge such words as have been said and to thank the House for its generosity.

Mr. SPEAKER: In wishing to be associated with the condolences expressed this morning on behalf of the mother of the hon. member for St. Michael South West, I must now ask all hon. members to stand for one minute in silence.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Government Business be the instant order of the day and that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply to consider a number of Resolutions for the service of the island.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division; and Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1977-78 No. 28

A Resolution for the sum of \$112,521 was called.

DEFENCE AND SECURITY DIVISION - HEAD 7(1) - DIRECTION AND POLICY FORMULATION

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Dealing first with Item 2, Sir, the Security Guard Service continues to be expanded in order to provide better security at Government institutions, and 18 posts of Security Guard have been created during the current financial year for the purpose of guarding secondary schools.

The Ministry of Education has made representation that the conditions in some of our secondary schools leave much to be desired in matters of security. Particularly, I think the hon. member for St. Michael South West will be glad to hear that the Richmond School so long the subject of complaint on the part of parents regarding the physical and personal security of their girl children at the St. Leonard's Girls' School, that this security is now to be upgraded.

12.35 p.m.

And it is generally intended that the system of posting security guards at secondary schools during the day time when children are at school will be spread widely and involve the entire school system. The Ministry of Education has said that the children sometimes need protection and the premises themselves require protection, not so much from the children but from persons in the neighbourhood who use the school grounds as a thoroughfare. Not so long ago a number of school girls from one of these schools was visiting the House of Assembly and spoke to me and indicated that one of their number had been knocked down by a bicycle being ridden through the school grounds by somebody with no connection whatever with the school.

As regards salaries, we need \$21,400 to supplement the vote. There are 116 security guards and with this, supplementary salaries will cost about \$550,000 for this financial year.

The next Item under this Head relates partly also to security guards. It is necessary to provide uniforms for 22 additional security guards. We are also getting a Xerox photo copying machine in order to provide better copies of the immigration documents. This is expected to reduce operating costs in the department because we will be using a machine which does not need sensitized paper. The third matter under this Head relates to deportations, and while I do not intend to enter at length into matters relating to immigration or deportation other than to answer hon. members' questions, I should inform the House that in pursuance of our recent policy of regularizing the position of non-Barbadians in Barbados, it is necessary to regularize the system at both ends, at the top by granting residence and at the bottom by carrying out an appropriate policy of deportation as we find desirable. The head of the deportation section has recently been transferred to the department of Defence and Security and this gives the occasion for seeking this vote. The particular statistics last year showed that 29 persons were deported from Barbados, all but two of them in the later part in the year. So far this year 8 persons have been deported, all of them during last month. We have had to deport 13 persons to Guyana last year and five this year. In fact half of all persons deported were to Guyana and I think it is fair to say these are persons deported on the advice of the Police. There is some evidence of a circuit of criminals, pick-pockets - I believe in Guyana they are referred to as choke and rob, in Barbados they are called bounce and draw - and it seems there are some of these persons moving about and I must congratulate the Police Force on being on the alert to be able to pick them up not only after coming into Barbados but even at the airport. We also in 1977 deported one person to the United States, three to Trinidad, one to St. Vincent, one to Nevis, one to Jamaica, one to St. Kitts; and in 1978 in addition to five Guyanese we deported two St. Lucians and one

Dominican. We do not think the number very great, just 38 persons since the beginning of last year, but these deportations cost small sums of money.

The third Item on the Notes to this Resolution relates to furniture, fixtures and fittings. This is a very simple straight forward matter. Sufficient money was not provided to obtain some necessary filing cabinets and one or two other items, and we are seeking a small amount to add to the vote. I will be willing to give hon. members a break down if necessary, but the money is principally for filing cabinets. The Immigration Department needs a lot of cabinets, and while we are trying to reduce a number of pending files we have to find storage space for these files.

I beg to move that Head 7(1) of the Resolution stand part.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, the Opposition is certainly not opposing this aspect of the Resolution. What I would like to say is that while there is need for the provision of the security guards at secondary schools, especially schools built for a certain number of children and carrying almost twice as many, we are very concerned about the amount of vandalism that is taking place not only during the day but at night, so that whereas we may have security guards to protect co-ed schools and assist teachers in maintaining order, in my view there is too much vandalism at schools in this country and Government must seriously consider whether apart from having security guards at these schools as proposed, the question of providing watchmen at night to as many schools as possible in the community is not essential. Not only will it be providing employment, but it will also enable the money that is now being spent to repair buildings to be used for more productive purposes. When I was Minister of Education I was more than alarmed at the amount of vandalism at schools. No morning would pass without a letter from some Headteacher that the school had been broken into or vandalised.

12.45 p.m.

Now, when we come to the question of deportation — I am not quarreling with the Government's right to deport, but I am particularly concerned and I would like the Prime Minister to give some view on this. I saw in the *Nation* newspaper pictures of people who have come in here and who have taken up residence in anticipation of the crop. As a matter of fact, it was shown in the *Nation* that they were occupying premises in or around certain estates in preparation for the crop. I am not going to ask the Prime Minister when the crop is going to start, because that is a different question altogether. That is the \$64.00 question. But what I would like to know is whether the Prime Minister, having seen that picture or having it drawn to his attention that people have come in from St. Vincent and St. Lucia, can state whether those

persons are legitimately here, or whether those persons had come in in anticipation of the crop and, if so, what investigations the Government have carried out in view of that disclosure.

Now, I want it to be quite clear that I am not being anti-LDC's or anti-anything. I would just like the Government to assure the country that these persons who are waiting to work in the crop season are persons who are legitimately here who have encamped themselves in or around certain plantations, and that their presence here will not be to the disadvantage or to the detriment of Barbadians who may want to work in the crop. If no investigation has up to now been done, I think that disclosure, if the *Nation* could ever be believed, should have caused an investigation into the matter long ago. (*Asides.*) If it is to be believed. I amend what I have said. If the *Nation* is to be believed. It is suggested that I stick to the first thing, but I have amended it to say if the *Nation* is to be believed. I would like the Prime Minister to give me an assurance. Now that we have endeavoured to get Barbadians to return to cane-cutting during the season, it certainly would go very badly if, as soon as the crop is about to begin, they found that they were being displaced, or that persons from another Island had taken the few jobs to which they were entitled. I would like some assurance from him that an investigation has revealed that those persons who have encamped themselves in and around plantations are legitimately here, and that they would not be a cost on the deportation vote which we are about to vote today.

Mr. Chairman, that is all I would like to say on this measure, except that I would like to get an assurance from the Prime Minister that the appointment of Security Guards is without any reference to political ideology, but that the Government are committed — I will have something later on to say about that in a later Resolution — and that the Security Guards are Barbadians who possess the necessary qualification and that no preference is given to persons who belong to the Barbados Labour Party. I am not accusing him, but I want the assurance. I want to include Island Constables, too. Every time I pick up the *Gazette* I see Island Constables have been appointed, and I see some good B.L.P. supporters included. I know them, and I would like to get an assurance.

Mr. Chairman, we live in a country where we have to ensure that jobs are given on merit, that the people who are given these jobs are worthy of them, and that no reference to political ideology or party support is going to be the criterion for the appointment to jobs like Security Guards and Island Constables. I would not be around, but I can conceive that if we go in for appointing Island Constables, who may be called upon to play important parts during an election and they belong to one Party, then you can see where we are heading. These are not accusations at this point. When I am ready to make my

accusations I will make them. You know that nobody can stop me from making them, but at this point I am asking for assurances. I want the assurances that the appointment of Security Guards, Island Constables, and other persons are given on merit but not on a Party line.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, my contribution on this particular debate is going to be rather short. I want to direct my contribution towards Item No. 2 which deals with the appointment of Security Guards at Secondary Schools. It seems to me, certainly from what the Hon. Prime Minister has said in the presentation of this particular Item, that there is a problem with security, both in the day and at night, at the Secondary Schools. I think that anybody who has an interest in property — certainly property which is collectively owned by the taxpayers of this country and for which he has a responsibility — must be concerned with the maintenance of this property and, certainly, with the attitude which one sees from time to time developing towards this particular kind of situation.

This leads me, Mr. Chairman, to raise the whole issue of the role of the school in society. I am not only now talking in terms of those pupils who go to schools and the teachers who are involved in the school situation, but also the question of the utilisation of the school buildings within particular communities. I have a suspicion, Mr. Chairman, that part of the problem has to do with the kind of distance which has developed between the school in its entirety and the community in which it is situated. I would like to suggest that we have to get back to a situation where the school plays a focal role in community development and in the whole system of trying to build a sort of appreciation and a bond of unity within the society. I, certainly, would want to see a situation where school buildings are made even more available to community groups which could utilise the buildings on a more productive basis. I suspect with this kind of growing interest and this appreciation for this kind of situation that we would be building up our protective forces to ensure that the kind of maltreatment which is presently being experienced at various school buildings would be reduced considerably. That is one point which I would like to make on this.

The other point, Mr. Chairman, has to do — of course, this is ancillary to the one I have made — with the whole question of protection which is very, very important. I think that we have to be careful in our zeal to extend the services of Security Guards all around the place. It gives, to my way of thinking, a feeling of a militaristic kind of atmosphere. I am wondering if we could not sit down and devise some other way of dealing with this particular problem. I recognise that, immediately, there is a problem which has to be corrected, particularly when one bears in mind the kind of things which have been happening in the neighbouring country of Trinidad and Tobago. We hear reports from

time to time, not only about vandalism in the various schools, but certainly of people who go into the schools, create havoc, run teachers and children out of the schools, and I believe that one or two killings have taken place in school buildings during school hours in Trinidad and Tobago.

It seems to me that this kind of manifestation is a manifestation of a deep-seated social problem, and I am wondering if the whole question of unemployment is not rearing its head here. The fact that people have time on their hands to go around school buildings should point to something. One hears of what happens, for example, at St. Leonard's Secondary School in the constituency of the hon. member for St. Michael South West and also what happens at Parkinson School which is in the constituency of the hon. member for St. Michael South East.
12.55 p.m.

These are great problems and as I said I have a suspicion and a very strong feeling that it is as a result of people not having anything productive to do, a feeling I suppose of being denied certain fundamental rights within the society that this is a way of probably expressing their feeling, but I think we have got to look at tackling this problem. Certainly I would imagine that if more job opportunities were created for people where they could be productively employed that we would have a diminution in this kind of lawlessness which seems to be rearing its head; and I would like to counsel Government to bear this point in mind to ensure that the whole question of job creation would warrant through Government planning and in Government objectives a return to the fore of better habits.

In this particular regard, Mr. Chairman, we have to look at creating job opportunities not only in the urban areas, and I believe that by now you know my whole position on this, but we have to look at a rounded kind of development where opportunities would be created all over the country. I think that if we look at the situation which obtains at the secondary school in St. Philip and the other secondary schools which exist in the other rural areas, St. Andrew, St. Lucy and St. Peter, one would probably find that there are not as many complaints as would emanate from the primary schools in an urban or sub-urban setting where I suspect the unemployment situation is much higher. I feel that one of the major problems which we have got to tackle in looking at this is the unemployment problem, and the creation of security guards will not really solve the problem if we want to solve the problem fundamentally rather than just scratching the surface, because as I said, the provision of security guards is to meet one particular objective, but it does not rid the society of this problem which I contend has to do with a certain kind of disaffection amongst people who are involved in this lawlessness of vandalism.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a few remarks which I believe if made a note of could improve conditions at the airport with regard to emigration. Firstly I would like to draw attention to the fact that if a visitor comes to Barbados on holiday for three or four weeks as the case may be and decides to extend his stay here, he is required to go into the Police Station and pay \$20 to get his time extended. This is a great irritant to the tourists and the visitors to our island, and in fact what we want them to do is to stay longer and spend more money; so it is giving a wrong impression and is causing a great deal of difficulty among some of the hotels because their guests who say they would like to stay another two or three weeks are told to go into Bridgetown and pay this fee. They do not mind going to the police and recording their staying longer but the \$20 is irritating them, and I am drawing this to the attention of the Minister that he might be able to put an end to this because it is not really in our interest that a person wanting to stay in Barbados longer has got to pay \$20 to get a permit to do so.

Another point I would like to draw to the attention of the Minister is that people who come here for a very short time on business, two or three days, especially engineers, are beginning to give a false report to the police because of the difficulties in obtaining their work permit for two or three days, and I would like to suggest, Mr. Chairman, that the inspectorate at the airport should be given the authority that in case an engineer came here to the Electric Company or to fix a computer or on some bit of urgent business, he can sum the case up and give a permit to stay for three or four days instead of the man reporting that he is here on holiday when in fact he is not here on holiday and it would upset the statistics of the island in any event. I believe that the inspectorate at the airport should be able to interview a man and say you are here to work at the Electric Company or at one of the industries at the Deep Water Harbour, to look at a computer or something and realising that he is on some urgent business and has very little time, grant a work permit.

Mr. Chairman, there is a great deal of correspondence and forms to be filled in for emigration and a small matter like this is made very heavy when it is a very simple thing. I am drawing to the Minister's attention that I believe he could avoid making people tell lies to emigration that he is here on four days' holiday when he has come to fix a piece of equipment.

The first thing I would like to do is to associate myself very strongly with the Prime Minister's remarks in relation to emigration. I would like members of the House to know that the officers at the airport are now doing a remarkably good job. The young men at the airport are very friendly and courteous to the guests,

wishing them to have a nice time and so on. Last Saturday evening there were seven immigration officers at the airport and everybody that came in on the Jumbo Jets, — and they came one after the other — got through his business very quickly, and I think we should record that the police at the airport are doing everything possible to expedite the passing of the certificates, warrants and passports, that they can get on the beaches they have paid so much to come down here and enjoy.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I wanted primarily to touch on that aspect of the Resolution in which the Prime Minister referred to the secondary school located in my constituency, but before I do that I must say I was somewhat amazed at the remarks of the last speaker, the hon. member for Christ Church North Central. First of all I am very glad to see that he has come around to changing his view on the attitude of the officers at the airport and I am glad to see that he.....

Mr. WARD: On a point of order, will the hon. member please say where and when I ever said anything about the officers at the airport? He is mixing the Customs with the Airport. I have always had praise for the police at the airport.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order, but explanation, probably.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, it was not even an explanation because it confused the issue merely because the hon. member has a concept of words which differ substantially from mine. All the people who work for the Government at the airport are officers of one kind or another. He obviously thinks of an officer as a policeman, but I am glad to hear that he feels that those persons working at the airport are now showing the requisite amount of courtesy to persons who come in. I have always felt myself that generally speaking they have shown a tremendous amount of courtesy working sometimes under very difficult circumstances.

I also wish to take issue with the hon. member on what is obviously a suggestion put forward in good faith, the concept of the official at the airport having the right to issue a work permit for three to five days. But, Mr. Chairman, we have a very serious problem in this country of a number of persons allegedly having special technical ability and special technical know-how coming into this country and doing high level jobs which could be done by Barbadians in Barbados. They come in as visitors, they say they are visitors, and I agree with the hon. member that some of them tell lies, they stay in hotels, they go out and do the consultancy work or whatever is to be done at very high costs or very high prices. Sometimes they are paid in currencies outside of this country and I think that the Hon. Minister responsible for immigration matters must be aware of some of these practices, and I

think that we would be going in the wrong direction if we were to attempt to give these discretionary powers to an individual at the airport where there is no attempt or no possibility, given the pressures at the airport, to examine the validity of a claim that person A or person B is coming in to examine a computer as he says or to work in one of the industries at the Deep Water Harbour or where have you. I would think that the Government would wish to be extremely careful with the mere issuance of a statement that a particular is an engineer and could give him a work permit for five or six days at the airport. Even though we are a tourist country, Mr. Chairman, we cannot afford to give up our sovereignty in those kinds of terms.

You know very well, Mr. Chairman, that anyone who is leaving here to go to any of the developed countries to work for a day or 100 days has got to go through a large number of forms. All kinds of requisites are put to any individual who wishes to work in any of these countries, and in a country like Barbados where unemployment is so serious we cannot afford to have the concept of working in Barbados being put almost in the same category as visiting Barbados. I go further, Mr. Chairman. We have to be careful that Barbados does not seem to be taking an official discrimination on this question of work permit. If we are going to have that kind of policy then it has to be an across-the-board policy and not appear to be for engineers and those people working in the computer field and that kind of thing.

1.05 p.m.

If we are going to have that kind of policy, then it has to be an across the board policy and not appear to be for engineers and those people working in the computer field and that kind of thing, because those people who are coming from Trinidad or St. Vincent or wherever as ordinary people coming into Barbados may come to feel that they have a harder time getting into Barbados. If someone leaves St. Lucia to come on holiday, that person may be subject to a more rigorous examination of his visitor status than someone coming from North America who says he is coming here as a visitor, who may in fact be coming to work.

I do not wish to dwell on the point, Mr. Chairman, because I think the point is understandable, and I know that there is some difficulty for the immigration authorities in trying to work out these different aspects of a very difficult problem, but I would hope that our immigration policy would not extend to a granting of work permits at the airport on the representation made by the individual coming in.

So far as the deportation is concerned, I have one technical question, which is non-controversial. The Prime Minister said, I believe, in his introduction that no provision was made for the cost of deportation in the Ministry where it was formerly lodged, or he put it the

other way, it was transferred to Defence and Security and no provision was made. I think he must have meant that no provision was made at all, because if in fact the transfer occurred after the Estimates had gone the vote would still be available in the other Ministry, presumably the Ministry of the Attorney General, and there would have been no need for a supplementary vote. I think the Prime Minister would wish to clarify that. In passing, I imagine that the increase in the amount would not have been excited by any special need to deport any special person to St. Vincent.

But, Sir, quite seriously on the question of St. Michael South West and the St. Leonard's Schools, or Richmond Schools, I am very glad to have this opportunity to comment on something which was for some time becoming a matter of serious concern to me. It appeared from some reports that the suggestion was put forward that somehow the people, or certain people of St. Michael South West were more prone to vandalism than people in other parts of Barbados, and no attempt was made to recognise the special circumstances which exist in the particular schools. I am sure the Minister of Education would confirm that these schools were created to satisfy a number of children, and they now have in excess of 100% more than they were created to satisfy. I go further, Sir. In the area where the schools are located there is not one single area of recreation for the citizens who live in the immediate area. I am not complaining to the present Government for the lack of such facilities, because the lack of facilities has always been there, partly because of the geographic location of the school and its juxtaposition with a number of settlements that had occurred long before Governments have had an opportunity to play the area, but the fact has to be recognised that in the general Eagle Hall, Richmond Gap, Upper Goodland area, indeed in the entire constituency which is now St. Michael South West, the only areas of recreation would be Kensington Oval, the Cemetery where a lot of recreation goes on, and a number of other roadways. The road paddle tennis has grown out of people not having any land space in which to engage in the normal recreational facilities, and I would hope that people who have been tending to judge these people in prejudicial terms would recognise the circumstances which obtain in that particular area are somewhat different from the circumstances which would obtain in, say, the constituency of St. Thomas.

It happens to have a lesser density of population, especially in a certain age group. When one looks at the housing conditions which exist in the same constituency, one has to understand that there is a deep sociological factor at work there which causes people to be forced into the roads, and when you add to this the unemployment factor you have a situation that is readymade for what the sociologists call anomie or

alienation, which is a factor that we in Barbados have tended not to look at in serious terms, we have tended always to suggest that there is either a political solution or an economic solution to problems which are essentially sociological in nature, and I really hope that the provision of Security Guards will be seen not so much in the context of providing a solution but as an aid towards what I hope will be a long term solution to these kinds of urban and suburban problems which are not going to get easier in Barbados, but are bound to intensify as the country grows and becomes more industrialised.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, there are a few matters in relation to this Resolution which I would like briefly to speak on. One is that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition mentioned that of late he has been noticing a number of approvals of island constables published, and he wanted an assurance that the status of island constables was conferred without any political motive. Perhaps I can explain to the hon. member that one of the reasons for the increase in the number of island constables arose from discussions which have been taking place between the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Housing and Lands under whose jurisdiction Parks and Beaches Commission comes, and the Ministry of the Attorney General. It arose out of the lack of authority of private security guards upon premises which are privately owned.

As hon. members will appreciate, and the hon. member for St. Lucy made a very valid point, that unfortunately today there is an attitude that whether the property is collectively owned, as he puts it, or individually owned, that the rights of the proprietor are not respected.

1.15 p.m.

The Commissioner of Police during the course of these discussions made a very valuable suggestion that he would be prepared, subject to his own checking of character and suitability, to swear in private security guards as well as people employed in the capacity as wardens by the Parks and Beaches Commission. I believe that his investigation of the individual applicants has been carried out and as a result a number of people who hitherto performed security guard duties at hotels or at the beaches, have now been sworn in. That would account to a large degree for some of the apparent increase as far as I know. The Commissioner of Police is motivated in the carrying out of his statutory functions under the Parish Constables Act, so that as far as those members of the public whose status have been upgraded to parish constable, no political considerations will arise.

With respect to the point raised by the hon. member for Christ Church North Central, this matter has been taken up with the Ministry for Immigration, and I am sure that the Minister for Immigration will be in a position to deal with that aspect of the matter. I want to endorse the remarks made by the hon. member that there has been a tremendous improvement in the flow of incoming passenger traffic at the airport. This was also a matter taken up with the Ministry of the Attorney General and the Police and it was found that part of the problem was the question of training and the question of sheer numbers. We have to recognize, and it has been confirmed, that last year we received over 260,000 visitors to Barbados. In addition to that, the manner in which they come is different from before. We have a large number of people coming in larger planes, so that a much greater number of people have to be processed within a short period of time. We also have physical constraints at the airport which will only be remedied when the new terminal building is opened. After discussions and as a result of representations made from many quarters, not only by visitors but from Barbadians returning home who have lived abroad or who come back at particular times — so that it is not a question of action being taken on the complaints purely to satisfy the whim of tourists — careful investigation was made and meetings held with the Immigration Department and we have tried to get a procedure established whereby the most essential questions from the point of view of security and immigration would be extracted and emphasis laid on them. I believe that progress has been made to the point of using mathematical calculation to show that a visitor can be processed within a certain number of seconds. In addition to this the Tourist Board plans public awareness programmes, and all of this goes to help making immigration officers feel that they are performing a worthy service and are part and parcel of the service which we are rendering to people coming to our shores as visitors.

There has also been an improvement at the Customs Department at the airport. The Ministry of Tourism and the Customs Department have worked on a system which will help to speed up the flow of passenger traffic. I am not going to disclose the system; indeed I do not know it. But Customs Officers have an important job to perform in relation to protecting Government revenue and enforcing certain laws we have on the Statute Book dealing with drug abuse; and also, very important, they have a duty to ensure that the measures instituted by Government for the protection of industry are not frustrated by false declarations and invoices, whereby goods which are supposed to be banned come into Barbados. The Customs Department therefore has a great responsibility in this respect, and I am very pleased to say that certainly so far this season there has been

considerable improvement in both immigration and customs procedures.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I just want to make a brief comment in this debate simply because the role of the Police has to some extent brought up the question of the appointment of Island Constables. May I say that the provision for appointing security guards as island constables is in the view of my Ministry only a temporary measure. The problem occurs in Barbados that there is no legislation for dealing with private policing and security services. In most advanced countries, and certainly in countries which rely heavily on tourism, it is necessary to make adequate provision in the legislation to set out standards of conduct, conditions, standards of training and the powers of security guards. My Ministry is engaged in studying legislation in Commonwealth countries, and we hope during this year to put to Cabinet and to the Legislature considered suggestions and recommendations on the sort of legislation which we need in Barbados. I am stating that it is not advisable in general to extend powers of arrest outside of the civil powers of the Police to a wide number of people, and to this extend the procedure about making security guards island constables should be temporary. If one wants to maintain law and order and at the same time respect human rights, one cannot give a large number of persons the right of unlimited powers of arrest and therefore there must be very serious consideration given to extending the powers of arrest to deal with situations that may have occurred. I say this because there is a tendency whenever we get a difficult situation for people to panic and find all sorts of reasons to call for increased penalties and more powers of arrest, as though additional legislation is the answer to such problems. In Barbados there is need for security services to be extended in institutions like hotels, and I am talking about security services.

1.25 p.m.

I am talking about private Security Guard Service and not Security Intelligence Service as a matter of regular routine. The watchman of past days should now be properly trained to understand the nature of security. Likewise there is a very strong case for private individuals and the hotel industry to recognise that in building their homes and also in looking after their property they, too, have a duty of care. No State anywhere in the world can afford to provide topclass Police Forces for looking after private property to the extent to which some people in Barbados believe we should go today. We are spending just under \$1,000 per policeman in this Island for the provision of police services, and the Police bill is getting somewhere in the region of \$9 million to \$10 million. That is a lot of money for a small country to pay recurrent costs of Police Forces. We know that we are

going to have to look at means of increasing Police services, but people must recognise that the answer to crime waves, if indeed there is a crime wave, is not always an additional policeman here and there.

Now, I want to deal with vandalism. The hon. member for St. Lucy mentioned the effect of unemployment. I am not sure that this is the only answer here either, because in developed countries where the rate of unemployment is less, where the standard of living is sometimes five or six times as high as Barbados, we have had the incidence of vandalism among young people — vandalism against both private and public property. For instance, in the United Kingdom one can cite the incidence of vandalism after a football match, and you can hardly call many of the people in the United Kingdom as being badly off when compared with Barbados. I could cite many other instances in the United States and even in the Scandinavian countries. It seems that what has happened is that people with a higher and higher standard of living and leisure time added to that, and a breakdown in family life — a breakdown in the sort of control that one had before in the home, one has found in these circumstances an increase in behaviour that one would not have countenanced some years ago.

The answer is not simply to say there is unemployment and that the Government should do more about it. The Government are committed to doing more about unemployment, because an unemployed person is not being used properly and his resources are lost to the community; so to that extent we are conscious of the necessity to provide for unemployment. But vandalism existed at a higher peak some years ago than it does now. I would like to say, in relation to the particular case in St. Leonard's, that Police support services were offered to the Ministry at the request of the present Minister of Education and we have successfully dampened the spate of vandalism that has occurred there, in addition to the Security Guard that has been provided. I think the Police made one or two arrests, and I believe those cases have been dealt with and this had some impact on quieting down the danger that occurred at St. Leonard's.

So far as the political aspect of the appointment of Island Constables is concerned, there is no problem in my giving the hon. Leader of the Opposition an undertaking about political consideration in the appointment of Island Constables. As the Minister responsible for the Police, I have never sought to exercise any political considerations in relation to the discretion for the appointment of Island Constables. I am merely notified that people have been appointed Island Constables, and I am absolutely certain that no Minister of this Government has interfered with the exercise of the discretion. If it becomes necessary for me to give general policy directions, I can assure the hon.

member that those policy directions will be given and they will be applicable to everybody in Barbados. I hope it will be the correct policy, and I will be willing to make it available. I know it is fashionable to ask for assurances or to expect political consideration, Sir.

In running the Law and Order Services of this country, I can assure the hon. member that he has no fear. If he does anything wrong, he will be subjected to the rigours of the law like anybody else. If he conducts himself properly, he will be subjected to the strength and protection of the law like anybody else and it does not matter what his political complexion will be. That rule goes for every citizen of this country. I believe that law and order in Barbados has been well administered. I hope that it keeps that way, and I hope that those who speak on political platforms — I want to use the opportunity to say this — must remember that the language of incitement can sometimes be more dangerous than even someone who might seek to appoint an Island Constable. I have been very disappointed at the standard of language used on our political platforms.

I have seen one so-called religious organisation use the emotional appeal of race at the moment and getting to the stage of dividing people on racial grounds in language that has been more than going to incitement. I am appealing to that organisation, Sir, to show a little bit of restraint. I will not hesitate, as the Minister responsible for law and order in this country, to forward to the D.P.P. for instant prosecution anyone who uses the political platform in order to create mutiny in this country, sedition, or any breach of the laws of Barbados, and I intend to do it. A word to the wise is enough.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, it is rather refreshing to hear the words of the Hon. Attorney General in relation to the extension of powers of arrest to Island Constables. I think that, as long as he continues in that frame of thought and attitude, it augurs well for the society as a whole. But even with the Police as it now stands, there have been occasions pointed out from time to time that policemen do use their position as Police to settle some of their private quarrels with other people in the society. If they are so highly trained and this happens, one can only imagine what will happen when there are a large number of untrained people exercising powers of arrest. Far from maintaining law and order, you could get a rather serious breakdown in law and order, especially at a time community differences, political differences, and other differences could be very sharp, one could find people on whom powers of arrest have been conferred using these powers to settle private grievances; therefore, one cannot support too rapidly any attempt to extend powers of arrest to people who are untrained, especially within the present circumstances and conditions of the Barbadian society.

We know how people behave. Even sometimes, at Institutions such as the hospital, you will find a person trying to satisfy his grouse against another person because he now has the opportunity, as the Barbadian would say, of pomposetting over the person who seeks medical aid. You can well fear what will happen in a situation where an individual with these powers decides to take it out on someone with whom he has had some personal grievance. I feel happy, and I think many Barbadians at large will be happy to hear the remarks of the Hon. Attorney General.

Going a step further, and looking at the question of vandalism in Barbados especially as it affects schools, I think it is high time that the Government takes a serious look at the question of making these schools available to people of the community outside of school hours. The schools remain closed too long. While we are entertaining requests for the setting up of Social Centres in various sections of Barbados, I think, from the point of view of effecting economies, one should look seriously at making some part of the schools or some of the schools in the various areas available within the community to be used for social activities.

1.35 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I just want to address my remarks to the Gallery. I see where a gentleman does not have his shirt buttoned; he is not properly covered and I would just ask him to close it.

Dr. CADDLE: This may go a far way in reducing vandalism. I am not going to propose that it would eradicate it because one has to look very carefully at the attitudes of people in a society, and as has been rightly pointed out by the Hon. Attorney General, you get vandalism in societies which have been better educated, better motivated and enjoying better standards of living than in Barbados, and one may necessarily have to make some sort of social survey into the causes or reasons for vandalism in this country. It may be an exercise to which the Government may be able to divert some personnel, time, land, money, but the findings of some such survey may prove worthwhile.

Meanwhile I would like to stress that some consideration should be given to young people and older people who require some activity in the evening especially those who cannot afford to go down to the hotels or go to other places of entertainment or some of the amusement centres in Barbados. (A VOICE: To play the one-armed bandits?) They may not be able to play the one-armed bandits, but who may be interested in other refinements to use these schools under proper guidelines. I am not saying you should throw them open so that any Tom, Dick and Harry at any time and anyhow can go in and use them, but proper guidelines would have to be drawn up for the proper use of these

schools outside the school hours, thereby ensuring that the schools are not further destroyed by the people who go in to use them, because we have to bear in mind that sometimes people who have this attitude to commit vandalism may very well enter the place legally and then use that opportunity for committing these acts of vandalism; so proper guidelines would have to be drawn up and at the same time proper inspection would have to be enforced to ensure that these schools remain in good condition.

Sir, in relation to what the hon. member for Christ Church North Central has pointed out with regard to people coming here for short stays, it is my recollection that employers in Barbados who are seeking to bring in people for a short period of time or even for a long period of time have a duty to apply before hand to the Minister or the Ministry responsible for these matters and have this matter sorted out before the arrival of the employee in this country and I believe if that practice is adhered to many of the problems on which he has commented would go away quite easily.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, before the Minister of Education intervenes in the debate, I would just like to make, I believe, four points on this Resolution that is before us. The first one relates to the question of security guards, and in so doing the Prime Minister speaking for the Ministry of Education indicated that some of these security guards would be allocated to St. Leonard's Schools. I would like to draw to the attention of this House that the provision of security guards alone will not deal with the problem of St. Leonard's which is a much more pressing problem including over-population on that particular site. The school is very much in need of additional facilities. Part of the school is now accommodated in the Deacons Farm, and very high on the list of priorities for additional schools was the provision of a secondary school at Ferniehurst, Deacons Road. The plans were drawn up. I believe that the Minister can tell us what is his timetable for providing this new school at Deacons Road, if in fact it is his intention to provide it. It was as I indicated, among the development plans for that school and I think it is only when we can bring the numbers on the Richmond compound down to a reasonable size that we can come to grips with this particular problem. That and the problem of enclosure of the school were two matters which were outstanding, and at least we had to leave something for the new Government to do in education, and maybe the Minister can tell us what he will do in these respects.

Secondly in respect of the Xerox Photo-copying machine there is not anything very much in this particular one. I think the public deserves better copies if this is the intention for immigration documents. I do not quite recall whether the cost to the public for these documents increased, but if in fact the cost went up, I would think that the public would deserve a better

service in this particular regard, and there is no quarrel over the rental of a Xerox Photo-copying machine. I believe other Government departments have the facility of the Xerox, and this would be most acceptable.

As far as Item (c) of the notes are concerned, this is to meet the expenses incurred in deportation. It may be fortuitous that at a time when we see letters from both parties appearing in the newspaper — I am not talking about political parties — the threats of deportation and the claim to the adequate protection of the laws of this country for any resident whether he is a national, a visitor or any such person, that we can see appearing before this House on this day a provision being called for for expenses to meet deportation. As I said, this may be fortuitous, but I believe somewhere along the line that great dramatist, William Shakespeare indicated, "When these things do so conjointly meet, let no man say such and such may be the reason." It is something along those lines, but when these things do so conjointly meet, we really wonder. But the first point I wish to make on this is that the Barbados Labour Party Government must stand criticised for forgetting in the 1977-78 Estimates to include provision for deportation.

1.45 p.m.

I am going by the note here, no provision was made in the Estimates 1977-78 to meet the expenditure incurred in deportations, and I would think that this is an omission on the part of the Government and they must get up and explain why for Estimates which were totally under their control that an important matter such as deportations, that according to this note here no provision was made in these Estimates. Whoever is responsible, I do not want any lurking behind any public officer, the convention on this particular matter is quite clear, the Minister must take full blame if there is an omission, and whoever the Minister is who may be responsible I do not want him to shirk behind the anonymity of the Public Service, he or she must take full blame. I do not think in this case the Minister of Health is involved. She is very delightfully looking and very delectable, and she is excluded from this, but the Minister, whoever is responsible for this omission must take the blame. Is it that they find now no funds, that they are threatening deportations and they find that there are no funds available to carry out these threats? I just throw that out, but whoever is responsible for the omission, let them take the blame for it, and they must not be afraid to get up and say, 'I regret'.

A general point, however, in respect of deportation, particularly political deportation, I would like to make, that in this country which is a democratic country I would hate to see the day when simply for

expressing an opinion or a viewpoint on social, political or economic matters, the full apparatus of the State is brought fully to bear on such a person in order to deport that person. We would like an assurance that this Government would not even contemplate using powers unless the laws of this country are being subverted or are being violated. I think this a fundamental matter of the basic freedoms in this country and the basic guarantees which any person, be he national, visitor, or resident, should be entitled to, and any assertions or innuendos or suggestions that because one might be born in St. Lucia or the Bahamas, Dominica or where else, we would like such an assurance on this particular matter.

That is as far as I go, I say no more, I leave it in those terms. I believe that the Prime Minister who has responsibility for defence and security will understand the terms in which I am speaking, and I would end by saying, Mr. Chairman, I am positive that he did not see that contortious letter, full of contortions, that was released from his office. I do not think that he could approve the issue of such a letter.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I would like to essay a few comments on some of the contributions that have been made so far, and particularly in regard to the provision of Security Guards in secondary schools, and the acts of vandalism which are being carried out in certain schools.

First of all, I would like to say that the amount of damage that we have estimated to be done to these schools during the past year is something in the region of \$¼ million. The cost of a new secondary school of 1,200 places is something now in excess of \$6 million, and with over \$5 million in equipment in those schools we feel that we have a very important responsibility to protect that kind of investment.

The hon. member for St. Michael South is usually telling us that we must not go back to situations that are of their creation, but rather that we should get on with the job. In this particular debate the hon. member for St. Michael South West has so clearly pointed out all the weaknesses in the system that was entirely of the creation of the previous Government, that it is not necessary for me to do so, but we are taking into consideration all that we found.....

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of explanation, if the Minister would give way. I took pains in my statement to point out that the environment surrounding the St. Leonard's Schools was there a long time before either one of the two Governments, but the St. Leonard's Secondary School was created in the 1950's.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, there was no overcrowding of the St. Leonard's Secondary Schools in the 1950's, nor in the 1950's was there the type of build up of residential areas around the school as obtains today, but that is beside the point.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I do not think the Minister of Education would like to mislead the House when he says there was no overcrowding in the St. Leonard's Schools in the 1950's. The Minister is misleading the House when he makes such a statement. There was overcrowding.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, the facts are that the increase in the build up of the schools at St. Leonard's happened in the 1960's and there are 40% more children in those schools in the 1970's than there were in the 1950's, and the hon. member for St. Michael South should know that, because he was Minister of Education for most of that period.

The Leader of the Opposition has suggested that the schools need Security Guards not only during the day but during the night. I would like to assure the hon. member that the St. Leonard's compound is the worst of any school group in Barbados, and there are Security Guards on service 24 hours a day. I hear a lot of talk about one Security Guard but there are in fact ten Security Guards assigned on a 24 hour basis at the St. Leonard's School complex.

The complaint as has been pointed out earlier in respect of these schools is nothing new. We have had, as far as I can see, for over a period of six years continuing complaints about the type of problems that we have been having in that compound. I share the views with other members that it is a phenomenon that cannot be ascribed to any particular political party or any particular group, and I am not seeking on this occasion to be pushing any such argument. However, I must remind hon. members that over the past two months I have been taking every opportunity I can, especially in addressing the schools themselves, to push the whole idea of the concept of the community school. Hon members will realise that in the past secondary schools were tidy little enclaves cut off from the rest of the society often girded with a lot of privilege and indeed a lot of snobbery. Therefore, it was difficult for the people in this community to relate on a day to day basis with the schools and what was happening in them. I have been trying over the past two months to see to what extent I can change this whole thinking in relation to the schools, and I have been urging on the schools, their staffs, the children, the Governing Bodies to allow the schools to reach out in the community and to embrace in a very real way some of the problems to try to come up with some of the solutions that are very much of advantage to this community.

1.55 p.m.

I recall that in my address to the Queen College Speech Day recently I threw a challenge to that school that it should take an interest in the John Beckles Day Nursery which almost fits into the school compound as a special project of the school. I also accept the arguments of hon. members that schools should be put to greater use by the whole community, and in the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party we spelt out in detail our plans for greater use of school buildings by the total community. But there has been a number of problems we have been encountering and I am sure that if hon. members consider the matter they will realise that with the type of difficulty we are facing at the moment it is under active consideration by my Ministry and the Ministry of Labour and Community Service to work out a programme for further utilization of these schools. But what we have been having up to now and over the past years is a situation in which the very people we are trying to cater to, the youth groups, are themselves the major agents of vandalism. I can think of several instances in the last four months when we made schools available to youth groups and they destroyed the furniture and left the chaos and disarray and in addition were very rude to the headteachers. We are spending about three quarters of a million dollars a year on these schools and a lot of this is caused through the very groups we are trying to help inflicting damage to the schools. But I also want to make the point that not all vandalism in schools is external, because there is a serious misconception in that area. A lot of vandalism to school buildings in Barbados is done by the very children in the school. It is not unusual for children to kick out doors and windows, destroy furniture etc., and all this is part of the general phenomenon of indiscipline not only in Barbados but in many countries these days. So when the hon. member for St. Lucy talks about security guards this is only scratching the surface; it is a question of wiping out vandalism. It is true that more security guards will limit the amount of vandalism taking place, but the Police Force in Barbados can never completely stamp out crime and social ills, so in my view more security guards will not completely wipe out vandalism. What I am happy to report is that since eighteen guards have been assigned to schools, ten on a round the clock basis at St. Leonards, there has been a marked decrease in the amount of damage to the physical plant of the school.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It has been drawn to my attention that it is now 2 o'clock. I must therefore report progress and ask leave to sit again.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chairman has reported progress and has asked leave to sit again. It is now 2 o'clock and this Sitting stands suspended until 2.45 p.m.
2.00 p.m.

On resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed. It is now Question Time (*A Pause*.) My advice is that there are no questions, so we go on to Private Members' Business.

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to state that the Item under Private Members Business is not ready and I would ask to have it deferred. I would not like to proceed with it today.

Mr. SPEAKER: There being no Private Members' Business, we go back to Government Business. When the suspension was taken, the House was in Committee of Supply; to that it now reverts.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. CHAIRMAN resumed the Chair.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I would like to address myself to one or two further points made by hon. members during this debate. The hon. member for St. Michael South made reference to the fact that plans had been prepared for the building of a school at Ferniehurst in Black Rock. But we feel that many of the problems we are facing at St. Leonards would be duplicated or triplicated if we built a school at Ferniehurst less than a mile away. We believe that there must be a rationalization of all the services of Government, whether in regard to schools, post offices, highways or whatever. We feel that rather than bring another 1,200 or 1,500 children less than a mile away from an already overcrowded area of St. Leonards — and indeed not far away is Ellerslie with a population of 1,700 — rather than bring a greater influx of children from the outer parishes into that area, our planning must take into consideration public transport, the buildup of residential areas, etc. So we do not now see Ferniehurst as a proper location in our planning. I must also say in this regard that an educational and industrial area was built up in Government Hill with much the same problems resulting as in the St. Leonards area. Over the past few years many schools have been built there — Springer Memorial, Charles Broome, Stow Primary — so that there is nowhere in Barbados where there is a greater concentration of school children than in the Government Hill area, with all the attendant problems. So we on this side concentrate on planning school buildings to bear some relation to the other services existing in the area. We know, for instance, in the Eden Lodge area, built up over the past two years by the Democratic Labour Party government, thousands of people were brought into that area with little or no consideration of the need of other services that must go hand in hand with the influx of population, and there are therefore primary schools in that area so crowded that it is almost impossible for the children to stand even inside the school, particularly at

the Montgomery School and Buxton School. This is an example of the type of uncoordinated planning in social services that has characterized the previous administration. Nobody should have built up the Eden Lodge area to that extent without consideration of available school places for children. We like to take these things into consideration and our school building programme will reflect these considerations.

2.55 p.m.

The hon. member for St. Michael South can be assured that Ferniehurst is something of the past. We are moving to St. James, and we are going to start building in the next few weeks the Secondary School at Trents. We find that a number of the children, who would be attending a school like Ferniehurst in the Black Rock area, would be moving North out of the City rather than people having to bring children from outside into the City. That, Mr. Chairman, is the best I can do for the question that was raised by the hon. member for St. Michael South.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, as is the habit with debates which are called first on the Order Paper in the House, this one has been long and somewhat ranged outside the immediate subjects which would at first sight appear to have excited the attention of members. We have had a number of points: cane cutters around the plantations, vandalism in Secondary Schools, the behaviour of the Police, who are alleged to settle private quarrels with the aid of their uniforms, the rights and wrongs of a school at Ferniehurst, although I may say that I very much welcome the opportunity which the Minister of Education has taken to indicate our views on the problem of school overcrowding in northern St. Michael. But to deal with the particular points which were more or less relevant, Sir, I would like to start with the contribution of the Leader of the Opposition, who asked if we have made checks about the cane cutters around the plantations. I think the Leader of the Opposition will know that the policing of immigrants, once they are inside this country, is a matter for the Royal Barbados Police Force. I have no doubt that the *Nation* newspaper is read and, perhaps, respected in the ranks of the Police Force rather more than it is in the ranks of the Opposition, and the attention which the hon. member invites to the article about possible immigrants living around possible plantations will have been taken note of by the Royal Barbados Police Force and they will deal with the matter.

However, it is only fair to remind hon. members that since we have been in power this Government has declared an amnesty for illegal immigrants. I know that amnesty is a very bad word with members of the Opposition, but nonetheless we have said that any

immigrant, legal or illegal, who was ordinarily resident in this country on September 1, 1975, will be entitled, if he comes from a Caricom country, to make application for residence now irrespective of the conditions of his original entry, or whether or not he broke those conditions. It may very well be, therefore, Mr. Chairman, that Vincentians who have entered this country as cane cutters in 1972, 1973 or 1974, and who managed to avoid going back to St. Vincent at the end of their contract and settled down into daily life in Barbados, can be the beneficiaries of the amnesty. Indeed, sometimes I think they do not know it themselves that such an amnesty exists and, therefore, may very well be living in Bridgetown and going out to the same plantation camps as they were accustomed to going to when they were first imported here.

I deplore any witch hunt, Sir, of any sort, and I would deplore the hon. members opposite opening a witch hunt on Vincentians and St. Lucians. I will defend as vigorously and as rigorously the right of the gentleman from St. Vincent to be in Barbados without being subjected to a witch hunt. I will tell you something, Mr. Chairman, such a defence will come a lot better from me than from the hon. member for St. Michael South. I have never at any moment expected that any of the views expressed by the Vincentian gentleman would find a cord of response in the breast of the hon. member for St. Michael South. I admire him for taking on the task at that level of defending the views of the *Nation's* former columnist.

With regard to Security Guards, Mr. Chairman, there was a question posed as to whether they are Barbadians. There is one Security Guard who is not a Barbadian. He is a Guyanese who was appointed Security Guard by the previous Government. The qualifications for becoming a Security Guard have been altered since we came into power. When we came into power the geographical distribution of the Security Guards suggested, to say the least, that one of the principal qualifications was to reside in a constituency in which the Democratic Labour Party held the seat; so that in the majority of the Security Guards an unnatural proportion came from the parishes of St. Philip and St. John. Some of the parishes, St. Peter I seem to recall, did not have a single Security Guard. St. Thomas had three; St. James had seven; the City had none at all, but the constituencies held by the Democratic Labour Party enjoyed the Security Guard Service to the full. Those conditions have been altered. We have made it obligatory to get a pass mark in the examinations before you become a Security Guard, and appointments to the Service are exclusively as a result of the score which you take in an examination. The Security Guard Service is being professionalised. There are persons in the Security Guard Service who have the qualifications for entry into the Clerical Branch of the Public Service. There are

persons with 'O' Levels. Indeed, I must say when they take the examinations you can almost pick them out, because their marks tend to be higher than persons who have not been so fortunate at other examiners' hands. It is exclusively on the basis of a competitive examination and the results of the training that Security Guards are selected. When they go for training their task is not yet over, because if they prove unsuitable for the training they will, indeed, be failed at that level. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that after hearing this debate hon. members as well as the public will be much better informed about the quality which we are trying to bring into the Security Guard Service and the Public Service of the Island.

Mr. Chairman, I really will not deal with the school buildings at any length, bearing in mind the number of persons who know more about the matter than the Minister of Defence could know who have spoken, but I would just say this again about the use of groups. I am surprised to hear the hon. member for St. Lucy ask about the use of school buildings by groups. There is no barrier whatsoever, political or otherwise, to any organised Youth Group, Political Party Group, Union Extension Programme of any sort, in using a school building.
3.05 p.m.

I do know that the fact that this is the policy may not have trickled down at every level. Let me assure the hon. member that it has been reported to me by branch secretaries of my own political party that they are getting difficulty getting a school to use for branch meetings under certain conditions. There is nothing political about it; it is just that the machinery perhaps grinds a little more slowly than it should because the machinery tends to be decentralised. You have to go through the headteacher and go through the Ministry. I hear a voice on my right indicating that it is the headteachers that support the Opposition that give the trouble. I am not going too far as to say that. I believe that there is friction inherent in any situation where the Ministry can grant a licence to use a school, but the keys to the school, the services of the janitor and so on are controlled by somebody else who may not be in daily contact with the Ministry that grants permission. I think it is a small matter and one which the hon. member can probably solve by taking it up with the appropriate Ministry at a personal level.

The hon. member for Christ Church North Central, the Chairman of the Tourist Board, has raised the question of the \$20 fee for extension of immigration permission and hon. members have asked about giving work permits at the airport and asking if you do not pay at the airport why do you have to pay when you go for an extension. The Act is really very simple because an immigration officer is permitted without former

application to allow anybody into this country. He is in fact given very wide powers, but those powers are limited by ministerial direction. When you arrive at the airport, he can let you in, write in your passport however much time it is you ask for and he considers safe to give you and that is that, no fee. But Section 13(3) of the Immigration Act indicates that the holder of a permit issued under previous subsections who wishes to remain in Barbados for a period longer than that specified in the permit or to have the conditions specified in the permit varied, shall apply for the purpose to the Chief Immigration Officer in the prescribed form. As soon as you get into forms, you know that every form you fill out you have to cross his palm with gold, so to speak, and it takes money to submit the application. This is what has unfortunately happened to many persons who have been on the receiving end of the enforcement of this provision since October, 1977, because it is only since October 1977 that we have been so strict in collecting fees for all applications for extension, and the fee is \$20 just as the hon. member says. But there is a reason for this. We have found as all hon. members who have ever had anything to do with immigration have found that there is great pressure on immigration officers. There is great pressure on anybody who has anything to do with immigration. Foreigners in this country, used in the widest sense, appear to constitute a more vocal and vigorous pressure group than any comparable body of Barbadians. When the hon. member for St. Michael North Central was Minister for Immigration many years ago, during his short tenure of that office, I remember him defending himself here on the floor of the House and indicating how he had Englishmen driving in his yard on a Sunday afternoon when he was trying to rest and demanding from him that their work permits be extended. He successfully, I think, stand out the more flagrant of the open appeals to Ministers. It is possible that more hidden appeals may well have continued in other quarters, but despite that, the question has still continued, and we think it wise to take a little bit of the heat off those who immediately have to deal with it, who are the actual immigration officers, and we like to think that the relatively small number of applications for extension can be dealt with in the Ministry in many cases and more appropriately dealt with. I do not want to labour the point but people who talk about abuses at Immigration Officer level are invariably talking about immigrants who go to the Immigration Officer and try to get a little deal done to accommodate them for longer periods in Barbados than the Ministry had originally granted them. We think that particularising the forms and sharpening up the procedure will have the beneficial effect of taking away some of these pressures.

To give the figures for the whole of 1977 there were only 188 applications for extension of time in Barbados. It is a very small number; it is less than one percent of all the people that came to the island in that

year, and the total fees levied for the whole year amounted to \$3,760. For some reason, I cannot really tell you why, there has been an upsurge in immigration activities during 1978. We have granted as many well founded applications for residence already this year as in any previous six months of any previous year, and we have already had 242 applications for varying the length of stay. I myself have regarded it as a tribute to the qualities of the sun, sand, and the friendliness of Barbadian life and the new freedom that we enjoy under the system of open Government, and I would like to think that this is responsible for this great expansion in the applications for extension of time to be in Barbados. But it is being investigated why there has been this sudden upsurge of an interest in staying longer in Barbados than formerly. It may only be that we are tightening the regulations and therefore people who took a chance before are not taking a chance now, but even taking this very high figure which has brought in a revenue so far this year of \$4,840, we still get a very small number compared to the number of people that enter Barbados. The number of people that move into Barbados during January must exceed 25,000 and even if you assume that the 242 are all drawn from the ranks of that 25,000, you are still only at 1%; so I do not think that the hon. member, the Chairman of the Tourist Board, is dealing with a large problem when he draws it to our attention. I hear hon. members suggesting that he is not capable of dealing with a large problem, and I will repeat the words because I would like to know how they characterise their own Cabinet who presided over the only fall in tourists to come to this country when never before in the history of this island have the promotion efforts of the Tourist Board reached the level that they have under the hon. member for Christ Church North Central. I would like to know how they characterise their own shortcomings if they are going to look at a man who has done for tourism what the whole lot of them was incapable of doing in their years of mal-administration, and how they look at their cabinet in the light of his achievements. But I do not wish to be diverted.

Certain steps have already been taken to deal with the problem. I propose as soon as possible to issue the necessary directions to allow visitors who previously were normally given a three week permission to be in the island upon entry at the airport, that would include most visitors from North America, another week in the normal way as long as the validity of their airplane tickets covers a month or more. In future we will be seeking to allow them one month instead of three weeks because the number of the extensions are in fact only for one week, and we will see how this works and whether a month is long enough, and whether there is any indication of abuse, and we very much hope that this will not make it necessary for further applications.

On the question of work permits at the airport, work permits are not granted at the airport and the fears

of the hon. member for St. Michael South West may therefore be set at rest.
3.15 p.m.

However, we do grant blanket permission to various organisations which have branches in other territories, principally Trinidad as he rightly points out, but also St. Lucia and one or two other places, to bring in up to a year at a time, or indeed in one case up to two years at a time, a computer engineer or technologist of some sort, and we really do not make any enquiry as to his qualifications. If they want to bring in a computer technologist who is not qualified to repair the computer, well it is up to them and their computer as far as we are concerned. If it became an abuse, and all these cases are carefully analysed, we would stop it and insist on local employment, but we genuinely think that we are confining this type of permission to cases where it could not be economic to maintain technical personnel in each island in the Caribbean when in fact one man could cover the whole territory.

Barbados contains a number of regional head offices with persons who possess particular skills that are required to travel all over the Caribbean. We possess these in the area of banking, in various areas, Sir, and we would be cutting off our noses to spite our faces if we sought to deny this relatively limited privilege to foreigners, because we would only be spiting others to make difficulty for the Barbadians and Barbadian based personnel who travel about.

Mr. Chairman, that seemed to me to be virtually the last matter of substance that arose in the debate from the Opposition, but since with his keen eye for the pre-luncheon headlines the hon. member for St. Michael South has selected in a somewhat oblique manner the issue of a controversial gentleman who we are all engaged in building up into a boo boo man when he is really no more than a boo boo boy, I will comment on the matters of freedom of speech which the hon. member for St. Michael South raised with such vigour.

I will draw a veil over the past, Mr. Chairman, I will not remind hon. members that when the privilege of free speech was sought by Carmen Bailey — and all she wanted to do was to give evidence in court about two members of the former Cabinet, the promises they had made to her of different sorts — I will draw a veil over her deportation, over her seclusion at District C Police Station, *in communicado*, over her being spirited on to an aeroplane from which she was rescued only by a threat which proved to have no more substance than the threats that have been offered to other non-citizens of this country recently, I will draw a veil over the victimisation of Carmen Bailey, the only person against whom a

specific order under the Expulsion of Undesirables Act has ever been made in living memory, and I will just say this.

The Government of this island in the face of weighty provocation, because it is no small matter in any country when a non-national not only jumps foot first into politics, takes his foot out of his mouth long enough to get it into the political stew of this island or any country, it is no small matter when in addition to that he reflects on the character, he reflects on the interest and the motives of members of the Government — let us not forget that the Minister of Labour was accused of dishonest motives for appointing a committee to enquire into worker participation in industry. We solemnly put down in our Manifesto that we believe in worker participation in the management of industry, we appoint a committee as set out in our Manifesto, and we are accused of bad faith for doing it by a non-resident. Other Ministers have similarly been accused of bad faith and bad motive, and this Government has sat down under all that and smiled and took it. There are very few countries where this happens. Canada, one of the most liberal countries in the world, could not take Rosie Douglas for ever. In Britain, another very liberal country, Philip Agee was put out for criticising not even a British institution but for criticising the Central Intelligence Agency, and I believe he has since been put out of Holland also for criticising the Central Intelligence Agency, and we have shown ourselves, I think, very more liberal than all these and we will continue to show ourselves liberal in this regard.

I cannot accept that there is any fundamental human right which says that you can go to anybody's country and behave as you like, but we have allowed it in Barbados. There is no possibility of a foreigner who behaved to the Democratic Labour Party when it was in power, and specifically to its Leader, as certain people have behaved to us remaining in this country. Inoffensive foreigners have been put out for less. Do you forget John Crocker, the journalist, whose only sin was to tell the truth about the hon. member for St. John, and he was detained at the airport by police and hustled out on an aeroplane and refused permission to carry on the office of an international news agency here in Barbados. So we do not need any instruction from hon. members opposite on how to tolerate free speech.

You talk about running down people who hold Marxist views. Senator Connell when he arrived in this country by ship at the Bridgetown Harbour in the year, I think 1964 or 1965, when the Democratic Labour party was in power, was detained at the Harbour for five hours, his entire baggage was torn apart, Communist literature found in his baggage was confiscated, and he was a Barbadian, and this was done to him by the Minister of Home Affairs of the Democratic Labour Party acting on

information received from abroad that Connell had been a Communist in England, and through lack of pride he finds himself now in the bosom of the very vipers who sought to destroy him, running about looking for a political party to join, after he and his wife — because he used to emphasise this when he complained about it — after they were searched here in Barbados, a Barbadian here in Barbados, for suspected adherence to communism by that party, you now hear him defending all of a sudden the right to express those views from the ranks of that party, so we do not need any lessons whatsoever.

We have one rule. If a person is a security risk, if a person is proven to be a security risk, the security forces have a certain latitude to give advice to those concerned. I would not go any further than that; that is all, and I think that this is something which should be accepted by a former Attorney General like the Leader of the Opposition.

In 1970 at the height of the Black Power disturbances when Mr. Geddes Granger and Mr. George Weekes — and one other Trinidadian was involved — Clive Nunez, sought to come here, a political meeting had been arranged for them to address and they were forbidden to come here.

3.25 p.m.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of explanation, they were allowed to come in but not to address the meeting. They could come in and enjoy themselves, enjoy the hospitality of Barbados. They came in and were at Brighton Beach and could swim and enjoy themselves but they did not have any right to address any meeting.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the memory of the Leader of the Opposition is as unstable as his principles in this matter. Granger and the others did not arrive here. Stokeley Carmichael came here and was followed by the security police every minute of the day and night. The only time that Gonsalves has ever been followed by the police is when he asked for protection. If every hon. member on this side asked for protection every time he received a threat, the Minister responsible for Police would have to ask for a 20% increase in the police allocation. A message has been sent to me from Sydney Alleyne informing me that a then member of the House of Assembly had asked him to take out a contract on me. And I didn't ask for police protection, I regarded it at the time and in the context as a waste of time, because the hon. member would not pay anyhow; he never pays his debts. But we have leaned over backwards to accommodate left wing views in this matter; we have leaned over backwards to accommodate the expression of these views; we have put absolutely no barrier; we have given access to the television; as a matter of fact, I think hon. members opposite can have a gripe because they

have not had the same access through television as these trivial figures of the left minority. I believe there are hon. members opposite who might have something to say, views to be put forward backed by 46% of the Barbados electorate. I have never heard anybody invite the Leader of the Opposition to take part in a panel discussion for the purpose of expressing his political philosophy; or the hon. member for St. Michael South West, an articulate man; indeed, if words were all that were required, he would be the greatest Minister in this country.

Mr. GREAVES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the hon. Prime Minister would care to explain the incident involving one Miss Carmeta Fraser....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order, please take your seat.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I do not believe anybody in Barbados, barring the lady's closest friends, really regard her as an authority on the subject which was cited. What can I possibly say? I am at a loss for words. I am standing up here fighting back comments which I could make if I was in private company. All I can say is that the lady concerned appears on television often on the subject of food. Do you mean to say that the television station is not entitled to prefer her to speak on food rather than on the subject of abortion? She is considered one of the leading exponents of West Indian recipes and nobody can say that she suffers any discrimination when it comes to television. I know her only from television; I do not believe I have ever seen the lady in my life. (*Asides*).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Hon. members may not realize that I have lived a very sheltered life. I have never seen the lady; maybe she does loom larger than life to hon. members of the opposite side, but I can assure you that there are two people in this country who are fairly well-known but whom I have never seen — Miss Fraser is one and Dr. Gonsalves is the other. I have never seen him in my life, not even on television. The hon. member for Christ Church West is laughing at my good fortune.

But let us not get into trivialities with these matters. Instead of sniping at each other with a lot of partisan politics, we should be seriously considering our responsibilities to the public. We are letting a few drops of froth on the great main stream of Barbadian political life and thought occupy the attention of the public in Barbados and in a wider area than Barbados. We are all talking about our views. We know what our views are, and our views have made this Island a stable and cohesive place where the Government can change and where progress can be achieved without violence. None of us in

here has ever found it necessary to resort to Marxist trivialities and common-places to explain how we feel about the principles of socialist democracy, and it is time that we all stood up and be counted in this matter. We cannot allow these things to become trivial matters of gossip; leave that to newspapers that are looking for controversy. As I have said in another place, nine days wonders go away after the tenth day. Everybody in here knows that the right to free speech is respected, perhaps more now than a few years ago when things began to get a little bitter. I hope it will continue to be respected in the future at the same level as it is now. We all have a fair idea now how far we will allow a visitor to the country to conduct himself. We let them go a lot further here and I myself do not renege in anyway from the principles expressed by the hon. member for St. Michael South. I do not doubt his sincerity but I would say that the object of his sincerity in the light of the records of this party is a good deal safer now in our hands than it has ever been when they were in power.

Mr. Chairman, this debate must have taken us up almost the three hours. And let us have a proper count this time; I would not like any hon. member to be stopped by the false count of his colleagues as happened last time. We have really spent a great deal of time on matters which in total only amount to a few dollars, a total of only \$33,000, and I think at this stage I must move that Head 7(1) stand part.
3.35 p.m.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister did not respond to the question as to whether the vote was left out altogether and, if so, why. I am sure he did not do it deliberately.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am sorry, Sir. There is really such a simple explanation to that that, although I did not do it deliberately, had I considered the matter, I might have reflected that it would be better to save the hon. member who raised it the embarrassment of an answer. What, in fact, has happened is that the hon. member is not aware of the classification of a vote such as the Deportation Expenses. It is part of Operating Expenses, and the note to the effect that no money was provided for deportation is only a different way of saying that insufficient money was provided for Operating Expenses. You cannot deport people in the Ministry of Defence and Security by using the Operating Expenses vote of another Ministry. It really is quite simple. The vote for Operating Expenses was too small. There is no specific vote for deportation.

If hon. members look at the classification they will see that the supplement of Operating Expenses covers uniforms, the rental of a Xerox machine, and deportation. It is only a way of saying that, when the calculation was

made, no account was taken of deportation. That is very simple.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I do not appreciate the Prime Minister getting up ...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you making a speech?

Mr. TAITT: I am entitled to raise a question on this, Mr. Chairman. We are still in Committee, as far as I know.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us hear you.

Mr. TAITT: I do not understand why the Prime Minister would have to get up and say he was going to spare me the embarrassment of giving an answer. The English language here says:

"No provision was made in the estimates 1977-78 to meet the expenses incurred in deportations."

I raised this question on the Floor of the House. My colleague, the member for St. Michael South, expanded on it and said that if it were an error, it was a grave error, or words to that effect.

Now we asked a simple question and up jumps the Minister of Finance and starts in his context of using words for the sake of hearing words, and talking about his wanting to spare somebody embarrassment. Mr. Chairman, if it says that no provision was made, then in the English language it means that no provision was made. If he knows what the explanation is and he keeps it to his breast, we are entitled to know what it means. I think that his choice of words on this occasion was most unfortunate.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I do not really want any cross-talk. An hon. member gets up and says, "he did not deal with this point. I am sure it was not deliberate." He is now objecting when his sarcasm is met with sarcasm? One of the earliest things you have to learn in school is not to give blows if you cannot take them. He wished to be sarcastic to me, and he got back an answer.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, if I wanted to be sarcastic to him, I would not do it that way.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please be seated! Please be seated! The time is up for the debate on this Item. I will put the question.

The question that Head 7(1) stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairnam, I do not like your saying that the time is up, because my calculation is that the time is not up. The debate is finished, but do not tell me that the time is up.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will you, please, be seated!

MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING –
HEAD 9(1) – DIRECTION AND POLICY
FORMULATION

Item 2 – Other Personal Emoluments – \$60,000.

Head 9(1) – Direction and Policy Formulation – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sir, I will not be very long on this. The Ministry of Finance and Planning has expanded its activities somewhat during the year. We have taken, at least, one revenue-earning Department from another Ministry, that is the Ministry of Trade, and we have added one or two Heads of Revenue which have necessitated the employment of another Revenue Officer, and another Budget Officer, we are currently in the throes of winding up the extent of the Technical Assistance Programme that we were getting from Canada in connection with the Public Investment Unit and, therefore, there have been heavier calls on staff than should have been anticipated on the start of the Financial Year. We are, therefore, asking for Head 9(1) – Item 2 – to be supplemented by \$60,000.

I beg to move that Head 9(1) stand part.

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

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

MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL –
HEAD 11(1) – DIRECTION AND
POLICY FORMULATION

Ministry of the Attorney General – Head 11(1) – Direction and Policy Formulation – was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I think the notes to this Head set out quite clearly the reason why a supplementary is called for. I would just like to deal, perhaps, with Item 13. We have set up in the Ministry of the Attorney General a Law Reform and Law Revision Section, and it is proposed to staff this section with three Parliamentary Counsel; hence, we are seeking permission to provide furniture for these Counsel. I hope shortly to be in a position to announce the names of the Law Reform Committee. I have been waiting for a reply from the Bar Association with their names and also a reply from the Chief Justice, since it is hoped that the Chief Justice or one of the Judges would head the Committee.

In the meantime the Section has been engaged on a revision of the Laws, and I am hoping that the Revised Laws up to the 31st December, 1976, will be in the Island by the end of May. I will, thereafter, try to keep the Laws revised on an annual basis. In the meantime, also, we have been working on Law Reform. We have circulated a new Bill on reforming the Law on Defamation, and in keeping with our undertaking to give some protection in the Law of Privacy we have incorporated those provisions. I must state that it is in discussion draft at this stage and it has not got the approval of Cabinet, so that the final provision may vary to some extent from those which we have circulated. In addition, I should shortly be circulating about eleven Bills which will reform the whole area of Land Law.

I would expect, Mr. Chairman, that with added staff, assuming we can recruit added staff, we would be able to step up our emphasis on Law Reform. I will, however, say that it is becoming increasingly difficult to attract Barbadians into the Legal Service of this Island. In fact, during 1977 only two Barbadians graduated from the Law Schools in the Caribbean. One has gone into private practice, and the other is a Diplomat. This year it is expected that six will graduate, but I do not anticipate that any of them will wish to come into the Legal Service. Unless we are able to do something concrete about the situation, it seems to me that in years to come the whole of the Legal Service of Barbados will not have in any Barbadians.

3.45 p.m.

We are finding it difficult too to keep Barbadians in the Service and indeed at the moment despite the fact that we may have vacancies, we do not have bodies to fill those vacancies, and hon. members must therefore be patient if the pace at which we expect to work in law reform is not as fast as it looks. I am going to do as much as I can for as long as I can, but I am really not promising people to make bricks out of straw. I think we have to recognise in this country that law reform has a social developmental role, a very important role as important as some of the other areas for whom we have given this role, but it has been a neglected area of Government for too long a time. Successive Ministers of Finance have probably not looked at the law in the way it should be looked at because everybody believes it has been an easy field that one can do without any problems. A lot of us are lawyers and therefore we have some knowledge of the law and we never believe it is a difficult practice, a difficult profession outside of ourselves, and hence the attitude to the law has been one mostly of denigration and of contempt. I hope I can change that within the time that I remain in Government, but it is a massive task, and I am not making any bones about it. It is a massive task for the

simple reason that very little if anything at all has been done.

Let me say that last year my Department produced 65 Bills; the United Kingdom Parliament produced 63 Bills with more staff than we have including staff available to Parliament. Last year we produced almost 300 bits of subsidiary legislation; the United Kingdom did not produce that amount. I just want to give this as an area, but in the whole gamut, Government legal services have increased for the past few years and are continuing to increase. I make no bones about saying that; not only am I doing policy in the Department but I am being a technician as well, and I make the point because sometimes I am having to say to my brother Ministers that they have to be patient. It is impossible for us to do more than is physically possible. I have members of my staff working almost every week-end in the legal section, and as Government becomes more and more involved in the commercial areas, so we are called upon to give much more service. I make no apologies for saying that none of the Attorneys-General since Independence has worked as hard as I work as Attorney General in that Department, not that they have not worked hard, and we are going to continue to work hard and I will give as much assistance as I can; but it is a very wide area of problems that we have and yet I hope that at the end of this year the House can be well satisfied that quite a lot of reform will go on.

If I state a little bit about the law reform again, in 1971 the Laws were revised up to 1971. We were supposed to get them revised and to keep them revised annually, but that has not been done. I am doing it now, Mr. Chairman, with a great deal of sacrifice of the time of people who are working up there, but I am hoping and I really believe we will keep this date that by the end of May hon. members will be able to open their book here and find the Laws of Barbados stated at least up to 31st December, 1976 and for any further amendments they will merely have to look at last year's Act and by June we hope to start doing the 1977 revision as well. Probably another opportunity will be provided for me to go a little more deeply into the plans for the Department.

Let me say that for the first time I had the pleasure of receiving the Leader of the Opposition in his capacity as President of the Bar Association, and I think I candidly disclosed to him the plans which I had as Attorney General for the development of the legal services in this Island, and I am looking forward to the cooperation of the Bar as much as they can give, but I hope it will be much more than the Bar has given before.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I just want to make one comment which perhaps might not be relevant, but it deals with travelling and subsistence. I have been informed though probably I should not say reliably, that it is proposed that Slims should drive Sir Herbert Duffus a week or two. All I can do is to counsel the Government that they should not adopt that type of situation if they do propose it. I am just throwing out a warning to tell you what I have heard, and I want to warn the Government that it would not be fair to Sir Herbert Duffus.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, the question of travelling and subsistence under this item has nothing to do with Sir Herbert Duffus. This Ministry has no responsibility for the appointments of Commissions, and if the hon. member is going to bring the House of Assembly into a rumour shop, then I think we could as well pack up. I am surprised at the hon. member using his privileges in a manner in which he has just used them, and I do not think he should be allowed to get away with it. We cannot conduct debates at a high level if the hon. member is well in breach of the Rules of this House, knowing that it has nothing to do with this Head, is going to get up and put in a comment that he believes might be attractive to people, and I want to say that if the Press — if he thinks he is going to get some Press report — do not carry the full report, I am going to report them to the West Indian Press Council if they report him and do not report this because his point was irrelevant, it was out of order, it was in bad taste and he knew it.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, it is a bit disturbing to hear from the mouth of the Hon. Attorney General that there is some difficulty in recruiting Barbadian lawyers into the Government Service, and looking to the future, we may very well reach a position where the Legal Department or the posts requiring lawyers will be filled by foreigners. I would like to use this opportunity to invite the hon. Attorney General to look at the question of the structure of legal education in the West Indies as it now affects Barbadians. I think this matter has been raised before. As a man of ability and a general concern for underprivileged people and other people of the society, I believe he will be able to look very carefully at this matter and see in what manner it is putting constraints on the turning out of adequate numbers of Barbadian lawyers. As I understand it, after a person goes here to Cave Hill and completes three years, he then has to move on to Trinidad for an additional two years, and from my recollections Barbadians who have gone on to Trinidad have had lot of problems usually financial, but some may be otherwise, in completing this two year course.

Now when one looks at the training of lawyers in other parts of the Commonwealth, this constraint of three

years at the Law School and then you go to Trinidad, you do not find in some of the other Commonwealth countries. One starts wondering if the arrangement of the course would not be a sort of disincentive to many other Barbadians especially those of limited resources who may very well want to pursue studies in law, because when you look back over the years there have been many Barbadians who went to Britain not the recipient of scholarships or of funds from the Government or other benevolent organisations but who by working hard and studying in the evening or on other occasions when they were not working, have been able to qualify not only in law but in many other areas without having to call on their parents or any other person to assist them financially.

Now the situation as it now obtains here makes it difficult for Barbadians of limited resources to pursue law to its conclusion because of the lack of having ready cash, and it is very likely that those people who may very well have the money to pursue studies in law may be looking to other avenues for studying and subsequently qualifying professionally.
3.55 p.m.

I think that something should be done to ease this burden on people, maybe those who are already there and those who would like to go there, because from my experience as Minister of Home Affairs I did have a couple of cases brought to my attention of people who were finding it rather difficult to go to Trinidad due to the lack of funds, and when you look at the whole question of availability of Barbadian lawyers I would like to find out at some time from the Attorney General if this approach to the training of legal people may not have something to do with the scarcity that you are now experiencing in Barbadians doing law and hence with the filling of posts that require these people.

Sir, it may not be easy to make the changes because you may have to get the concurrence of many other countries, but it does strike me a bit strange that when you look at medicine a person is only required to do one year internship before they can qualify fully, and I would like to hear from the Attorney General what are the reasons behind this method whereby a person after studying for three years then has to go to Trinidad for two years before they can practise law. I am well aware of the fact that if you do not want to practise law after you have completed your three years successfully you may go and teach or something like that, but I do believe also that many people having successfully completed the three year course would also like to complete the two year course because they do not know when they may decide to take the plunge into the practical side and practise in the courts, and I would like to get a response from the hon. member on this matter.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, just let me add my voice to that of my colleague who has just spoken on this matter and say that I support what he has said. I know of one case where the gentleman has done extremely well, or reasonably well at his studies at Cave Hill and has obtained the LL.B., a good degree. He has had extreme difficulty getting to Trinidad to do the professional training which is a two year course only because he is not exactly rich, and I am told that particular individual is considerably worried that he is getting older and the opportunity of becoming a lawyer seems to be eluding him.

The Students Loan Scheme apparently does not take account of cases such as this. Certainly persons going to study law do not seem to be able to get at least as a priority money from the Students Revolving Loan Fund, and it would seem when the professional people who were setting up the requirements for a lawyer sat down that they intended, quite rightly, I think, to ensure that those persons who initially were licensed to practise law were persons who were not narrow in their concept, who had a broad outlook and who at the same time would have higher professional training than what those people who set up the law scheme appeared to have felt that they themselves had had, and therefore nobody is questioning the initial attitude for the setting up of the highest possible standard for the training of lawyers, but after this scheme has been functioning for some time we have probably reached a point where we have to re-assess the total attitude to the learning of law.

There are a number of young people, certainly I know of about six or seven young people in my constituency, all of them come from poor families, they have all done well in their 'A' Levels, some of them are at Cave Hill, and all of them are interested in becoming lawyers, not necessarily to practise in the courts, but invariably when we start to talk about their careers they raise the question, where are we going to find the money to go to Trinidad or Jamaica for the two year period, and so I think the point my colleague raised is a very important point in the context of what the Hon. Attorney General has said about the shortage of Barbadian lawyers, especially in the legal service over the next few years, and I look forward to hearing his response on this.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, on the points made by both hon. members on the opposite side, I believe that there was a former Cabinet decision which precluded the Government from paying for students who went on to the Law School, and indeed we do not pay the full economic costs either of those at Cave Hill, they have to pull their pockets and pay tuition fees. This was different from all other students who went to Cave Hill

and who went on to the School of Law in Jamaica or in Trinidad and Tobago.

A decision has been taken that in future Government will pay the full economic costs for Barbadians attending the Faculty of Law or the School of Legal Education in Trinidad and Tobago or in Jamaica, and the Minister of Education who is our representative on the Council of Legal Education two months ago gave his word to the Council on this point. So that there will be no discrimination against law students. I may incidentally, for what it is worth, tell hon. members that this carries out another of the promises in the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party. We will do it within the constraints of the economy, but we will do it as fast as we can, but this was an undertaking given. However, I do not think that this by itself will solve the problem.

One other point which the hon. member made which is true. People who are doing law cannot for their living expenses, for instance, in Trinidad and Tobago borrow from the Students Revolving Loan Fund, and this is because in the terms and conditions between the IADB and the Government law was not treated as a developmental subject, and indeed I believe that we are having problems convincing lending institutions that law has this type of aspect to it. I am hopeful that we may be able to change their views, but it is going to be an uphill task to get that done. One of the solutions which we have discussed at Cabinet and which I am mandated to try is a solution in which we will make funds available from the Training Fund and otherwise to people but on a bonding system. In other words, you will have to come back and work with the Government; if you do not you pay back the full amount, but if you pay you get a percentage off for the amount of time that you work. I still do not believe, frankly, that that is going to cure the whole problem, and indeed we will have some time to wait for the simple reason, Mr. Chairman, that the supply and demand situation for lawyers in the Caribbean – and this was true of Jamaica up to probably two years ago – is that the amount of money available to pay a lawyer in the Public Service has no relationship to the average earnings of lawyers at the private Bar. This is so. Now that I have been in the Attorney General's Chambers I can say that a young lawyer coming into the Attorney General's Chambers is probably going to have a 300% better opportunity to see a wider range of problems and to improve his knowledge of the law than a person going to the private Bar will have. Very few of us at the private Bar had an opportunity to do a wide range of things.

4.05 p.m.

But when it comes to remunerations, the person in Government service is not rewarded adequately when compared with persons of similar qualifications and experience at the private level, and indeed I would say I have in my Chambers people like the Solicitor General whose take home pay is chicken feed to people at the top of the Bar in this country — even at the bottom of the Bar — and I make bold to say that there is no one in private practice who has the ability and range of knowledge and experience of Mr. Oliver Browne, the Solicitor General. I make no bones about this, in terms of the range of things he has done. The Leader of the Opposition, himself a former Attorney General can tell you this. All of us have relied very heavily on Mr. Browne for the range of work he does in this country. He is without doubt one of the outstanding legal people in this country today, and I regret to say that under pressure of work he has had to take time off; the doctors had to send him home. He is top civil service adviser to the Government; in any thing major he is there, he does administration as well and he very often has to lead Government delegations overseas. Even although he is ill now he has had to go with a team overseas to a law of the Sea conference. Sometimes we may negotiate a contract for the Government involving perhaps \$20 million but his salary is not going to go up because of that. But somebody at the private Bar may get as high as \$20,000, if not \$30,000, for such negotiations. One of the lawyers in the Attorney General's Chambers may go down and do the Telephone Company's rate case but would not get any extra remuneration but private counsel may get \$15,000 or more (I hear someone say \$40,000). And I say this without fear of contradiction and not in criticism of the present Prime Minister, but the Civil Service Establishment, especially the Chief Establishment Officer, believes that lawyers should be kept where all the other administrative people are kept, and they believe that regardless of what is happening with the law of supply and demand that if they cannot keep these people they will recruit people from other countries, even without the necessary experience. And I am not in future going to kill myself anymore than I have been doing, and I have told the Ministers quite clearly they will get my opinion and their bills when I can find the time to read them; but I am not going to remain in any service if I do not have the material to work with. I am making no bones about it, for I speak my mind to the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister as plainly as to hon. members. The point is that one must recognize that we are in a supply and demand situation and you cannot go on believing that you can keep people in the legal service when they are aware of the disparities. One officer is leaving my department now to go into private practice. Another one is leaving to join the firm of Smith and Smith because the Government cannot pay

her. So I am saying that unless I have people to do the work, it cannot be done.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, is it correct for the hon. Attorney General to be advertising private firms?

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I have been very proud to be able to assist the Leader of the Opposition with legal knowledge even by providing an outstanding officer. But the point is that the position of supply and demand has altered considerably the availability of legal personnel. With seven lawyers on the Government side here leaving private practice to become members of the Government there has been a tremendous gap left which has not yet been filled. Despite the points made by the hon. member for St. Michael South on public platforms — I don't know why he did not bring a Resolution in here about the Attorney General's practising — they can say anything, I want to debate it and would like a debate on it on the floor of the House or anywhere; but in spite all that, let me say again that it is difficult to recruit people to the Government in the legal service.

I will try to look at the point made by the hon. member for St. Michael North Central. In fact, already at the St. Kitts conference we had looked at the possibility of trying to cut down the training period and one of the probable approaches would be to have the training period reduced from five years to four. The provision of money by way of scholarships and bonds will be necessary, and the recent steps taken by the Minister of Education to pay the economic costs at Cave Hill and at St. Augustine will go in some way to answer the problem. But the major problem in the immediate future is to find some method of remuneration which will keep within the public service those people who would like to stay there but cannot do so under present conditions.

There are two categories of persons whom the Establishment does not seem to want to pay too well. One category is the politician and the other the legal officers of the Government. The doctors can get private practice; the engineers can do it, the architects can do it. But if you suggest that it can be given to my legal officers, you get the senior officers in the public service turning up their noses. And when it comes to politicians raising their salaries, the public seems to expect the position to be the same, no matter how hard they work. And I make the point that you have to educate the public, including the Press. There is no businessman in town who works as hard as the Prime Minister or any other Minister on this side. None of them has the range of responsibility, and the public must recognize this. If, for instance, this year or next year we came

and said that there should be an increase in salary for people who are in political life, you will hear how we are taking the people for a ride. The Civil Service has the same attitude towards lawyers; they do not think they are worth a penny. And being a lawyer and in the Government at the same compounds the situation. But I want to make the point quite clear that you are going to get public service from a few people like Oliver Browne. But everybody is not going to be an Oliver Browne seeing what is going on in the law of supply and demand.

The question that Head 11(1) stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

4.15 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1977-78 No. 29

The Resolution to grant the sum of \$891,295 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1977-78, Part II - Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1977-78, No. 29 which form the Schedule to the Resolution - was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. Adams: Mr. Chairman, the Addendum to this Resolution shows very clearly what it is all about. The kitchen equipment has been there for some years - two years, perhaps, some of it, and no work has been done. There has been a lot of toing and froing between M.C.W. and the Regiment itself, but we are now hoping to associate the Regiment with the construction of the kitchen. It is anticipated that a useful object lesson may be provided of the peaceful pursuits which may engage the Defence Force in this particular matter and the effect of discipline on achievement. We are hoping that the example of the soldier artisans who participate in this matter may be of some assistance to public servants.

While I am on this subject, Sir, I want to say something about Press reporting, very shortly, on various matters. The last time a discussion on the Barbados Regiment came up in here, I took the opportunity to say that the Regiment would not be used to break strike, and I drew the Barbados Marketing Corporation as an example. I said that if there is a strike at the B. M. C. that the soldiers would not be sent out to sell onions, etc. In the course of that, I took the opportunity to say that the Government would not be offering a penny more than it was currently offering. Now I expect, I regret to say, from certain people in the world of organised labour the deliberate misrepresentation of words. I was fortified

in this expectation by pointing out to the hon. member for St. Lucy that my actual words were not offering a penny more than was currently offered and asking him, Why had the Union in its paid advertisement in the *Advocate* deliberately misrepresented what I had said by omitting what was contained in the last part of the sentence? He smiled, and indicated to me that it was all right. I had said not a penny more and that was all they published. Well, that is human morality, but Press morality should be a little higher, and it is time that the Press refrain from allowing persons to make comments on facts which are not facts and put them into the columns of the Press so that you are faced with the painful choice of always having to deny or explain something, or else let misrepresentations go unchallenged. That comment, like something else relating to the National Union of Public Workers, has also formed a part of repeated Press statements by the Barbados Workers Union. There are two statements. You cannot expect the Union to police itself because the Union does not have responsibilities in the last analysis for what is published - only an Editor has that. You can only bring a Union or anybody else to a sense of moderation in speech or responsibility, or a refraining from misrepresentation, if those who are responsible for repeating the remarks apply ordinary standards of fair and honest journalism to them. It is not fair and honest journalism to allow a man to say that somebody else has said something which he did not say and then comment on it.

I do not believe in all the time that I have been a politician that you will find a contradiction in the Press about any comments I have ever made about anybody on the grounds that I misrepresented the person. You can look through the 15 years that the *Advocate* has been quoting me, and you will never find somebody say that Mr. Adams' comment was unfair because he put words into somebody's mouth that he did not utter. You may contradict my facts, you may disagree with my opinions, but nobody has ever accused me of telling a lie on a man by putting words into his mouth that he did not utter and then putting an opinion on such words. It is an unfortunate feature of the Press that they allow certain people - it is not as yet a widespread disease - to put falsehoods into the mouths of others and then comment on them. That is not fair and honest journalism. It has crept in to the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation as well. It is not fair and honest journalism, and in my opinion the Minister responsible who is the Broadcasting authority, the Minister of Communications and Works, should have certain matters drawn to his attention. I am the Minister for Information, and he is actually the Broadcasting authority.

I do not want to go too far, Sir, but the last time I was in here I went out of the way to emphasise that we will not use the Army, to break strikes. That is one point, and I went out of the way to emphasise the matter. My

actual words were addressed to the hon. member for St. Lucy; I want to assure the hon. member that he will not get one penny more than the Government is currently offering. When that appeared in the *Advocate* under the signature of Mr. Frank Walcott, Mr. Frank Walcott said that I was alleged to have said that the workers at the Barbados Marketing Corporation were not to get one penny more, and he built a huge comment on that. Now, if I correct that, that is only another correction. The people to correct it are the *Advocate*. I am calling on the Press to be aware of its responsibilities not to found comment on misquotations. There are certain responsibilities, and I do not believe that these are matters only that affect the Government or myself in particular.

Another related to the NUPW when Mr. Walcott came out and criticised the Government implicitly by saying that the Government should know better than to publicise difficulties that had arisen in negotiations, when the facts are that it was not the Government that publicised difficulties between NUPW and the Government; when the facts are that we are fully aware of our responsibilities to another negotiating party. Somebody in the Government was rung by a member of the Press to say that it was understood that there was a confusion between the Government and NUPW, there was going to be a story about it, and was it true that the Government had put a ban on NUPW? The Government spokesman responded that a letter had gone out to the NUPW, and that was the end of the response; yet the *Advocate*, which knew the facts, since there was an *Advocate* reporter that dealt with it, allowed Mr. Walcott to get in the *Advocate* and criticise the Government for something the *Advocate* was in a position to know the Government had not done. That is a matter of editing. We cannot go on and on in a situation where these misrepresentations occur.

One particular broadcasting organisation I have noticed is not guilty of this sort of thing. At least I have not heard it being guilty for a long time, and that is the Barbados Rediffusion. But CBC is also guilty and the *Nation* is also guilty. I saw the *Nation* put into the mouth of the hon. member for St. John the words that the current account deficit of this Island will be \$80 million to \$100 million.

Dr. CADDLE: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. We are discussing a Resolution here regarding Defence and Security — Barbados Regiment, and I would very much appreciate if the Hon. Minister would confine his remarks to the subject before us.
4.25 p.m.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I was going to say something good about the hon. member for St. John

and say that I thought he was misrepresented, but if the hon. member wants to shut me up, I will say nothing. I well understand his feelings. I will take no risks at this stage of saying anything good about the hon. member for St. John for the hon. member who has just sat down to hear.

Sir, I have made my point, I believe, but I think it is owed to all of us in here to be extremely careful not only about how you quote us but about how you let people give opinions on what we say in here. The hon. member is right. Obviously I was taking a little bit more latitude than hon. members were inclined to allow me at that stage. An opportunity will come if I care to take it.

I have dealt with the kitchen. The Regiment is developing and it is time that the kitchen was built and the Regiment will have to have a kitchen if it is to be embodied as a Defence Force.

I beg to move that Head 107 — Defence and Security — stand part.

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

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I rise with the hope that you will permit me some of the latitude which you permitted the Hon. Prime Minister in dealing with this particular matter for the simple reason that some of the comments which the Hon. Prime Minister made were related to me. My name was called in this debate and I feel I have the right certainly to take up the Hon. Prime Minister on some of the points which he made in this particular regard. So I would expect to be given the same latitude as the Hon. Prime Minister.

We were talking about the kitchen at the Regiment and he entered into a debate on the Press and I welcome an opportunity like this because I consider that it is time that we really look at the Press in its entirety.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are asking me to say.....

Mr. GREAVES: I am going to make my contribution, but I was only making that particular point. Let me just deal with the question of the kitchen, I will deal with it in the way I want. Now I think that in this particular item the Prime Minister made reference to comments which he made about the Regiment some couple of weeks ago, and in that regard he seems to have taken exception to the contents of an article which appeared two Sundays or so ago in the *Advocate* under the heading "The Union Speaks", and the Prime Minister originally was making the point about his being misquoted. Then he came on later in his presentation to say that the article said that the Prime Minister is alleged to have said. Now I think that

this is crucial because it destroys all the arguments which he was making earlier about what he was saying or misrepresented that the Union was saying about comments he made. The comments in the article said that the Prime Minister is alleged to have said something, so that I do not see that there is any particular quarrel with that particular point.

I just want also, Mr. Chairman, in as much as the Prime Minister raised the question about the National Union of Public Workers and about the publication of information regarding the impasse which exists between the National Union of Public Workers and the Barbados Government or the Prime Minister, to say that again I feel that if the Prime Minister can get in here and make a comment on the Barbados Workers' Union, I have a right to respond or to make any comment I want to make within the bounds of proper parliamentary procedure, and I want to say that the point which the Barbados Workers' Union raised in this particular matter has to do with the whole principle of dealing with a particular matter which arose between the Prime Minister and the National Union of Public Workers, and it is purely on the question of principle and the method of dealing with this particular matter. The question about making the matter known to the Press as far as we are concerned was not a basic issue, but the basic issue was how would you deal with a situation that the Prime Minister complained about. We are of the opinion and we have said that the way in which it was dealt with was wrong. It is as simple as that. I do not want the Prime Minister to try to give any one impression of this particular matter. I have a copy of the letter which the Prime Minister wrote to the National Union of Public Workers and to be frank I see nothing in this letter for the Prime Minister to behave in the way he did as far as this is concerned, but I would not worry to make it a document of the House.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of elucidation, I fully accept that there are differences of opinion about the letter, differences of opinion about whether we should have another meeting and discuss the behaviour and so on, but the Union's comment did say that the Government should not have made it public. That is really all I complained about. The Union's other comment may be quite well founded. There are differences of method and in certain circumstances their method may be a better method than sending a letter and so on. I am not quarrelling about that. A union must be free and indeed I like reading the Union's opinion about things. On the basis of saying that the Government had gone public, the Union itself might have been misled, and that is why I blame the Press. The Press was in a position to know, that is what I said about that aspect and therefore the Press really has to be blamed more than the Union because if he had gone

public the Union's comment would be right. That is the point.

The question that Head 107 – Defence and Security – stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 109 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, before I enter into this debate, I know that there is a rule against anticipation, but I think that hon. members will bear with me if I point out Item 2 on the Order Paper to them. It is really up to hon. members, but the subject matter of this Head and the subject matter of the Resolution for a guarantee which we will seek to move later are identical and my feeling is, with diffidence, that it may be easier to deal with it in Committee because hon. members will have a chance for more debate, and if hon. members do not mind, I propose only to make one speech and to make it now. If there are any untidy ends of course I will have to answer hon. members when we reach Item 2, but I do not propose to make two separate speeches on the Barbados Development Bank and its loans.

Now this Head relates to a very important part of the Government's strategy for economic development in this country. We are aiming to make the Barbados Development Bank, as well as continuing, to be a viable institution which we have established since coming into power, because what was there before, as far as I am concerned, crippled by Bath on the one hand and Bernstein on the other could really not be taken seriously at all in its 1976 form. We have made it viable and we want to make it expand. We have given the staff an opportunity to prove their merit, and I would like to take this opportunity of singling out the Manager of the Bank who kept his head, his courage and his honesty all through the years under the previous regime, who when he was a member of the Board was brave enough to vote against the Prime Minister's direction to guarantee Bath Plantation, who had the courage to stand up for his convictions and who has seen his advice and his views proved to be right beyond any shadow of doubt, and the staff of the Bank given its head, with a minimum of political interference, because I do not think anybody can accuse me of using the Bank as a vehicle for awarding yard fowls, or making millionaires out of my friends, achieved in the year up to November a total of 1,700 short-term jobs which when queried we actually had specified and circulated to the Opposition.

4.35 p.m.

The staff of the Bank given its head with a minimum of political interference — because I do not think anybody can accuse me of using the bank as a vehicle for rewarding yardfowls or making millionaires out of my friends — without political interference the bank achieved for the year up to November a total of 1,700 short term jobs which when queried we actually had specified and circulated to the Opposition. The bank is continuing to expand and we have negotiated loans from the Inter-American Development Bank totalling \$3 million (U.S.) in all. These loans are divided into two.

The first loan which is for \$1½ million (U.S.) comes from the Fund for Special Operations of the Inter-American Development Bank and it is a soft loan at 2½%, and if my memory serves me correctly, we have until the year 2007 to pay it back. The other half of the loan is a hard loan at 8% from the bank's ordinary capital and we have to pay that back by the year 1997. We plan, as indeed we are partly bound to do by agreement, to blend these two funds together along with \$1½ million of the Government's own money to make a new fund for lending to industrial and tourism projects, and at the moment indeed we are aiming to develop small and medium scale projects for the industrial sector, and perhaps a more medium scale for the tourism sector as well.

We have two substantial industrial loans under consideration at the present time, both of which will be providers of permanent employment, expansion and continuing businesses, and we have a number of — I have a list at the moment of three for the Sunset Crest area, and two on the south coast — a number of medium sized tourism projects, not really the minimum sized projects about which the Minister of Tourism has spoken in here. We are aiming at projects that will create employment. We are looking at jobs for money invested rather than allowing apartments of the smallest possible size that really do not create the number of jobs commensurate with the investment that we would like to see, and we have five of these projects which come immediately to mind in hand at the present time.

The Development Bank will be on-lending this money on differential rates of exchange. We had a long negotiation before we could even achieve these, because the Bank's on-lending rate has to be governed partly by the terms imposed by the Inter-American Development Bank. The Inter-American Development Bank looks at commercial viability in loans of this sort. After all, our loans have private profit, these are not loans for Government social enterprises, and I do not really feel free to go into all the details, but sufficient to say that we will be on-lending the money out of the hard

window at 10½% but there will be some area of softer loans at 8%.

The Barbados Development Bank does not show a profit. How could it when it has the number of bad debts carried on its books that are a reflection of the past unfortunate lending policy, that even today we can see hotels which up to last night I was assured have full occupancy. One more hotel project in Sunset Crest and another hotel project a little further down the coast, both with a substantial political input, up to last night I was told that one of them has full occupancy, making money and still will not repay the Bank, and I heard this afternoon that we have given them until Thursday. Hon. members who heard this discussed yesterday and who said all you have to do is have a demand note will be pleased to know that persons have until Thursday to pay, because it was really bad enough that the yardfowls of the Democratic Labour Party refused to pay the Barbados Development Bank when the Dems were in power, it is impossible that they should refuse to pay it when we are in power. The bad habits that will go on with the Dems really must not continue any more, but as I say, how can the Bank make a profit when it has all these bad debts to carry? We are trying to cure this and we are trying to have a sufficient spread between what we borrowed the money at and what we lend the money at to ensure a profit for the Bank.

The premises which the Barbados Development Bank and its computer will occupy in the new headquarters of the Barbados National Bank were inspected by me last week, and again I think that the officials of the Barbados Development Bank itself will be glad to hear that I do agree with some of their criticisms relating to the size of the interview rooms and one or two other matters relating to sizing. If they wish we will be making some adjustments to ensure that they can enjoy, I think, more suitable quarters to be provided at James Street than they are at present enjoying at the Garrison, and I very much hope that the Leader of the Opposition who I observed striding vigorously and bravely down Coleridge Street looking like a man with a million dollars in his pocket, which I hope he has, will put some of that million dollars into an account at the Barbados National Bank, so handy and convenient to his office when it opens its doors in a few week's time.

Mr. Chairman, the reason for the particular sums of money that we are asking for I could give to members, but it is complicated. There is a certain disbursement programme which is agreed with the IADB and we have to provide sums of money, counterpart funds, from the Government to meet the agreed disbursement programme. The only funds which were given to the Development Bank this year was the ordinary vote, I

think, of just about \$500,000. It will be in the Resolution, I do not have it immediately to hand, Sir — in fact, it will not be in the Resolution, some of that money for financial institutions was allocated to the Development Bank, and \$500,000 we have given to the Development Bank. It is only a statutory payment, so it has no funds to meet the on-going need that will attract the funds from the Inter-American Development Bank, and we therefore are asking for a sum of \$756,350 as a supplement to this Head.

We also, to meet another condition of the agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank, will be asking later on for the Government to guarantee the repayment of the loan of the two instalments of \$1½ million each. As I say, I cannot anticipate, but I think that all hon. members will appreciate that it is customary for these international agencies to insist on a Government guarantee. What I will say is that none of these funds now being provided will be thrown into unviable schemes, they are thrown into schemes where people have to set out very carefully all the factors which will go to show the commercial viability of their projects, and it is only by insisting on these factors, by removing this type of development spending from politics and from private money making that we will be getting value for our dollars. This \$756,000 could put 300 Barbadians to work.

4.45 p.m.

They will be the permanent jobs and the construction activities normally associated with a grant of this size will be in the range of 1,000 jobs. We should be able to expect 1,000 jobs in construction during the period of disbursement of these monies, and between 200 and 300 permanent jobs; indeed I think the balance between short term and permanent may be a little more in favour of permanent because some of this money may be going to expand business within the existing structure. I think hon. members will have no difficulty in supporting what is becoming a fine non-partisan arm of the Government, an institution of Government working as it should work, staffed by capable and honest people, men of integrity, and distributing its development aid irrespective of party political creed or any other consideration other than that of need and viability.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 109 stand part.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman, I do not believe that anyone in Barbados will disagree with the fact that the Barbados Development Bank has done able service, but to my mind they have been too conservative in their lending policy. What I mean to say is that you can get \$150,000 from the Barbados Development Bank easily, but if a poor man goes to get \$5,000 or \$3,000 they

scrutinize these small projects more closely and therefore the risk of refusal is increased. There are a number of people in this Island, especially in the working field, that could well do with a loan for power equipment to build furniture. I do not know if you are aware of this Mr. Chairman, but if you went through the furniture stores in this country you will see some magnificent furniture built by Barbadians. But the people who build them are big shots with a lot of money. The poor worker, the joiner who has a talent, is unable to get a loan of \$3,000 or \$4,000 because of this conservative attitude. The Minister said that the bank will have to face up to some big losses on some of its accounts. But I would say this: I would rather see the Barbados Development Bank lose \$100,000 to forty people than to one foreigner, for the foreigner leaves the Island after his project drops through. But I know persons in this Island who can make electrical fittings and decorative fittings out of copper, brass, or steel, and some of these people need just \$3,000 or \$4,000 to get established; but when they go to the Barbados Development Bank they cannot get the money because they are not allowed that latitude of risk. I believe if the Barbados Development Bank had a more liberal policy we could get a lot of people working for themselves. I do not know about the dress making business, but I believe that in that field there is great opportunity for organizing people who could make dresses locally. As I said, I don't know too much about this but I can speak of wood workers and metal workers, and I wonder whether the Development Bank should not display a more liberal attitude towards such people.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I was very pleased to hear the Hon. Prime Minister talk of the Barbados Development Bank in terms of a non-partisan arm of Government staffed by men of integrity and ability and I hope that in dealing with the staff of the Bank, in view of the high profile the Government has given this arm of its economic development, the Prime Minister would see to it that no attempt is made — as I gather was made a short time ago — to interfere with one of the officers of this Bank which the Prime Minister has praised; because, as I understand it, the officer is one who although he was not appointed, has gained the respect in admiration of the directive of the Bank; and the Prime Minister cannot one breath say the Barbados Development Bank is creating jobs and is lending out more money than the DLP ever lent out, and then sit by and allow almost the hub of the organization to be removed from the bank. I therefore wish to issue a warning that the public will be watching to see whether the attempt made to remove this officer a few months ago will be pursued in the context of what the Prime Minister says this bank is performing in the community. The Prime Minister, if he goes through the accounts of the Bank must come to the conclusion

that the Democratic Labour Party did not confine the lending of the Bank's fund only to DLP adherents or persons who back them. I do not want to call names, but if the Prime Minister uses his analytical ability and his eyes for discovering things in the accounts of the bank, he will discover that there are people other than DLP supporters and that indeed some of these people are right in his backyard. So I don't think he can accuse the DLP that they only assisted their supporters. I will assume that the Prime Minister would have seen that even in those days we were very liberal in accommodating members of the community in general.

What is worrying me is that there seems to be an idea in Barbados that Government can only guarantee money for a Government institution or corporation, or a corporation in which government has the majority of shares. The whole business of the Barbados Development Bank, as I understand it, in a community such as ours is to provide money for employment, and therefore where employment is provided, and whether it is a Government controlled corporation or a private corporation employing a large amount of labour, the question of guarantee can arise, and there is fair evidence in the past in developed countries where developed nations have guaranteed and pumped taxpayers money into corporations and private companies in the United States and Great Britain. When Leyland was in trouble, the British Government pumped money into it without taking over a controlling interest. America did it with Lockheed and with other corporations because of the employment potential and the need for employment in the community. But we have got an idea that you cannot guarantee a loan unless you have a controlling interest. But there is precedent, and I know that the Prime Minister with his vast knowledge of financial affairs throughout the Commonwealth will not support the view that there is only criterion for Government guaranteeing money, namely, that Government must have controlling interest or the corporation must be a fully owned Government corporation. Each case must be decided on its merits and yet I read that it appears as though it is some heinous crime for Government to guarantee money to a corporation that is providing employment in a country where chronic unemployment is between 10% and 15% over the years and you are condemned for keeping alive a viable organization. I am saying that if it is presumed that Government can only guarantee money on condition that they take over an organization, that premise has been busted by many developed countries involving millions of dollars, among them the United Kingdom and the United States.

4.55 p.m.

I am sure there are other developed countries where a Government has come to the rescue of a corporation that is serving the needs of the country and providing

employment for a number of people; so that with the guarantee or counterpart funds provision here there can be no argument. The Opposition is prepared to support the Government when it guarantees money to a private corporation, or whether it guarantees money to a public corporation, provided the employment results in the community as a whole is justified.

If tomorrow some local entrepreneur would start a business in Barbados on his own employing hundreds of people and it became necessary for this Government, that Government, or any Government, to guarantee money to keep them going, provided they will pay it back in due course, I can see nothing wrong with it. That Government and the Opposition at this point of time and for the last few years, especially when the oil crisis came down in 1973, have been concerned with the unemployment in Barbados. That is why any Resolution like this will get our support. The Opposition is as concerned as the Government must be concerned with the high rate of unemployment especially among young people and, therefore, the Government has to think of several ways of starting something, joining with something, or guaranteeing something, whether the Government owns it or not. Do not let us go on with these big headlines about Government Guarantees to Private People. That does not cut no ice with people who have studied and seen that in developed countries this policy has been pursued.

When the aircraft industry was in trouble the American Government came to its rescue to save one or two corporations that were in difficulty during the oil crisis. In 1973 and 1976 were oil crises not only in America and the United Kingdom, but Barbados had its oil crisis. There is clear evidence that some of the problems which we are facing today economically are the results of that crisis within those years. I agree with the member for Christ Church North Central that the Development Bank must be more liberal, I have always been a believer that whether it is a Government Bank or a Private Bank, it is a Bank. I believe this is also evident in the case of the Caribbean Development Bank, and some people seem to feel that because the name is Caribbean Development Bank they can run up there and get money without any proper guarantee, without any proper viability studies, or any proper projections. I believe that a lot of the criticisms about the Caribbean Development Bank is that some people think it is a bank for the Caribbean, but it is not run on proper banking principles.

I would like it to be fairly understood that the Barbados Development Bank, and this is my personal feeling, is a bank like any other bank, except that it must take a few more risks. But anybody who is lent money by that Bank is expected to pay back that money. That is why I have always been a believer that people who rent

Government houses should be made to pay rent for them. The moment they sit down in a Government house without paying rent, then they are depriving some other poor person from getting an opportunity to be similarly housed. I do not know if I will be called before the Housing Commission, but I acted as Minister of Housing for a month after the election in 1971. I issued instructions that everybody who was in arrears of rent who could pay must be thrown out. People must not be permitted to sit down in Government houses, or to borrow money from Government institutions, on the knowledge that there is too much freeness in this country, and there is too much a belief that you borrow the money from the Government Bank so you do not have to pay it back.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Will the hon. member state whether those instructions were issued with the knowledge of the Cabinet, or was this on his own accord?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: It was on my own authority. I was the Minister and that was not a Cabinet decision. That was a decision made by me. We had won the elections already so it did not matter. We were home and dry.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Was it after the elections?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: It was after the elections in 1971.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: It is not the sort of decision that he would have taken the month prior to the elections of 1971.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I do not know. If I had been acting Minister prior to the elections I would have reviewed the situation, and it might have carried me over to after the elections. While I was reviewing the situation my decision might not have been arrived at until after the elections, but I would still have given it thought during the interval. I shall not waste any more time in this Honourable Chamber. The Opposition is not opposing this. We would like the Government to approach it in a more liberal manner. As I said earlier, just to recapitulate, the Prime Minister must not accuse the Democratic Labour Party of only lending money to their own friends, because the evidence of the accounts of the BDB will show that other persons, not hostilely opposed, but not of our persuasion, were also lent money during the regime of the Democratic Labour Party.

I would like the Prime Minister as Minister of Finance to seek wherever possible to make sure that the money lent by the Barbados Development Bank to persons is definitely used for the purpose for which it is lent. I have known of one or two cases where money has been lent and somehow or other it has not gone to the

particular developmental purpose for which it is intended and, therefore, to that extent the Government must be very cautious. As I have warned the Prime Minister, I am very glad to see that he took good advice and did not interfere with the smooth running of the staff which he describes as men of ability, men of integrity, and men of competence. I hope that when the time comes he will give very careful consideration to the appointment of any officer in that Bank who has given yeoman service and which, as he has said, has earned the praise which he has bestowed upon the Bank not only at this meeting of the House, but at a previous meeting.

I think the Prime Minister is big enough to understand that however high a political profile an employee may be deemed in his opinion to have, yet at the sametime if that officer, who is the hub of the organisation, is performing his duties with competence and with expedition, that in his broadmindedness this officer is worthy of his support and confirmation.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I am sick and tired of hearing hon. members in here and in other places speaking about matters giving currency to rumours which originate outside. Today the hon. member, who has just spoken, gave currency to the rumour about the Government victimising members of the staff of the Development Bank because of their alleged political persuasion. In here it was explained from the very beginning that it was the intention of Government to pursue what it had set out in its Manifesto, mainly, to rationalise the various financial institutions and to bring them within a single umbrella. A Project Manager was appointed, the former Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance. Since we are talking, then let us talk. He never had a reputation for being a sympathiser or supporter of the Barbados Labour Party.

5.05 p.m.

He never had the reputation for being a sympathiser or supporter of the Barbados Labour Party, so when we talk let us talk facts. As project manager of the Financial Institution it was and still is his duty to see how it is possible to integrate existing staff within the context of the proposed staff relationship; so if any member in any of the individual financial institutions cannot get a pick on the team within the proposed staff structure, I do not see how the Government got into that. Do not let us fool ourselves. There is no room in the inn for all of the officers who are in the individual financial institutions which are becoming merged, but because of the well-known political persuasions of these people, as soon as it is heard there is no place for them they will say it is politics, and not only in here but all over Barbados people are going to ask why you victimise Mr. So and So, it is true he is not a member of your party but you should not treat him so, when the Government has absolutely nothing to do with it. I

am finished with that. As soon as anybody tells me so, the first thing I will say is, let the former yard fowls explain to one another how it is their blue-eyed boys cannot get a pick. When I hear it outside, I am going to say exactly what I say now. The Government does not pick the staff of the proposed financial institution. The project manager has more influence than anybody in Government on who is the staff, and there is a project team, and the project manager never had a reputation for being a supporter of the Barbados Labour Party; so let us get all these facts out clearly.

There are a number of other matters in relation to the Barbados Development Bank that I would like to raise. The hon. member for Christ Church North Central raised a very interesting point, that is true, that a number of small artisans are a little confused and bewildered by the feasibility studies that are required. My understanding of the situation, and I have had to help some of them process some of these too and a few have got through, is that there is a grant at BIMAP for small businessmen counselling specifically to help them to do this kind of work. The money comes from CIDA but it has been slow in coming through. You know what it is to get money from an international organisation. They promise you a lot but it takes a lot of time to get the disbursement of the money. For a long period of time we have been hoping that this \$40 million would be disbursed so that BIMAP can hire the counsellors for the small businessmen so that they would from the very beginning be in touch with the aspirations of the artisans, do their feasibility studies for them, process the bank loan and then they would continue to do the counselling.

Not so long ago I had the privilege of visiting the Irish Management Institute, and I had a long discussion with the Head of the Irish Management Institute and one of the things he said was that it is their experience both in Ireland and abroad that the best service you can provide to small businessmen is to have a man attached to three or four of them and let him provide continuous counselling for a period of time until you are satisfied, and that is what we have been trying to get established. I hope that this money will come through quickly because there is money available at the Development Bank specifically earmarked for small businessmen, but it is taking time to get that portion disbursed.

We also have another problem in relation to fishing. I was very proud that yesterday while I was in Oistin Town talking to some of the fishermen to hear a fisherman say that there is one thing he can say and it is that whether you are B.L.P., D.L.P. or Z.L.P. if you have a good boat and you want a reasonable engine in relation to the boat, you can go to the Development

Bank and get your boat done. We have changed the parameters. I had lots of talk and correspondence with the Development Bank about the question of processing loans for fishing boats. We have still one major problem and up to today I raised it with the Minister of Finance again, and it is what I call the unfair cost of insurance in Barbados. I am looking forward to the day when the Government as one of its first functions of the State Insurance Corporation, will take over marine insurance for these fishing boats. To pay 11% on a hull in my opinion is a ridiculous rate having regard to the known loss experience with fishing boats in Barbados. The price now is running at \$20,000 and \$25,000 for a new 40 foot boat because the fellows like to go near the 40 foot size, and it is 11% that you have to pay on that hull, and the loan loss experience in Barbados is very small, but because there is a small clique of under-writers in London who take this, the brokers in Barbados do not have any freedom to get competitive quotes. There are no competitive quotes, and the local insurance companies do not underwrite these risks.

One of the precise reasons why Government has to take initiative in a country like this is because there are areas which cry out for need and private enterprise will not take it, and therefore it is incumbent on the Government to take that initiative. I do not care what they label me for, I am 100% in favour of that and the Government of Barbados has been acting along those lines. There is a straight need for that insurance.

There are other areas too in respect of tourism, that between the Ministry of Tourism and the Development Bank our views are put over. I want to make it clear Cabinet has decided that there are not going to encourage any Tom, Dick or Harry to come forward and say that he wants to build a new hotel in Barbados with only ten rooms. The experience of not only the Development Bank but the Commercial Banks or apartments which is viable in the context of how tourism is marketed in Barbados today, and we have decided that as a result of our analysis, and I am told by the Attorney General's Office that we have full power to say that we are not giving a loan for less than a certain number of units. (*Asides.*) The hon. member can distort the statement that I made, but I will explain to him now because a small mind looks for small things; I would not say a vicious mind has a vicious interpretation. The basic position is that 24 units is the minimum amount for any new hotel to get hotel aid. For anybody who is in the business who wants to move up, we have said that it ought to be in the interest of the Development Bank to move these smaller ones up to what is economic, because then there would not be this

problem of repayment and defaulting that they have had. If you look at an analysis of the defaulting and you analyse it from the commercial bank point of view and the other things, you will see it is in the smaller category or where somebody wants to put a hotel on top of a hill or stuck away from the beach. Unfortunately the history of hotels which are not within close proximity of beaches in Barbados has not been very good. I remember in 1957 there was one called Eastry House, and from then it has been giving trouble and has passed through five different owners. We are not like Venezuela where you have a country club up there and you have millionaires who go up there to hide out and play cards and when you go in the Bar you have to pay expensively for drinks and things like that. We do not have that kind of tourist. As a matter of fact, with modern taxation in the world except you come from Middle Eastern countries, that class of person seems to be going out. So unless you come from Middle Eastern countries or a few of the other countries in the world where you have traditional wealth and you have been able to evade taxes, taxation has liquidated that type and style of living.

5.15 p.m.

Taxation has liquidated that type and style of living, the expense accounts are now being attacked by all Ministers of Finance. I just want to make it clear that in those areas there has been a closer monitoring of the feasibility of projects and I also feel, and I want to be very clear on this, that with respect to our smaller apartment hotels I do not think that it would be in the interest of a Government to encourage people who have one job here and a part time hotel management post in the context of hotel employment in Barbados they were going to lend a man \$8,000 or \$9,000 which is a substantial investment, which is the average loan for this, I feel that the time has come where as a matter of policy that those loans should flow to people who are going to work full time in the management of that, because another job is released for somebody else, but what we are having is too many people who have some land who want to borrow the money to become part time hoteliers to hire a manager at an under payment because they cannot pay the manager properly and pay back the loans too, and I think the time has come when we have to say if you want to get that kind of money you have to provide us with evidence that you are going to work full time in this, and I feel that is a very important point of principle too, because you do not lend money only to employ people at a certain level in the hotel industry, you want to get professional management.

You want to have an integrated operation which is professional, and I believe that when you take up that

kind of money the time has come when you should feel that you have enough at risk as to command your full time interest. Other than that, Sir, I think that the Development Bank has speeded up its activities; there is no doubt about that. It is true that it has had the benefit of directions and that the directors are aware of the definite commitment of Government. What they are doing now is that they are carrying out a policy which we have been stipulating for a long period of time, but I recognise that this is a problem even in the context of Barbados today where there are not enough people coming forward for industrial loans, too much of the portfolio is still in the hotel area. We want to encourage more people to come forward for industrial loans, and I do hope that with the project identification that is done at IDC and with the small business counselling service that we hope to get implemented very shortly, that more proprietors in Barbados will feel confident enough to come forward to the Bank and use up more of this money for industrial projects as opposed to tourism projects. There has been a shortage of tourism projects.

There is one last thing that I want to deal with on this. We have really reached the stage now where because of taxation and the rise in the cost of motor cars that the Development Bank has got to look at lending the taxi owners and taxi associations money to provide the service to the tourist industry. If you can lend a man money to build a hotel, a hotel is only one part of providing a service to the tourist industry, taxiing and transportation form an important part, and when we look at it today in truth and in fact although the Government made it clear that taxi operations and the provision of transport are not regarded as consumer expenditure but are regarded in the category of intermediate goods, there are still people who are using the guidelines which were intended for consumption, banks and other financial institutions, using the guidelines in the parameter set out for consumer durables in relation to loans when taxi men go forward to get loans, and this is something that I have drawn to the attention of the Minister of Finance and the Ministry has also drawn to the attention of the Development Bank, and we are looking forward to seeing the Development Bank filling the gap created by the blunt refusal of commercial banks to have a rational lending policy in an area where Government has made positively clear that this is an area that credit should be given.

That is the sort of thing you have to operate in, that is the sort of society you have to operate in, that although you set out clearly what your objectives are, you say clearly taxis and buses for taxi associations are an essential part of the service to the tourist industry, when you go to the banks you have bank managers

telling people "we would like to lend you but your Government says we cannot lend you money for longer than three years." That is the sort of unsophisticated, vicious, spiteful action that you get from some people who hold responsible positions. We made it clear that both licences and credit should flow in those areas, and we took a deliberate policy decision at the import licensing review committee and said that no restrictions in relation to consumer durables should apply to the two of them, because a taxi is as essential to the tourist industry, or a minibus to a taxi association, as a lorry is in agriculture, and you cannot treat one in one category and treat the other in another. If they do not fill the gap the Government will fill the gap through the national commercial bank and through the Barbados Development Bank.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I agree entirely with the statement which the Deputy Prime Minister made about the need for a larger number of people who have ideas about industrial kinds of operations to come forward and get loans from the Barbados Development Bank, because in a way this not only has the effect of an employment generating kind of activity, but at the same time it has the effect of giving an opportunity for people with a fairly wide degree of expertise and skills to be able to participate meaningfully in the developmental process.

I want to refer to another point which the Deputy Prime Minister made in his presentation here not too long ago, and it is in reference to the tourist sector and his contention that as far as the conception of the Development Bank is concerned the Bank was not prepared to give loans to small people in the industry, that is, people who have establishments with probably six, eight or ten rooms. In fact, I think he indicated that the smallest amount of rooms that the Bank would lend money for is for establishments with 20 or 25 rooms, and I would hope that the Deputy Prime Minister, who is also Minister of Tourism, and certainly the Minister of Finance also, will really have another look at this particular policy. I am sure that they should be aware that it is not as easy as that.

One has got to look certainly at each application on its merit and just not have a blanket policy which would exclude a project though small but which I am convinced could be viable. I am saying, Mr. Chairman, that it is possible for an operation in the tourist industry of less than 20 rooms to be viable and to be extremely economic and profitable for the people who are involved in that, and I am counselling the Development Bank to have a very serious look at this. I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that there are about three criteria which should be used for arriving at the viability of a project of this nature.

5.25 p.m.

I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that there are about three criteria to be used in arriving at the viability of a project of this nature. One would have obviously to look at the kind of business acumen which is displayed by the particular entrepreneur. Secondly, the location of the particular establishment would have to be looked at, and the third need would be to look at the kind of clientele that the establishment is hoping to attract and I am saying that with these kinds of guidelines there would seem to be an area of operations which would enable people who are smaller than what is generally accepted as the minimum size for operation to get a profitable venture going, and I sincerely hope the Minister would have another look at this and that some kind of direction would be given to the Barbados Development Bank as far as this matter is concerned.

Earlier on today the Prime Minister in waxing warm tried to give the impression that the number of tourists who came to Barbados last year was higher than the number in 1974. That is a fact, but what he did not point out was the reason for this. Certainly in 1974 the countries from which Barbados draws its tourists were going through severe economic strain, but in 1977-78 developments in industrialized countries have made it more possible for people to travel abroad. So I do not accept the position the Prime Minister has taken on this point about Tourist Board promotion and the Chairman of the Tourist Board being responsible for the increase.

On the other point about hotels and the facilities to be made available to people in this sector to be able to invest in tourism activities, I want to make this point relative to hotels in Barbados and the hotel industry in general. I am convinced that with all the financial assistance which is given to the hotel industry in Barbados it should display a more humane and community attitude towards this country and towards the whole question of development and welfare of the people involved in adding to the profits which they are able to rake off from the industry. What I am saying — and I am not in any way attempting to enter the realm of negotiations — but I want to make the point that hotels in Barbados have displayed a lack of concern and a lack of sensitivity towards private transportation for their workers after working late at night, in spite of representation made for this kind of provision. They have also displayed an insensitivity towards the provision of welfare schemes which one would expect from a profitable business employing people in this kind of occupation. So I would hope that in making financial facilities available to people in the tourist sector these points would be re-emphasised and that they adopt a more humane approach towards people who work for them and assist in contributing towards the profits they make, rather than just rake off the profits without the contribution to be expected from them.

I would also like to repeat what would probably be considered a special beef of mine. We are talking here about providing money to establish or expand small size industrial enterprises, and I would hope that in the allocation of funds some special attention is paid towards people in a rural setting to be able to have access to these funds so that they would be able to develop establishments and thereby create opportunities for small investments of this nature in the rural setting, bearing in mind the kinds of problems which we all know can come from the rapid expansion of a suburban situation as described by the hon. member for St. George South earlier, so that the kind of policy direction which must be made available to enterprises operating in a rural setting would have important, national and developmental consequences which would redound to the benefit of this country, and I would hope that some attention be given to this. While on this point, Mr. Chairman, I recall that some months ago I asked a question about the Spring Hall rural development project, and at that time the Minister promised that he would make a statement and that we would be hearing something of this project in the not too distant future. But up to this time I have not heard what has happened to this project, and I would like to know from the Prime Minister or whoever can answer the question whether the project has been abandoned or whether the whole question of agricultural diversification and production has been thrown to the wind and we are going ahead with the one crop economy or what. I thought that by now we would have had some clear statement on that particular point.

My other point has to do with the Barbados Development Bank. I was under the impression and I am sure other hon. members and the public were under the impression, that the Barbados Development Bank was going to become a part of the general financial institution which the Government was creating. In listening to the Prime Minister today speaking on this particular Resolution, I get the impression this is no longer the case and that the Barbados Development Bank will continue to operate as a separate entity. I would like the point cleared up if I am wrong and would like to know if it is to be amalgamated this year, next year, or be given some information on the matter.

I hope that these points I have made will be borne in mind and that some answers will be forthcoming on the questions raised.

5.35 p.m.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for St. Lucy commented on a question he asked some time ago about the Springhall Project. I do not know how this really comes into the Development Bank debate, because if the hon. member had been

following his politics carefully, and as a member of the Democratic Labour Party when the original scheme was conceived, he would know full well that the project was a Caribbean Development Bank project and not a Barbados Development Bank Project. But if he needs the information, there is nothing to hide as far as the Ministry of Agriculture is concerned. The Project was set out by the Caribbean Development Bank to be a project whereby the land would have been divided into 20-acre plots. Included in the cost of the project was a sum of \$1.4 million which would have been spent on roads.

When we took office, I held a meeting in my Ministry and asked the Technicians who had worked on the project to tell us, or to tell me, the viability of the project as had been proposed. All they could say is that there are no farmer schemes in Barbados and it was time that we had one. I said that was not a good enough reason, because if you talk of developing schemes of this nature you first have to talk about people who genuinely require land to work on a basis of this sort. We have taken a decision at Cabinet that Barbados, with its limited amount of finance, cannot put \$1.4 million down on the ground as roads.

Further and above that when we think of the amount of land subdivision which has taken place in Barbados over the last 15 years, there is nobody in Barbados to tell you today what is a viable agricultural project based on a family unit. The Scheme has been redrafted, and we have now reallocated the lots starting from 5 acres up to 20 acres on a particular mix, that is, we are looking at each area and we are asking applicants to bring their own houses and put them down on plots based on what they think they can work efficiently.

Another point that one has to remember about the original project is that you were leasing the land from Government, but you were buying the stone-house — a legal concept which I cannot understand. You ask a man to buy a stone-house on a project, but you tell him he is only leasing the remainder of 20 acres. If at any time he wins a sweepstake ticket and pays for his house outright, what are you going to tell him about the balance of land if he decides to move from the land? The criterion for settlement was that anybody who went on the plot should have a minimum of four 'O' levels, but at the same time you are employing people in the Teaching Service, in the Government Service in Bridgetown and in the stores in Bridgetown with four 'O' levels and the net revenue which they could derive from the project would be less than they could get on an 8 to 4 job in Bridgetown! Now, these are the things we looked at.

We have resubmitted the project to the Caribbean Development Bank. I am saying now that we are waiting on them to evaluate the project, and every time we ask about the matter we are told that the Officer is out of the Island and he is coming back next week. It is not a Barbados Development Bank Project, and we are held by the Caribbean Development Bank until their officer can sit down and evaluate the project in the form that it is wanted by the Barbados Government. I have said over and over again that politicians in the region have created institutions for which they are now becoming slaves, because those who work in the Institution do not understand the political will of the Government in power. They believe that they must impose their will upon the politicians, despite the fact that politicians come to power by a Manifesto written and must carry out the terms of the Manifesto.

For me in the Ministry of Agriculture, I cannot go on approving subdivision of land when every Tom, Dick and Harry, says I want to cut up the land for agricultural purposes. I cannot tell anybody what is a viable agricultural lot in Barbados. The Technical Officer in my Ministry cannot do that. The only way to preserve the land in Barbados, if you still want to maintain agriculture, is to have some scheme whereby you can look at the people on the project, the finance going into it, and the profits coming out to determine what is a viable agricultural lot. That is what we are waiting on. As soon as the Caribbean Development Bank sends back the project which we have put up the project will start. That is the situation. We are hiding nothing and we are waiting for the money which will come from the Caribbean Development Bank, which is money that was borrowed outside of the region. In my opinion, the Scheme must comply with the requirements of the Government and the requirement of the Ministry of Agriculture, because we have the responsibility of setting the agricultural pattern in Barbados and not any other authority.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I am much obliged to all hon. members for the contributions which they have made in this debate. I will not deal with the differences between Mr. Devere Richards by his proxy and the Chairman of the Tourist Board. I will ignore those altogether. I know that some people did not mind being Mr. Frank Walcott's voice. I was not aware that Mr. Richards' status was such that he, too, had a mouthpiece. With regard to the Leader of the Opposition's speech, he seems to fight battles which are being conducted in another place inside here. He came out powerfully, Mr. Chairman, by saying that it is nonsense to say that the Government must not guarantee money for businesses, but he did not say what sort of businesses. He went on and said it is about five times and then finally he said, of course,

Government has to insist on Government control, or Government ownership, before it gives a guarantee. With that we will have no quarrel whatsoever nor, I suspect, will there be any quarrel in another place.

Sir, just for the record, let it be said that this Government is not prepared to put the taxpayers' money behind small amounts of funds owned by private persons to make major profits. You just have to understand, Sir, that if you only have a \$¼ million and you get the Government to put \$5 million behind you, suppose it was a 20% return, you are going to make \$50,000 a year if you had projected a 20% return on that \$¼ million. If it was \$5 million it will be \$1 million a year, and I do not believe that anybody on this front bench would ever countenance a scheme that is going to permit the taxpayers to subsidise private individuals into becoming millionaires. If the taxpayers are putting \$5 million or putting \$5 million at risk, and private persons in a joint venture have \$250,000, those private persons, perhaps, can get 10% of the equity. In other words, they can get their \$250,000 and another \$½ million for enterprise and promotion efforts and so on, but we are never going to allow the people of Barbados to have any guarantee given in their names to let a small coterie of well-heeled persons already in a good way of business in life to become millionaires.

5.45 p.m.

While I would have to disagree with all the earlier rhetoric, I will not disagree with the final part of what the hon. member said about the necessity of control. If he thought carefully of what he was saying about the British Government putting money into business, he would have realised that the British Government puts money into businesses and takes control in proportion to the amount of money it puts in, and when the British Government sells shares in businesses, it sells shares at a market value; it does not buy in private shareholders' shares at an artificial value; it does not indeed, like when it was dealing with the BP shares, even sell the shares, actual physical shares that are marketable at give-away prices. It deals with the matter on a commercial basis and that is how we will deal with it. We believe in joint ventures. There may be occasions when joint ventures will require guarantees. I can think of several areas some of which were actually mentioned in the debate. I think the matter of building was mentioned at some stage in the debate. The Government is prepared to go into these vital areas, areas which are essential to the economy, but it is going in on a complete arm's length basis. We are putting forward no front men to make a fortune out of the efforts of the taxpayers.

Now a good deal was said about the Development Bank. The hon. member for Christ Church North

Central said particularly that it does not help small businessmen enough. I cannot accept that criticism I am afraid. I have a list here of eight small businesses that came to the mind of the Bank's manager and myself just off the cuff so to speak; a gentleman in Grazettes, a shoemaker who I understand makes very good shoes. He makes shoes for the hon. member for Christ Church East and he used to make shoes for various parts of the Public Service by tender. He was lent \$1,500. There are other small backyard activities which were lent \$3,000: a drinks vendor who has a fast food stall of a sort near the Pebble Restaurant was lent an amount of money to help him with his business; a lady with a dress-shop on one of the I.D.C. estates was lent a small amount of money; hairdressers have been lent money; funeral homes; someone has been assisted to buy a small typesetting machine and a small printing business; a gentleman has been assisted to expand his business that repairs car batteries. I do not think this is a bad recent record of assistance to small businesses. These are only the ones we can put our minds to offhand, and these are small amounts like \$1,500, \$2,000, \$3,000, \$4,000 or \$5,000. None of these persons as I glance at it appear to me to be likely to be bad debts. We really do not carry some of these small business bad debts on the books; at least we hope we would not be carrying any more such as were carried in the past times.

It is heartening, Mr. Chairman, to hear that all hon. members support the idea of a vibrant Development Bank activity. As I said in here at one stage, much of Germany's economic miracle was put down by economic analysts to the promotion which was given to small German businesses all over the decentralised governmental system of the Federal Republic of Germany. The promotion that was given to these visitors by municipal banks or state-owned banks combining all the functions in one commercial, savings, development and forming in themselves small financial focuses for industrial and commercial activity all over western territory, the 60,000 small businesses all over western Germany bear testimony of the development banking activity that made many of them possible.

Mr. Chairman, there is obviously no serious controversy over this matter. I do not think there is any other point that hon. members feel should be specifically dealt with. We have had an exchange of views that I think can reasonably lead to a coincidence of interest on both sides in the passage of this Resolution.

I beg to move that Head 109 — Ministry of Finance and Planning — stand part.

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

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

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE NOTES TO
HEAD 7(2) BARBADOS REGIMENT
AND HEAD 107 — DEFENCE
AND SECURITY

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, under Head 7(2), adding machines are old-fashioned and we are substituting calculators. In fact the Government is now undertaking a review of all the calculating machines in Government's possession at the present time. We have found out that at the Customs for example we are paying out every year something like a third of the new value of all the Customs' calculating machines for repairs, and I believe really it might be better to give a third of all the old machines to the Government Auctioneer to sell every year and replace them than to go on repairing them. We have to get rid of the old adding machines and get the best calculator, and in fact the exercise is now underway using the Consul-General in New York and the Central Purchasing Department here, because we think that the Government is paying a little too much for duty-free electronic calculators. For best calculators that appears to be free to us, the cheapest is something like \$600. We think we can do a lot better than that and we are thinking of mass buying of calculators and standardising calculators in the Service and having a proper programme. These are small matters but they are nuisances when they give out on a public officer. We are having a standardised programme throughout the Service and a standardised replacement programme as well so that we do not have every year people suffering with the Estimates with a calculator here and a calculator there. It is better to buy a hundred every year or whatever it is and finish with that. We are getting a calculator for the Regiment rather than an adding machine, but we still have to do a little bit of this piecemeal operation therefore we have to change the note "adding machine" to "calculator".

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, the Government would have no difficulty with us on this side for this particular item. I would merely like to make the point that although we recognise the old principle of accountability, I wonder if the Prime Minister in keeping with the exercise which is going on now would take a look at the Heads generally in the Estimates to try to avoid this rather old-fashioned concept of sticking to the recent word which is written down next to the Head, because really it costs much more money to have

to prepare the document to come into the House to get the Head changed for something like this — a desk calculator as opposed to an adding machine. The only reason they have to come to the House is because the Auditor General will write a note saying that the Head says "adding machine" or something like this. I think that this is a non-partisan matter and in the interest of administrative reform we would welcome some exercise of this nature on the part of Government or any Government in future to avoid their having to spend the money involved in preparing papers and documents and to some extent the time of the House to make this kind of change which as it now stands is unnecessary.

The question that Head 7(2) Barbados Regiment as amended stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.
5.55 p.m.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: This again, Sir, is an amendment. This is a little more substantial because a land rover is a term of art, Sir. We do in fact want to buy a minibus for the Regiment and not a land rover.

Also, the question of the construction of the kitchen, that has had so much confusion, Sir, that I hope hon. members will bear with us on this matter and let us just add the words "and to continue construction of a kitchen."

I would just mention in connection with the calculator, in many cases if the central purchasing system became a full central supply system as we hope to have, we are hoping that some of the dwellings down at Lands End, Fontabelle can be converted into accommodation for Central Purchasing. The security problems are quite formidable, Sir, and that is our principal problem in fact. There are some who advise that the best thing to do is to knock down all the buildings for security, but we are hoping to accommodate them, and if then we convert them into a central supply department a lot of these non-recurrent items will not appear in the Estimates at all, because just as for the moment air conditioners, for example, are supposed to be centrally supplied, supposed to be, we could reasonably expect that calculators would be centrally supplied, perhaps even minibuses and land rovers, although that is more marginal, but they would all be eased. Central supply would send out these to the departments as they are needed, so that individual departments would not have to be fiddling with \$100 here and \$500 there for a chair, a table, a desk or whatever, Sir.

So I beg to move that the note to Item 2 be amended as set out in the Schedule.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, before you put the question, I would like to enquire of the Hon. Prime

Minister in view of the statement in the Addendum, is it correct to say that the Regiment has no need of a land rover? Obviously a land rover is being used for a different purpose from a minibus, and while there may be a need for a minibus, there may very well be also a need for a land rover.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: What I may say is that at the present time the Regiment needs the land rover more than it needs the minibus. If the hon. member wishes, I have put the file away, but I can get the file out to give you chapter and verse of the Colonel's word. A minibus is needed at the moment, because they are certain transportation functions required to be carried out that a minibus is needed for, and as a matter of priority it was considered if they could only have one or the other, that they preferred the minibus. That is really the situation, but possibly in a few months' time we will then see the land rovers coming into their own. It is only a couple of months and next year's Estimates probably will not contain minibuses, but I think they need a minibus now rather than a land rover. I can get the file and read out for you what the Colonel says. (Dr. CADDLE: That is not necessary). Thank you.

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

On the motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of three Resolutions in Committee of Supply and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I beg to move that these Resolutions be now read a first time. Where did we get the procedure from to read Resolutions a first and second time? I would prefer to move that they do now pass, Sir, they cannot be read a first time after Committee.

I move that these Resolutions do now pass.

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

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

On the motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. H. deB. FORDE, the Resolutions were agreed to.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE GUARANTEE BY
THE MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR FINANCE OF THE
RE-PAYMENT BY THE BARBADOS DEVELOPMENT
BANK TO THE INTER AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT
BANK OF A PRINCIPAL SUM EQUIVALENT TO
U.S. \$3,000,000 AND OF INTEREST
THEREON

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Spekaer, the arguments in favour of this Resolution have been very fully canvassed in Committee and I will not tire the House with repetition either of my own or the arguments of other hon. members, and I therefore beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, this concludes Government Business for today, and I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 21st at 12.00 noon.

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

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