THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1976 – 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 14th March, 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. E. W. BARROW, B.Sc., LL.D.; Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Hon. L. S. CRAIG, (Minister of Labour and Community Services); 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); Hon. H. deB. FORDE, S.C., M.A., LL.B., (Attorney General and Minister of External Affairs); Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, (Minister of Communications and Works); Mr. J. G. ODLE, B.Sc., (Chairman of Committees); Hon. L. R. TULL, M.A., (Minister of Education and Culture); Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW; and Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, M.Sc.

Prayers were read.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER and Mr. JOHNSON entered the Chamber and took their seats.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, 28th February, 1978, are before you for confirmation.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, 28th February be confirmed.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no observations by any hon. member, the Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, 28th February, will be confirmed.

There being none, the Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, 28th February, are confirmed.

Mr. SANDIFORD entered the Chamber and took his seat.

MESSAGES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have recieved messages from the Other Place requesting the concurrence of this Honourable House in amendments to the Insurance Corporation of Barbados Bill, 1978, the Property Transfer Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1978, and the Barbados National Bank Bill, 1978.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning, I am commanded to lay the following:–

Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for eight months ended 30th November, 1977.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS entered the Chamber and took his seat.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, earlier in the day I indicated to you and to the Leader of the Opposition that we were going to deal with the Estimates today. However, Sir, in the light of the fact that we have received three Bills from the Other Place, I am going to seek the leave of the House to deal with these three Bills since they are of paramount importance and I am appealing to the other side to assist us in this respect. I hope the Leader of the Opposition

himself is well aware of how important the Bills are, and the amendments will be circulated later in the day.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I do not quite understand what the hon. member is saying. Is he not giving notice of them now and going through with the Estimates and asking leave later in the day to deal with them? What is the position? We have not seen the amendments nor did we know that any amendments were returned to the House and therefore we would be abdicating our responsibility to the community to deal with Bills the amendments to which we have not seen. We are not being obstructionists and therefore I want to know whether the Acting Leader of the House is saying that he will start the Estimates now, that the amendments will be circulated as soon as possible, and later in the sitting of this House he will break to deal with these three important Bills. I want to know the order in which it will be done because, as I say, there will be no difference in that he will start the Estimates and later on ask for leave. Is that the position?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I am quite willing to try to make myself clear. I said that in the light or urgency of the three Bills I will be seeking the leave of the House to deal with them later in the day since they have not yet been circulated.

Mr. TAITT entered the Chamber and took his seat.
12.25 p.m.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Christ Church East, his Resolution re examination of all aspects of the Barbados Civil Service.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to give notice of the following Resolution:

Whereas the Civil Service is a vital institution in the structure of Government and in the life of this country;

And Whereas the Civil Service was in the days of colonialism primarily concerned with tax collection, the maintenance of law and order and other regulatory services;

And Whereas the Civil Service has, within recent years, been called upon to shoulder responsibilities far more variegated in scope and sophisticated in content;

And Whereas the Civil Service has never been systematically reviewed to ensure that it is equipped to carry out all of its modern-day functions;

Be It Resolved that this House recommend to Government the establishment of a Working Group to examine all aspects of the Barbados Civil Service and make recommendations for its more efficient functioning.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I am quite sure that members on both sides of the House are well aware of the fact that we are going to deal with the Appropriation Bill today, and hence I am going to move the suspension of Standing Orders 6, 16, 18, 20, 42, 43 and 44.

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 1 be the first Order of the day.

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

THE APPROPRIATION ACT, 1978

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Estimates time is on us again and, as usual, as has been the case perhaps for the last 20 years, the Estimates show that a record appropriation is being asked for by the Government for the forthcoming financial year, but this year, Mr. Speaker, the Government stands before the House at a time when its general finances have begun to go into a state of structural deficit on Current Account — indeed, I said begun, but it seems to me we are well into the state of structural deficit on Current Account — ameliorated over the last five years only by the exceptional year of 1975 when there were sugar receipts of a very substantial nature indeed.

The estimated expenditure for this year on Current Account is $298 million, the estimated revenue is $258 million, we are therefore estimating an excess of current expenditure over current revenue of $40 million. Last year we estimated an excess of $50.6 million, and as the rubrics at the start of the Estimates will show, the deficit at the time the Estimates were prepared was of the order of $32 million. That was the estimated deficit last December when the Estimates were prepared, but I regret to tell hon. members that I think it will exceed that by a small amount. The deficit, indeed, is already as I speak, of the order of $31 million and for the rest of this month appears somewhat greater than that; and we have to ask ourselves how long a Government can go on in a permanent deficit position.

Barbados has had deficit financing in the broadest sense for many years, because, generally speaking, the budget for Capital works which added to the Current was well in excess of estimated revenue. This is reasonable budgeting in a developing country, this is budgeting for a situation where you borrow to carry out Capital Works and future generations can help pay back for the works which they themselves are enjoying, but we cannot go on for ever in a situation where well over 50% of estimated revenue is being paid out in personal emoluments to the Public Service, and where something like 75% of the expenditures of Government consist of the same personal emoluments, plus charges of debt which this year have risen to real record levels and show the largest increase ever, plus transfer payments consisting of payments to Government pensioners and to old age pensioners receiving a National Assistance pension.

The evidence that the Government has been trying to do something about this will be obvious to everyone who has seen recent controversies about salaries of public officers and recent indications that Government expenditure cannot continue at the current level.

I would just make a few remarks – I do not wish to anticipate the budget – but I just think it wise to make a few remarks about the dichotomy that has developed in finances in the widest sense for Barbados. The hon. member for St. Michael South has indicated that the phrase "public penury in the midst of private plenty" has been used by someone else on an earlier occasion, but nonetheless represents very much the situation that we appear to have in Barbados, for we have had a situation in the past year where apparently – and I speak in advance of the official figures – but apparently there has been quite a considerable money increase in the Gross Domestic Product of Barbados. Figures supplied to one of the visiting Missions, the World Bank Mission, indicate a very considerable advance in money incomes and in the total output of goods and services in the island over the past year. That is, of course, the calendar year, Mr. Speaker, rather than the fiscal year, the calendar year of 1977.
12.35 p.m.

The advance may be as much as 15% or as little as 12%, but it is considerable, and numbers of public records have pointed out that unlike every other territory in the Caribbean in the past year 1977, it seems that Barbados has shown a real growth in its economy and a real *per capita* growth as well. Trinidad is the only exception so far. But this has not been matched by a corresponding increase in Government revenue. Income tax collection net has actually declined up to the end of January, 1977. Net collections of income tax that year were $55 million; for the current year it is only $54 million. Refunds have a part to play in that, but the actual increase in collection of direct taxation has been in the order of between 6% and 7%; in other words, half or less than the increase in the Gross Domestic Product. My advisers are worried about this and are trying to find out the reason, and trying to analyse how is it Government revenues have remained weak when apparently private revenues have improved; how is it the population has got better off while Government has remained relatively stagnant although our expenditure is buoyant. And I would like to give the House some figures. Until October last we did not have any of these worries. The projected deficit on current account of $50 million we had hoped would have been brought down to the region of about $20 million through the general buoyancy of the economy; but from October a certain weakness in revenue has been noted. It may surprise hon. members opposite who are so accustomed to criticising the Government for making things easier for corporations to learn that collections of corporation tax for the first ten months of this financial year have fallen from $14.5 million to $13.9 million, and indications are, and the only conclusion we can draw – especially when we consider that with the abolition of the trade tax the corporation tax should have gone up, the amount collected, the only conclusion we can draw – is that corporation profits are a little less buoyant. Indeed complaints we got from the business community would leave no doubt in our minds that business profits are less buoyant. Income tax collections for the same period have declined from $55 million to $54.5 million as I mentioned a moment ago. Consumption tax has increased – the hotels and restaurant sales tax – export duties have increased, but the revenue has not shown the buoyancy in the last four months that we have been anticipating. I have said in another place that this will cause very sombre consideration by the Government, but I will repeat my pledge in advance of the budget that this Government does not think it possible to close the gap by taxation alone or by extending the range of borrowing or extending Central Bank credit. There will have to be some curtailment of Government expenditure in the coming year, with all the implications this may have in certain directions. And, indeed, although at the time the estimates were prepared we considered that an amount of $289 million could be afforded, the Estimates came out at $298 million; but I am informed that is not unusual, and I should tell the House that a circular is currently in preparation to be sent to all Permanent Secretaries and Accounting Officers indicating that during the course of the year there may have to be a 10% cut even from the voted figures. I have not attempted to impose cuts during the course of the Estimates, but the Government will attempt to make savings on expenditure on a scale never before attempted.

Honourable members will observe that we have done away with the excesses of over-estimation on Capital expenditure. For the first time in many years the Estimates of Capital Expenditure show a decline. We estimated $102 million last year and actually spent in the

region of $77 million. We are estimating $84 million this year and intend to spend $84 million. Except in one or two areas we now have Capital Expenditure a lot nearer reality than in the past. We have always said we consider it bad financing to put down under capital expenditure a lot of sums which were no more than pious hopes which could not be achieved. We have therefore tried to put an end to that. The figure of $77 million for capital expenditure this fiscal year is in any case a figure that is not reflected by capital formation in Barbados by the Government during that time. I would not stand up and tell the House that the Government has been responsible for $77 million in the new capital projects – bricks and mortar, cement or sand or otherwise – because included in the $77 million is $3 million we had to pay for Bath and $7 million for International Sea Foods; these amounts were paid during December; $2 million for the Barbados Marketing Corporation due to previous maladministration; and indeed all this could amount to perhaps $13 million or $14 million in bailing out of other Government enterprises where the taxpayers money has been thrown away in past years. But we do consider that figure of $84 million a much more realistic figure than we have had in the past.

Now in making this general review I said that it was worrying my advisers and we were considering what in fact had happened, and we are being forced to the conclusion that something very desirable in the economic context is taking place. During 1977 it seems that a good deal of the increase in the Gross Domestic Product has been accompanied by a redistribution of people's incomes away from the top and away from the corporations into the lower paid levels. The public sector which has shown a considerable increase was remunerated at the lowest level with increases of about 15% and this increase has considerably exceeded the entries in the retail price index during the year and has been at about the level or a little more than the Gross Domestic Product itself has increased.

12.45 p.m.

There has also been a very substantial and obvious redistribution of wealth toward pensioners; and the increase in expenditure by the Government reveal that apart from Charges of Debt, these increases in expenditure, certainly between the period April to January 1978, and April to January 1977, that of that amount no less than $5½ million has gone towards old age pensioners and national assistance which is far and away above other increases other than Charges of Debt, of Government expenditure; and that represents a very substantial transfer of wealth towards the least advantaged in our society. Government Pensioners themselves have also received increases over the year accounting for $1½ million.

Mr. Speaker, when I say that the shortfall in revenue can be explained by the redistribution, it will be obvious to hon. members that when we redistribute the wealth of the country towards the lowest paid people you do not get a trade off in direct taxation. If the best off get more money, income tax increases by leaps and bounds; but when the lowest off people, old age pensioners and the lowest paid workers of the Government get more money we do not get the same increase in income tax. So you have a situation where the social policies of the present Government and of the past Government have resulted in deficits, and the Government's revenues are doubly hit as a result because the Government expenditures go up, but the corresponding increase in revenue does not take place.

Mr. Speaker, that broadly speaking, concludes the general review which I wanted to make on the Estimates. The figures will be found in the rubric at the start. I should mention Charges of Debt at this stage because Charges of Debt have increased vastly. The chickens have to come home to roost at some time, and if hon. members look at the Head dealing with Charges of Debt, Head 21, they will see where our particular increases have come. Interest on external loans has gone up from $3.2 million to $6.2 million. Repayments on external loans have gone up from approximately $7 million to $8½ million. Repayments on local loans have gone up $1½ million to $5½ million, and the overall increase as shown in the Estimates is $8.8 million; but the actual overall increase in cash terms between April 1976 and January 1977 and April 1977 to January 1978 – the actual increase in Charges of Debt is $16.8 million.

These are figures which reflect the fact that the Government has been running in a deficit position for the last five years. If we take the figures for 1973–74, the current account deficit was $15.3 million. For 1974–75 it was $17.3 million and for 1975–76 it was $18.6 million. This deficit has to be paid for by borrowing later, and the Government's revenue had to be financed during even that year by borrowing, and borrowing ultimately has to be paid for.

Now against that background you will understand what the Government means when it says that we cannot afford wage increases for public officers at this time. I myself think it a very sad commentary on the realism or the absence thereof of the union representing public officers at this time when the National Union of Public Workers can put up a claim that will involve $80 million over two years in additional salaries and the Barbados Workers Union can claim increases that will involve $78 million.

I wish to make no criticisms during the negotiations. I have no criticisms to make because I have come to the conclusion that we have to regard these salary claims as shadow boxing, that is that if you put up claims that are absurd, they cannot be taken seriously;

but when I explain that the Government cannot afford to pay any increases it has to be understood that that is what it means. The Government cannot afford to pay increases. We should be thinking about decreases. The Government has to think about reducing expenditure, not necessarily reducing salaries but reducing expenditure because no hon. member – and certainly not the hon. members opposite – would wish to see taxation and borrowing used to try to meet $80 million in two years when we estimate for a $40 million deficit this year. *(Aside)* I heard the Leader of the Opposition say that he remembers 1976 when we wanted the last Government to pay out more money.

I regret to say that although we thought that we were being informed of the facts in the last Parliament, we realised that the job of concealment that was done by the last Minister was so complete that it fooled even those of us who like you and the hon. member for St. James had spent years here listening to the hon. member for St. John and knowing his capacity for hiding the true facts from members of the public and even from members of parliament in respect of Government's revenue. Why do you think that there was no Budget one year but only a fireside chat? Why do you think that the House was not given an opportunity to deal with the true financial position? But apart from that, Mr. Speaker, I would want to say that even if the public officers had a good case the Government still could not afford the general salary increase this year.

I am going to say something, Sir, that is of some importance to the public and which they perhaps should know. The Government has not ruled out the possibility of small interim increases at the lowest salary levels of the Service with the possibility of a review next year of salaries; but we are forced to reject many of the arguments, which we have been hearing round and about, about the low level of wages in the Public Service; and it is not good for the Public Servants themselves for the rest of the public to think of Public Officers as Cinderellas and cast offs and as unable to afford the goods things of life. A maid in the Government Service get $80 weekly. It should be noted that out of crop wages on sugar estates which were only $70 a week have now been raised to $84. Building workers in the Government get $80 and building labourers outside the Government get $70. A Government Messenger gets $490 a month; and the Establishments Division has made a investigation, and the only place it can find better paid messengers than those working for the Government is perhaps at the University. 12.55 p.m.

The middle ranges of the civil service are not badly paid compared to persons doing comparable work in private industry. The place where people are underpaid is at the top. There is no doubt about that, and I would say this for the sincerity and the understanding of public officers at the very top in the civil service, that I have heard no word raised among people at the top in the public service against the fact that they know they will not get any salary increases of any sort this year, just as Ministers and Parliamentarians. Not one of us has gone forward and said five years we have not had an increase, it is time. From Permanent Secretaries and people immediately beneath them I have not heard one complaint. It is a sacrifice which we in Parliament and public officers at the top of the service are willing to make because they understand the true position of the Government.

A distinction has to be made, Mr. Speaker, about wage restraint in relation to the economy as a whole and in relation to the public officers. There is a general reason related to the balance of payments in Barbados' international position why wages cannot rise in this country out of all bounds. Costs in manufacturing will go up and there will be pressure on consumption and on imports for which ultimately the country cannot afford to pay unless our tourist receipts and our sugar receipts are at such a level as to allow goods to be imported freely without balance of payments problems. The Government has had to accept this, the balance of payments difficulties. We have sacrified Government revenue through the restriction on the import of motor cars. The $5 million in motor cars which we did not allow to be imported last year would have brought in $4 million in additional Government revenue apart from the use of gasolene and licensing and so on. The $2 million in luxury consumer articles would have brought in over $1 million in further Government revenue. The Government has to sacrifice this in the interest of balance of payments, private individuals also have to recognise that some sacrifice must be made in the same interest. Barbados cannot afford to be internationally bankrupt without bringing down on our heads all the ills and woes that have beset our Caricom neighbours not blessed with petroleum resources. But as far as public wages are concerned, there is an additional argument, the argument being, put simply as I have put it over and over again, the Government cannot afford to pay.

I want to deal very briefly with an argument put forward in the pages of the newspaper by one of my good friends, Mr. Gladstone Holder. He said the sugar industry is losing money but we still gave the workers more money. Why did you give them if you cannot give the public officers? I have to emphasise and I am emphasising what used to be emphasised by the former Minister of Finance; there is a difference between Government as an employer and private persons as employers. Until now, Mr. Speaker, the Government has never had to retrench public officers to accommodate wage agreements. The commonest form of

accommodating a wage agreement in private industry is to send home people. A private employer does not feel that he has a general duty to keep down the rate of unemployment in this country; the Government has always had this duty. The sugar industry has reduced its permanent employment by well over 50% in a matter of twelve years. The Government cannot do that. Roebuck Street, the wholesalers in this country, have reduced employment from 4,000 persons to 2,000 people in a matter of five or six years to accommodate stringent price control and increased wages. A Government cannot afford to do these things. We cannot employ retrenchment of public officers as a policy for balancing the budget. We can say there will be no increase in recruitment. We can say that some temporary posts for which there is no demonstrated need – the need for which they were created has now come to an end will be revoked, but the Government cannot adopt what private industry can do and that is to send home people to pay more wages, and it is time that the National Union of Public Workers and the Barbados Workers' Union realise that when they are dealing with a Government they are dealing with an employer whose hands effectively have been tied behind its back. I just throw this out to point out certain things. As far as the sugar industry itself is concerned I do not think I have ever before seen a situation in which an increase was granted to workers and opinions published in the columns of the press have been against that increase. You will search in vain for any commentator saying that the sugar workers could have got more money, and I am wondering what the press is coming to. Nobody has said that the sugar industry last year predicted a loss of $8 million and made a profit of $8 million, therefore they were $16 million better off. I do not want to expose everything that happened in private conclave although there were members of the House who were present, the hon. member for St. Lucy. Nobody has emphasised the point that production bonuses are no longer paid in the sugar industry; all bonuses are *ad hoc,* and that if you go a year when there is no salary increase in the year when there could have been one because the agreement came to an end, but the industry has made a lot of money, then the industry can only expect that it can have some increase in wages to reflect the past crops. Either you have profit sharing or you have a union which makes a case and a Government which accepts the case. If the sugar industry wishes to talk in terms that the wages will increase the cost, which is the burden of Mr. Holder's article, it is the burden of letters in the newspaper, it is the burden of other commentaries in both newspapers, if the industry wants to argue that, the industry must say keep wages at lower levels, but have some fundamental scheme of profit sharing in which workers will be entitled to a certain percentage of the industry's overall earnings, work out some scheme. If no such scheme is worked out, it is only to be expected that when the industry reveals a $16 million increase over its projections to Union and Government, some share of that wealth will be distributed by some means to the sugar workers. Now I have not seen this point of view put anywhere; all you hear is that the sugar industry will lose so you cannot pay the workers more. That is all you can hear, but looking at the public officers, nobody seems to say treat the Government as an industry, the Government has lost $32 million last year, maybe $35 million or $36 million when the figures come out, therefore obviously they cannot pay any more wages. Nobody says that. I know that when it comes to the point with the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union, somebody is going to tell him that when the sugar industry said it was going to lose $8 million you did not ask for a wage increase, you only asked for it when it made $8 million. Why you don't apply the same criterion to the Government? And the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union is going to talk for twenty minutes while he thinks of an answer to the question, and by the time you realise he has not got an answer everybody else would have been battered into submission by the flow of his verbiage because there is no answer. That is the difference between the situation of the sugar industry and the Government or private industry and the Government.

1.05 p.m.

The Government lost $32 million last year on expenditure of less than $300 million, a Current Account expenditure, of less than $300 million, of two hundred and eighty something million dollars – I have forgotten the precise figure but it will be found in the Estimates – and a halt, Mr. Speaker, has to be cried at some point, and it has fallen to this Government to decide to cry halt and to try to bring our finances into some kind of shape.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I fear I only have handwritten sheets, but the hon. members for St. Michael South-West and St. John, whoever is going to speak, are very welcome to consult these copies, I have only one copy which can be passed around, which will give more up-to-date figures on revenue and expenditure than appear in the Estimates. These are the figures to the end of January this year, expenditure and revenue, and they are a little bit more up to date than the Estimates themselves.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes, so to speak, Current. Now I turn to Capital. I have already indicated that we are bringing Capital Estimates down to a more realistic level and we are estimating $84 million for next year. To summarise, projects which will be found in the Estimates and one or two of which there may be no mention and on which the people's money will be spent, various projects are continuing. The airport is

continuing, the harbour is continuing, there will be a little run down certainly of the harbour during the year. On the Spring Garden Road, a new project, work is proceeding in the planning stages, we are being held up by the intransigence of one person who will not give up the land that is acquired by the Government. I believe the case has already reached the Supreme Court in respect of it.

I would just like to make a small parenthesis. A man does nobody any good, not even himself, when by his selfishness he puts work gangs to stand idle and wastes the public's money, he stops development from going on when he is guaranteed that whatever the court assesses is fair compensation for his property and that he will be paid that at 6% interest from the date of the application. A man is doing nobody any good. That is the sort of person we can do without in this country.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister has just said the matter is in the Supreme Court. Why is he commenting on it? The matter is *sub judice.*

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am commenting generally, Sir, about persons who when Government have projects to do, stand in the way of the Government's projects, stop people from getting a chance to work, stop the country from developing. That is what I am talking about. I am very sorry if the hon. member has a client in court who is holding up the Government's activities, I have not made any accusations.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I want to make this quite clear. I have not got a client in court, but I will soon have one against the Government for not paying the people proper money for their property.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: That is what the courts are for, and that is what lawyers are for, and I congratulate the hon. member. The Government will fight fair and square, but I am sure the hon. member will not give any client of his advice to stand in the way of progress for the people of Barbados; I am sure of that. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: I have never done it). This is one former Attorney General who will not set out to stop the development of Barbados. I am sure of that. Anyway, Sir, I will come off that.

The Spring Garden Road is being worked on, the Polytechnic project is also being worked on, plans are being drawn for that, roadworks in that vicinity.

Now, the new projects. During the course of the year it is hoped that we will be able to establish a National Fisheries Corporation, and some indepth studies have been done after many years of trying to consolidate all our fisheries efforts. Our aim is self-sufficiency in food, fish as well as a continuing fish export industry in fish in the widest sense, but we are concentrating at the present time on self-sufficiency in fish. Fishing has been spread all over many Ministries, the Ministry of Trade, the Ministry of Finance and Planning, as well as the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries which in fact has done probably out of the few less than as little as possible in past years in this direction, but the personnel situation there is being corrected. Barbados imports perhaps up to $2 million a year in fish, we believe that a better use of the existing trawlers which we have investigated can be made and we need perhaps to buy additional fishing vessels; and the establishment of the National Fisheries Corporation which can co-ordinate and improve the efficiency of the present in-shore operations, offers a great deal both in employment and in the saving of imports.

We are also, Sir, investigating the expansion of the plantations' tenantry scheme which appears in the Manifesto of our party as a scheme to transfer title of lands and plantation tenantries to the tenants, to embrace rural development generally, and I can report to the House that two Missions of the Inter-American Development Bank have already been to Barbados to examine how far this is feasible and how far it may be funded from overseas sources. We will be aiming to give plantation tenants not only the parcels of land on which they have their houses but also parcels of land within the plantation itself for the growth of food crops, vegetable crops, in conjunction with an irrigation scheme and general technical assistance on marketing the crops. The Government's input into this will be the transfer of title and the creation of some infrastructure by way of roads. The loan funds we are hoping, Mr. Speaker, will deal with the development of the irrigation and the agricultural aspect of the scheme.

There appear very reasonable prospects of making this scheme a substantial one enjoying the assistance of overseas funds. The IADB team has already been taken to see plantations in St. Philip, plantations in St. George, and I believe one in St. Peter, to see the tenantries and to investigate the agricultural possibilities at close range.

The Oistins redevelopment is expected to start during the year with a fisheries project and the provision of harbour facilities.
1.15 p.m.

At the moment we are in receipt of reports from the consultants, and the Ministry is examining the reports and conclusions and seeing how they can be fitted in with the general plans for the area. The Oistin redevelopment will also involve the building of a

magistrates court and a new Police Station – although I must say I don't regard the building of police stations as being of the same essential priority as perhaps the building of a fishing port at Oistin, for which we have already negotiated a loan from the European Development Fund.

A Speightstown redevelopment scheme is also being worked on at present to link the development of Speightstown with the Heywoods project to the North and the building of the Speightstown by-pass. I believe, Mr. Speaker, you are familiar with Speightstown and I am sure that on behalf of your constituents you will welcome Government's initiative in improving marketing facilities in Speightstown and considering the establishment of harbour work and a depot for the National Fisheries Corporation so that we can consolidate and extend the fishing enterprises of the good people of northern St. Peter and Southern St. Lucy.

In central St. George we are appointing a Committee to collaborate with the Church of England, who are the owners of large tracts of land, Glebe, near St. George's Church, for the general improvement of the area and widespread tenanty redevelopment schemes. The Glebe land, although sharing the characteristics of plantation tenantries, is not a plantation tenantry but a place where the plantations persuaded the church to accommodate their labourers in years gone by; nevertheless, it deserves development of a high order, and we are planning road development schemes, recreational facilities, playing fields; and of course, there is still outstanding the provision for the commercial developments in central St. George, the subsidiary urban development of which we have spoken in successive manifestoes, and we are looking forward to some being started in the coming financial year and a good deal of planning for work to be carried on at a high level during 1979–80.

We are also planning redevelopment for Bridgetown. Honourable members will have observed that the Barbados National Bank has already cleared and levelled a site opposite its James Street premises to be used for a car park, but the Government is contemplating the redevelopment of the entire block embraced by Synagogue Lane, James Street, Coleridge Street and the square containing the Montefiori fountain. We are contemplating the building of a new Supreme Court and Registration Office and accommodating other legal departments as well, not for the sake of building a new court – I do not expect the work will start this year anyhow – but for the sake of avoiding having to build a new Central Police Station, because the room released by the removal of the courts will ultimately bring Government's plans to fruition for expansion of the Central Police Station and improvement of the facilities which are not of the best at the present time. As the same time that this work of a public nature is being carried on, the National Bank is considering the redevelopment of the whole frontage of James Street from Synagogue Lane to Coleridge Street, in which we will provide shopping accommodation somewhat similar to Pelican village but of a slightly different nature. Many of the small artisans who still operate in Bridgetown – tailors for example, perhaps shoemakers and handicraft shops along the edge of the bank's car part – it is our intention to give these small artisans who are being squeezed out of the more desirable sites a real show window and thus increase their earnings from tourism, because the IDC, the Ministry of External Trade and the Development Division of the Barbados Development Bank will all be asked to play their part in improving the operations of these artisans, putting them in a position for example to make suits within twenty four hours and deliver them under duty free conditions to exporters. I do not see why it should only be the big shops in Broad Street to enjoy duty free conditions; I do not see why with appropriate safeguards a policy cannot be worked out that will allow the small man to make a suit for a visitor at duty free prices. So we are planning all this as part of a physical, social and commercial development in the centre of Bridgetown. There is no competition between Ministries in this regard, so it is not a case of the Bank competing with, say, the Ministry of the Attorney General. Indeed, I believe that the premises for the artisans will be ready before the new Supreme Court.

Now as to projects which are expected to start during the new financial year. We expect to make a start with the new secondary school at Trents. It is expected that construction work on the sewage scheme will start during the year. The pulverisation plant in St. George is also ready to go and we expect to start work on the Barbados Marketing Corporation during the year. The National Housing Corporation will be entering the area of providing houses for the most disadvantaged in our community; we will be providing during the year both land on which persons can put their own houses, and we will be going back into the area of building houses for rent for persons who cannot afford to buy houses at $26,000, $27,000 and such like. For some time the housing needs of the least advantaged in our society have been neglected, and although Government realizes that this is an expenditure without hope of immediate return, we intend to build at least one housing area within easy reach of Bridgetown and to start this during the next financial year. The Ministry of Health will be completing the Litchfield Health Centre and will start work on the health centre at Black Rock, all of this leading up to providing the physical equipment without which the National Health Scheme cannot operate. With the shortage of general

practitioners in this country there must be some consolidation and provision by the Government of physical and human facilities to allow the National Health Scheme to work when it comes into being. These are the physical projects which will be accommodated within the Capital Estimates for this year.
1.25 p.m.

There is one major developmental project which the Government is now contemplating. I cannot say, Mr. Speaker, how far the project will prove to be completely feasible in the productive terms which we now envisage. I am referring to the development of our petroleum resources, and I would like to give my thanks to the British Government for making available to us the services within the last few months of a petroleum expert to investigate and check our present resources of petroleum and gas. There seems to be some loom for hope and expectation of some very substantial resources of natural gas in Barbados. It may be indeed necessary to drill through where you find oil, another few thousand feet, to gas wells. In other words to sacrifice oil for the possibility of gas. It is estimated that the reserves are of such a level that upwards of 10 million cubic feet a day may be available, and that there may be a case for a really large investment project to make use of natural gas on a wide scale in Barbados.

I am not holding out any hopes for building a fertilizer plant or building a plastics plant or anything so fanciful at this time. I think that five years ago the fertilizer plant built in Trinidad cost over $150 million (US) to put up. We are not looking at that kind of thing, but we are seeking to extend natural gas really widely over the island. The first steps have already been taken, and the Natural Gas Corporation is taking steps to secure finance to extend its operation. From time to time hon. members might have noticed in the Press that gas lines are being laid down. We expect to extend not only to consumers but to industrialist users, and during the course of the year we will be preparing a project which we hope will attract overseas funding for the wider use of natural gas in this country.

I will not have to spell it out a, b, c, d. I will not have to spell out the importance of such a project to the future development of Barbados if the hopes held out to us prove fruitful in the long term. These are capital works, and I would ask hon. members to note that despite the weak current account of the Government, that there will be no halt in the continued expansion of Government enterprises in this country – productive enterprises; because it will be of no use to say save the money on the capital works and pay the public officers more. I very much hope that I will not hear that from any union, that you can do without building this, or do without building that, and have a salary increase. I very much hope that that argument will not be put forward. It is in these capital works that the possibilities of the Government's general finance expanding in the future, so as to enable public officers to share in the Government's prosperity, lie. It will be of no use to divert the resources being raised in this country through taxation and borrowing into the payment of public officers salaries.

I have heard something from one of the negotiators that if you pay Civil Servants more, they can afford to employ a gardener or something like that. I would prefer to draw a veil over that. I cannot treat that as a serious argument. A capital works programme, and the using of some of our current resources for capital works has been essential in the attitude towards development of all Governments in this country for 30 years. It is not the prerogative of our party or the party of hon. members opposite; and where in five years you have a current account deficit, and the deficit is such that far from being able to finance current expansion, we have to finance current consumption out of taxation and borrowing, this cannot go on forever and a halt has to be called. It has to be pointed out to the public that this has to be paid for.

The agreement signed by hon. members opposite indicates that the price of water will ultimately have to be raised to an economic level. It will have to be paid for. Do not doubt. Ultimately the sewage scheme will make a substantial development in Bridgetown more feasible because sewage is a definite constituent of commercial development in Bridgetown. I will give hon. members opposite a little praise. Money has to be spent on the Barbados Marketing Corporation, not in the grace and favour and money raising methods used in previous years, but money has to be spent to make it possible for the BMC to satisfy the reasonable aspirations of farmers without putting too much weight on consumers in the way of higher prices. The BMC has to be built to give farmers a guaranteed market, since neither the Government nor the public will stand forever the exploitations of consumers by a few farmers as a result of controlled crops and selling at an inflated level.

The BMC has to be built to make it possible for the farming industry of this country to expand in the light of the difficult conditions which will face sugar in the future. The pulverisation plant. All of us accept that the proper disposal of garbage in this country is not only a social and health matter. It is also an economic matter. The problem of garbage about the streets can keep areas where it is found depressed. It keeps down land values. It stops people from building something in those areas. The hon. member for St. Michael South West ought to be one of the first to get up and congratulate the Minister of Health for eliminating the

piles of garbage that you used to see in Westbury Road and which I do not seem to see, or seem to see to that extent anymore.

These are old schemes, but the new schemes are projects of this Government, not schemes that we are carrying on. In the case of the National Fisheries Corporation an attempt is being made for the first time not to give a few lackeys of a political party an opportunity to build up enough money in the USA to enable them to run when the going gets too hot – but it is a proper fisheries scheme to put fish into every household in Barbados at reasonable prices, to do away with the importing of fish into this country; to improve the income opportunities and the provisions of life for fishermen in this country – these are schemes which have to be carried on.

The rural development project, the giving to agricultural workers in Barbados some recognition of the fact that they have carried this burden on their backs for over 300 years and made it possible for a quarter million people of this country to live with a reasonable standard of living, certainly when compared with undeveloped countries. This is the type of project that we have to carry on. We have to carry out the extension at Oistins, at Speightstown and in St. George. That is the additional Urban Development. If there is any possibility of natural gas being here in really exploitable quantities, we have to be prepared to see that if there is $50 million to be spent it must be spent on natural gas and not on improving the salaries of public officers at a time when the Government's financial resources cannot allow it.

These are the imperatives, Mr. Speaker, and it is a matter of vital importance for all of us to keep these imperatives before us and understand that unless we are shaken out of this five year rut into which we have fallen, unless we are shaken out of the depressing economic circumstances of the last five years, Barbados is faced with a declining standard of living, negligible investment and a condition where our GNP is stationary – well, they say that I must not go on talking about CARICOM countries – but where we will fall into the same position as our comrades in Guyana.

1.35 p.m.

A letter was written to the newspapers about why do you hear all these difficulties in Government you never heard of in the past, and I have had to answer in here, you never heard of them because they used to be hidden, and any hon. member who doubts this, as I say, only has to look back at the Estimates and see when they started, even before the oil crisis. They started in the financial year 1973–74, a deficit of $17 million. They are the years when the rut started, Mr. Speaker, all of us have to try to get out of that rut at the present time.

Mr. Speaker, some very short points on revenue. These are very very short points indeed. I am happy to say that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation at long last over the last year and a half has managed to put itself into a proper financial position. At long last it made itself quite up to date in payments to the Government on its loan; the balance of its principal, the money it owes the Government is now $212,000. I have insisted on payments being made, its interest is all up to date and it is accumulating a small reserve for expansion of its services. There will be some technical expansion. They have managed to get technical advice. The reorganisation so ably and wisely carried out by the present Chairman, Senator Nigel Barrow, appears to have proved successful in financial terms and we can look forward to some progress in that direction.

I know that hon. members have to ask about the Hilton Hotel. I have a different story to relate about the Hilton. I am not satisfied with the revenue which the Government is obtaining from the Hilton Hotel. The previous Government never admitted how much the Hilton Hotel actually cost Barbados. It could have been $12 million, it could have been $14 million, but it was something in that region depending on how you deal with the law suit which was settled after it was built. I am not satisfied under conditions where there is an 18% increase in tourism during the year 1977 that the Hilton Hotel should only be paying the Government $615,285.82 for rent for last year. Even in 1976 it paid more, and if you look back through the Estimates you will see that it is quite clear that the Hilton Hotel has not been making the contribution to revenue that one would have expected in the days back to 1966 when it was only just built and apparently doing well, and we will be asking for a special accounting analysis of the accounts at the Hilton finding out exactly why this enormous expenditure of Government is not being reflected in public revenue, the enormous expenditure by the standards of those days. The former Government had a lot of very high expenditures: International Seafoods, how many millions is that? The amount mounts up every day. It must be losses to the Government of something like $15 million or $16 million in total when you consider everybody who has had to throw in money. Even the sugar fund has had to throw money in there. The poor sugar workers working in the hot sun cutting canes having their money ultimately, the sweat of their brow, the fruits of their toil and the sugar industry itself being thrown to help Kyffin Simpson have $US50,000 in cash to show the American Embassy when he applied for a visa to go to the States to show he could support himself. Everybody has thrown money into International Seafoods and it

has produced no returns. The same really has to be true, you would have to say, of Bath Plantation although clearly the Government is going to try to obtain money out of that.

These are not the only schemes that have failed. It is disgraceful in my view that we are not showing a better return on the Hilton and indeed one or two other Government commercial enterprises, and these are matters that are being analysed by the responsible Ministries. It will be observed that the Estimates for the Hilton for 1977–78 are $845,000. As I say, my information is that they have not reached that. We are estimating for $.3 million. All I can say, Sir, is that I very much hope that these figures will be achieved.

There are one or two things in revenue. You can never anticipate what hon. members will say about revenue, but I will just make a number of preliminary statements about the last budget. Full and more complete figures will be given. It would appear that the budgetary measures introduced in April last year were very largely successful. It appears that the predicted increase in revenue has materialised. I do not want to give hon. members exact figures at this time, but perhaps by the end of January the thoughts which we had had about the budgetary increases seem by then to have been realised. I know that hon. members will wish to take every opportunity of saying we should not have abolished the 5% sales tax and we should not have abolished the trade tax. Hon. members like saying that the people should pay more for their goods, but the budgetary measures had certainly produced by the end of January well over $10 million and they are expected to produce considerably more for the full year. I would not go into all of it. You will notice that the revised estimate for the gaming machines by itself is over $1 million when they never paid anything before. We notice that airline service receipts have increased very considerably, that hotel and restaurant sales tax have already exceeded the estimate. We have not quite exceeded it, but we are doing very reasonably with hotel and restaurant sales. We have in fact covered by the shift of taxation largely to foreigners and to what is known as discretionary expenditure..... we have managed to shift what we gave up on the sales tax towards the direction of discretionary expenditures and towards expenses by persons who come to the Island, and the contribution to revenue indeed of what is the general category of "Other" has increased by the percentage that we would like to see revenue increased by over-all which is 18%. Corporation Tax down 2%, income tax down 1%,, but other taxes up to $31 million from $26 million over the corresponding period in the previous year. So we have achieved something small in that direction, and we would have done better if all revenue had managed to hold up.

As I say, Mr. Speaker, I really cannot go through every item of revenue, but I would remind hon. members that if they want to talk about the revenue, they have to deal with it in second reading. I just mention this for the assistance of the hon. member for St. Michael South West whose experience of thse matters is so limited that his colleagues have not sent him in to bat although he is supposed to be the chief spokesman for finance. But I am just giving him a few clues as to what strokes he should aim at when he gets up, as I suppose he will, if he is the chief spokesman in finance, to reply at the end of my speech.
1.45 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I imagine that hon. members by now would like to take luncheon adjournment. I really do not think there is anything I can add, I will make the documents available to hon. members, I will make the hand-written documents of which I spoke available to hon. members during luncheon, and I beg to move, in all the circumstances, that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. SISNETT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second that motion and reserve my right to speak.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: At this point I would like to move the luncheon adjournment, it is now ten minutes to two, until 2.45 .

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I beg to second that.

The question that the sitting be suspended until 2.45 p.m. was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.

On Resumption:–

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, on the 22nd June, 1976 we had a rather historic debate in this Chamber, historic in more senses than one. Your Honour will remember that in that year and on that date I came to the House with a Resolution to amend the Civil Establishment Order, the effect of which was to grant to the members of the Public Service of this island fairly substantial increases in their wages, salaries and emoluments, an across the board award. I would not like to call it an agreement, it was an award of 35% increase to the public officers in the first year and 15% increase in the subsequent financial year, making a total of a 50% increase after the breakdown in the negotiations which had been held between the Ministry of Finance led by me

at that time and the representatives of the various categories of employees in the service of the Government of this island.

I have had the opportunity of reading again the debate which was spearheaded by the now Hon. Minister of Finance on that occasion after I had introduced the Resolution. The hon. member spoke at great length, as he did today, as is his fashion, but the whole gravamen of his attack against the Government at that time was that the Government was a wicked Government not to heed the cries of the poor, down-trodden public officers. He produced a plethora of statistics to establish that the cost of living under the Government over which I had the honour to preside at that time had risen by some 88% and therefore an award of 35% was penurious and derisory. If he did not actually employ those physical words, there was a certain amount of vehemence, penurious and derisory..... *(Aside)*.....well, depending on what latitude you go to for education in England, de-ri-sory or de-ris-ory, but to me it is immaterial. I hope that we both can spell it.

Today, lo and behold, he informs us that had he known, he, the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow Minister of Finance, had he known what he now knows today, that his approach would have been or may have been different. I try to register what the hon. member is saying. What the hon. member is saying in the usual fashion, that the DLP Government concealed the true facts of the economic situation from the members of the House. Now, we come to the House with the Estimates, I am going to read extracts from my speech and Your Honour will be in a position to judge whether anybody was withholding anything from the members of the House. Far from withholding things from the hon. members of the House, I spoke for much longer than I am accustomed in order to explain what I described at that time as the facts of life in order to vindicate the step which we had taken. I explained at that time, Mr. Speaker, that in 1968 when there had been an impasse between one of the workers' organisations, the Barbados Workers' Union, and the Sugar Producers' Federation on the other hand, that although I was not a party to the dispute, in the interest of the economy of this island without any great fanfare I had made an announcement of what I had considered to be just and equitable, I had introduced a guaranteed week for agricultural workers on the same occasion, and nobody complained about my coming to the House in order to settle that dispute, and I went on to say that *a fortiori* where I represented the employers who had really been the taxpayers of Barbados on the one hand, the Government being an instrument of the taxpayers on the one hand, and I was a party myself as a representative of the taxpayers of this island to the dispute, and arrayed on the other side were representatives of the employees of the Government, in other words, the employees of the taxpayers of Barbados on the other side, and as every single settlement award or any change in the emoluments or conditions of employment of public officers of this island has to come to the Legislature anyhow, the most that anyone could argue was that the negotiations should be protracted a little longer than the 22 meetings which we had already held.

At the end of the speech, the hon. member for St. Thomas, as he then was, and the Hon. Minister of Finance, as he is now, appeared to move three things, and I should not like to misquote him, Sir, because it is rather interesting the proposal that he made at the time, but what is more interesting than the proposal was the argument that led up to it, and with which I will deal in a short moment. At the end of his intervention, the hon. member said: "The Order is in operation already....." I am quoting from the Official Debate on page 6735, at the top right hand corner,"..... and therefore we have to move the suspension of the Order, in my respectful submission. The Clerk is there to deal with this business, I am in anybody's hand. I do not wish to move that further consideration be postponed because if it is postponed any longer the Order will collapse, I am just trying to do what I believe is proper, and I am moving the suspension of the Order. If you rule I cannot do that it keeps the Order alive until the House debates it, you will be correct. If I move that further consideration be postponed and it is carried or suspended, there is a time limit on this. It must be affirmed by a certain time, and if it is not passed by a certain time it collapses. It is not a negative resolution, this is an affirmative resolution, and if it is not passed by a certain time the civil servants will have to pay back their back pay, to carry it to extremes, and therefore I am moving that it be suspended to allow the negotiations to be re-opened."

His Honour the Speaker then said, "I think that the Leader of the Opposition must decide which of those three things he wants done." The hon. member again rose and said, "I understand what I want done, Sir. There is suspension, postponement or amendment. Those are not three separate things, they are two things, either of which can be achieved and must be achieved by the third. It is necessary to amend or suspend or postpone, and I have said suspend and not postpone. I have moved an amendment to have the words 'operation of' between 'the' and 'Civil' and to remove the word 'approved' and put 'suspended until the further pleasure of the House be known' and that will give us a chance to think about it for as long as the Prime Minister decides."
2.55 p.m.

Now the hon. member did not make any talk on the resolution but spoke for a considerable length of time suggesting (a) that the Government could pay more than 50% over a two year period; (b) that we had not negotiated enough with the public officers

representatives; and (c) not only that the Government could pay but that the Government should pay more than the 35% and 50% that we had come down with in the Civil Establishment Order. I am now hearing from the hon. member some of the arguments in a rather watered-down form, but what is significant is this – and this is the most important aspect of these two separate transactions – that whereas what the hon. member describes as a similar situation has now been revealed to him that the country is in a position where the Civil Service Bill is a very high one, and there were negotiations between the organisation representing Government employees and the Government – maybe the Ministry of Finance at that time – spread over a considerable number of months in which it was clear that if the public officers were to get anything at all, something had to be done in this situation without either coming to the House or having a single meeting – before a shot was fired either in good humour or in anger – I am not speaking of actual shots but rather of industrial warfare. Now the Hon. Minister of Finance has served notice to the general public that notwithstanding what he may have said previously on his general policy on wages and salaries, there is nothing more than 5%, and that before you even come to the bargaining table do not expect anything at all. Now which is better, to negotiate and try to explain your position to the representatives of the people who work for you, and they when they are egged on by other people in the background they become recalcitrant and adamant that they are not accepting what was considered reasonable at the time but what the now Hon. Minister of Finance feels is over-generous in his own words. So the general public of Barbados now has an opportunity to compare the performance of the Government which I represented at the time and the attitude of the hon. Minister of Finance who must share collective responsibility with his colleagues for any pronouncements made as Leader of the Government. Today we have a new Fabian tactic introduced, a tactic made famous by a Roman General, a man who fought delaying tactics. The hon. member for Christ Church East introduces a Resolution. There is nothing wrong with the Resolution *per se,* but we have to look at the Resolution in the context of what is going on in the country at a particular time and this Resolution now calls for.....

Mr. SPEAKER: You may not debate that Resolution.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am not debating it, Sir, I am just saying what the Resolution is.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think you are entitled to do this.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am saying the hon. member has introduced a Resolution today.

Mr. SPEAKER: And that is enough about the Resolution.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: It is a matter of record. He introduced the Resolution today. Now it is either timely or untimely – it all depends on your point of view. From the point of view of the public officers it is untimely but from the point of view of the Minister of Finance it may be timely because it may give a certain justification in delaying indefinitely, hence the Fabian analogy.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. John is disregarding the authority of the Chair.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: If the House does not want to hear me, that is all right; I am only trying to do my job. But what would have happened, Sir, if the Government is trying to put through a certain measure and, I think, introduce a Resolution which might be interpreted as giving justification for a cessation of negotiations – I will say no more, one can draw one's own conclusions – and I know the hon. member for Christ Church East well enough to say that I do not think he would have taken inspiration from anybody for that, I think he is concerned with the social and economic problems of the country. But what I am concerned about *(Asides)* I am serious, Sir, I was not in any way belittling the hon. member for Christ Church East.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I want you to understand the Chair is very serious too.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I know the Chair has not made up its mind to get me to stop my speech here today and in that sense I know that the Chair is serious.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do not anticipate the Chair; no hon. member anticipates this Chair.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I hope, Sir, you do not mean the Chair is unpredictable.

Mr. SPEAKER: Continue your debate.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Sir, on the occasion of the debate on 22nd June – just to remove any illusions any hon. members may have had – I want very briefly to quote on the general relationship of the public officers to the Government and to the rest of the body politic and the relative standard enjoyed by the members of the public service and how we can justify

increases of the magnitude which were being demanded at that time.
3.05 p.m.

I said on Page 67 that if we take the period 1966-76 you will find that the increase in the salaries and wages in the public sector over that period of time, including let us say to 31st March, 1976 have exceeded the increase in the index of retail prices. I am saying that categorically. If we go back and look at some absolute figures, this is what we find. We find that in 1961 – and this is a good bench mark from which I should start because this is the first time that the island had a Minister of Finance – a maid in the public service work for $15.20 a week, and as a result of the recommendation which I put to the Cabinet and which I asked the House to endorse, a maid would be working at the bottom for $63 a week and next year for $70 a week.

A police constable was getting between $91 and $100 a month. As a result of the increase which I recommended a police constable will be averaging $311 a month at the bottom to $412 a month. At the top of the constable scale he will be getting something in excess of $800 a month; but when he comes out of the Police Training School without any increments, without any A Levels or O Levels – his basic salary would be $412 a month. I did not mean that a police constable coming out of training school would not have A Levels or O Levels, but I said that a police constable coming out of training school would get an additional increment for every single certificate that he had. I just want to get that clear. That is something that did not exist before because they thought that policemen were not supposed to have A Levels or O Levels; but we were recruiting people in the service when with the broadening of education in this island many policemen did have these qualifications. In the earlier days you might have found people like you in the Force with your educational background; but by and large until 1961 this did not happen.

This is what I am saying, that the increases which had been granted exceeded and transcended what they would call in the USA the consumer purchase index and what we would call the cost of living index which is more accurate than the term consumer purchase index. The hon. member accused me at that time of introducing statistics which were spurious. At that time the cost of living had risen in the past three years immediately preceding the introduction of that Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment Order by 88%; and no way could an award of 35 or 50% be considered or deemed to allow public service to keep pace with the cost of living. I understood, heard or read that last week the hon. member justified the position which he now takes up and which he has not prepared, so I cannot call it a prepared position. He said that the award I made at that time more than compensated for the increase in the cost of living which is directly opposite to what he was saying then, and inferentially – I want to choose my words carefully – there is a place called St. Philip the Less, better known as Boscobelle, and I know that on not infrequent occasions you have been into this kind of business and you know what an act of supererogation is. It is an ecclesiastical term which means drawing upon a fund of grace which few of us have. What the hon. member was saying is that it was an act of supererogation on my part and that there is a reserve fund of unexploited cost of living funds which they draw upon to tie them over the next few years so that no increase is justified in 1978. That is my act of supererogation. I have done so much for them in 1976 that not only did it compensate for any ex post facto increases in the cost of living, but they have something which they can yet draw from.

I should not have to say anymore, but if that was all, all I would say is that the hon. member has now seen the light, but as Official Shadow Minister of Finance, and after I spoke at length explaining the situation he should know what the situation was. I was not saying or shedding any tears that the Barbados economy was about to collapse or anything like that. He was saying that during election time, a few months or a few weeks later; but at that time the economy was in a good state; but he is now accusing me or the former Government of not letting them know the true state of affairs, because had he known, he would not have adopted the attitude that he did. That is how he justifies and tries to reconcile the irreconcilable.

I am not going to prejudice any negotiations between the Government and the public officers by anything I say here today, because despite the fact that I have moved from over there to over here, I still have the same views which I do not change because of any change in geographical position as the hon. member has done. My views remain the same. I have not seen the arguments for the quantum of increases which should be granted to public officers at this stage. I am no part of the negotiations and if I had all the fact before me, and if they are put before this House whenever an amendment comes – if an amendment comes at all – and it is not forestalled by the Resolution moved by the hon. member for Christ Church East, then I will be able to make my contribution in the light of my experience in the past; but I do not like to sit here and be accused that this is a new open Government and that we did not tell the general public what the country could afford in 1976 because it is all there in the debate.
3.15 p.m.

What I certainly did not do was to prejudice negotiations by telling people in advance they were not going to get anything at all.

I will now turn to the Estimates. The Hon. Minister of Finance made some interesting statements, and right at the beginning of his speech he stated that we are well into a stage of structural deficit on current account which was ameliorated only in 1975. From the Draft Estimates which have been presented to the House and which are the subject of discussion here today, I am going to read out the deficits over a ten-year period. I agree with him that we are well into a stage of structural deficit, giving the impression which I do not agree with that this stage of structural deficit is something chronic and is incapable of amelioration, to use his own expression. We are deeply into a stage of structural deficit and we are so deeply into a stage of structural deficit that it is extremely doubtful whether we will ever come out, but it is not a structural deficit, it is a deep stage of structural deficit which is a different thing altogether.

Very quickly I would like to give you these figures. In the current Draft Estimates beginning in 1967, and where I say "1967" add on the year 1968 because we run the year as you know from 1st April, we have a surplus of $1.6 million; in the next year 1968 there was a deficit of $3.3 million; in the next year 1969 a surplus of $1.7 million; in the next year 1970 a surplus of $2.8 million; in 1971 there was a surplus of $9.5 million and in 1972 a surplus of $6 million. In only one single year was there a deficit up to and prior to the fuel crisis, but this Government, that is the people on my side, the Democratic Labour Party, had been in office from 1961 and there had been substantial surpluses prior to 1967 and in only one year between 1967 and 1972–73 was there any deficit at all, and on the other side of the picture there were surpluses on current account despite two or three salaries revisions in that period, despite the setting up of overseas offices immediately after 1966–67, our year of independence. There were substantial surpluses of $9½ million, $6 million, $2.8 million, $1.7 million and $1.6 million, and only one single year in which there was a deficit.

Now come 1973 there was a deficit on current account of $15 million not $40 million, and the next year one of $17 million as a result of corrective action taken, a miniscule increase in expenditure of only 1.5% as compared with 28% increase in expenditure the previous year, and you will find in many instances where there appears to be an inordinate increase in public expenditure which has been the result of salary revision; but in 1975–76 the increase in expenditure was only to the order of 1.5%. I have worked it out and these are round figures. It may be like 1.46723 recurring. I am giving the round figures. I do not want to have my time dissipated with trivialities about percentage points. I just say that for the record, but it was a 1.5% increase in expenditure over the previous year whereas expenditure in the previous year had been $181,424,450. In 1975–76 it was only $184 million; these are the out-turn actual figures, no projections made at a particular time to make things look a little better than they actually were, and we do not know what the out-turn figures for 1977–78 are up to now, because the year is not concluded. All we have from the Minister is that despite what he has said in the Budget, he has collected less income tax and he has given me the privilege of seeing his figures up to January, but that does not help me because from January to March you still have three months in which it can be reversed. He has $1 million less in income tax and some other figure – I have to search here if you will bear with me a moment. For the comparative period up to the end of January it has fallen in the first ten months from $14 million to $13 million. He said that profits are less buoyant, income tax receipts have actually declined and a weakness in revenue has been noticed. This is after the inspirational budget which took away the trade tax and the sales tax and gave people $60 which they never received and that kind of thing.

How can you say – I do not mean you, Sir – how can one say that he is reviving the economy where business activity declines as the direct result of the measures introduced by a Minister of Finance? How can you say that with less income tax you have created more employment? Is it that you are taking profits and paying wages? Is this the secret? Because I have not heard anybody in the Incorporated Chamber of Commerce make that claim. How can you say that you are taking bold measures to take the country out of stagnation when for the first time in about fifteen years income tax shows a decline over a corresponding period? Now I think that income tax is going to decline more for the very simple reason that income tax apart from what you are getting now from pay as you earn is not normally paid by companies ... corporation tax. Income tax in a broad generic sense is not paid during the months of February and March. Your big payments normally come after the end of March and sometimes down in October. So it is pretty certain, I think, as the hon. member has actually admitted, that the prospects of the receipts in this particular respect to the Consolidated Fund are going to be considerably dim if not extremely unlikely.

3.25 p.m.

The hon. member said that the revenue had not shown the buoyancy that they had anticipated. Government revenues invariably reflect the level of economic activity in the country, and therefore, Mr.

Speaker, if you tell me that revenue has not shown the buoyancy, I do not care what kind of statistics or GDP may be produced, it inevitably spells out that business activity has not been at a buoyant level. Some people speak as if we live in some kind of vacuum, but if you go into a shop – nobody does any shopping for me – if you go down Broad Street, if you go down Swan Street, all the people have long faces. I would like to say to them my heart bleeds, but I am a socialist, but at the same time of being a socialist, every time a businessman puts on a long face and sheds a tear it does not mean that I have to take my sick bed, because I know businessmen sometimes shed tears and they give you the impression that things are worse than they really are, but you can get a good impression of whether people are fooling you by the universality of the plans which are being made for people in this country today.

People cannot get laundry detergent. Are we producing it in Barbados? If so, it should be on the shelves. Those are the things in this country within my short return that people have been complaining about. You go into a supermarket and you can run some of the circus elephants, not rats, through the shelves without knocking down anything that you did not pay for. The rats have been running through many of them for a long time.

Now, we are supposed to be a closed economy, and I want to make my position abundantly clear. I still feel that there are commodities here in this country which are not necessary for the enjoyment of a certain quality of life. I think that the people in Barbados, including myself, tend to have consumption patterns which are not related to the factor endowments in this country. We need to provide employment for our people, but having said that, we have enjoyed hitherto in this country a certain standard and quality of life, and there are certain things the average housewife considers essential for a reasonable kind of existence without too much drudgery. We do not consider things like laundry detergent in this country a luxury any more, because nobody is going back to buy blue soap and a "jucking" board. I am one of the few people in this island who own a "jucking" board, because I think it is a relic which may be going out. I like people to come into my sitting room, which is the living room, dining room, kitchen and everything in one, and ask me what is that and I explain that in the old days in the country this is how my shirts used to get ripped up and my buttons lost. In those days the buttons used to get lost two ways, one was with marbles and the other from the "jucking" board. But you see, Sir, the average housewife in Barbados does not want to go back to blue soap with the harsh caustics and so in it, the firm that used to make blue soap I believe has gone out of business, so if things are not on the shelf for the housewife to purchase, what you can do is to say there is no point in giving you a salary increase because there is nothing to buy anyhow; that would be a good argument. Salt bread has not gone up, you can still get salt bread, you can't get fish, you can't get chicken backs as you would like, so what are you going to spend the money on? You can't buy motor cars, you can't buy stoves, the only thing you can do with the money is to gamble.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: State your point of order.

Mr. JOHNSON: The hon. member for St. John is misleading this House. I happen to know a little about it. He is reflecting badly on the integrity of the member for St. Michael West, because I happen to use chicken backs and he is saying there are none available in this island. I am telling him that they are available, Sir.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I said as you would like. I am glad to hear that some hon. member is dealing with chicken backs, but I do not like the hon. member saying that I am misleading the House, because I said you can't get chicken backs as you would like, and this is a fact. Next week they will tell you that the BMC says a shipment is coming in but you can't get them from the supermarket. This is the point I am making, so if he thinks that this is a big debating point that he is in charge of chicken backs, well I will have to call him the Minister of Chicken Backs.

I could go on and deal with the hon. members in detail, but I do not really want to, but there are certain aspects of the speech made by the Hon. Minister of Finance which convince me that he has not had time to think of the implications of the warnings that he has given, and I am going to deal with one aspect in particular before I go on to the others.

The Minister will admit that the Estimates which have been presented by him of expenditure, by the very nature of the exercise which is entered into from late September/early October until the Estimates are actually approved by Cabinet, that those Estimates have been cut down to the bone. He will have to admit that, I have been doing it too long not to know. What the Departments submit to the Ministry of Finance is invariably not accepted. Apart from the unescapable expenditure such as Civil Establishment Orders and so, you will notice that one salient feature of Estimates presented here today is the reduction in Non-Recurrent, because that is the target that the Ministry of Finance has to attack. You may have a water cooler that has broken down and you do not get one this year.

3.35 p.m.

You may be running out of stationery but you say we will deal with it in a supplementary later on, don't worry about it now. And this is the kind of thing that goes on, so that there can be a slashing of non-recurrent expenditure because the other things fixed by law are not susceptible to change, such as the Civil Establishment and so on. Well, if you accept that you cannot change salaries – $126 million out of the total amount of the Estimates of $298 million – and you have already slashed non-recurrent expenditure and know what is going to happen to non-recurrent expenditure – go and ask the people in Bridgetown, because one of the first surprises that I got in the Ministry of Finance was that the merchants in Bridgetown knew more about projected expenditure of non-recurrent items than members of the House of Assembly, because they have a vested interest in whether a department was going to buy filing cabinets or a new car – we cannot buy new cars this year I hear – but they go through the Estimates with a fine tooth comb and before the ink is dry – I would not go so far as to say before they have gone to print although it could happen – but before the ink is dry on the Estimates every merchant who is a supplier to the Government knows the amount of money Government is going to spend. So when you slash your recurrent expenditure and say you have to do without this or that Government is the largest single spender of money in this economy and it means a curtailment of this activity in this respect. You don't get any import duties from Government items so it will not affect your customs receipts but it will affect the profitability of the enterprises which supply the Government. I am just stating the facts of the economy and the fact that after the curtailment of items which your public officers think necessary but with which for window dressing purposes it would not be convenient to inflate the Estimates, you may have to come in the form of a supplementary later on. But it is one way of reducing your Estimates of expenditure. Why do we have all these supplementaries, They are not all due to unforeseen circumstances; a lot of these supplementaries arise from the fact that things have been cut out of the Estimates in order to reduce the figure for expenditure for the financial year but which are items which you find later on you cannot do without because the machinery of Government would begin to creak if not break down. So one of the elementary lessons is that there are two ways in which the businessman can increase his profits – he can increase his prices or reduce his costs, one or the other or both. But when dealing with Government finances and you want to reduce your deficit you can reduce your estimated expenditure whether it is a realistic reduction or not, or without any statistical support. You can say that you think you are underestimating the revenue which you are likely to get from a particular Head, so you can increase your revenue figure and reduce your expenditure figure, and I respectfully submit at the present time that both of these things were done in order to make the weakness of the structural deficit to which the hon. memeber refers a little shallower. But how shallow is $40 million? It is all right to take a figure of minus 15 and minus 17 and plus 18 and minus 7 and say that that shows total deficit over a four year period averaging $20 million – I really can't understand what the hon. member was saying. For even if I take the total deficit which is $40 million minus $18 million which would be $22 million over a four year period, can you interpret that as a chronic or structural deficit? Not when you compare the performance of Government revenue and expenditure over the six or seven years immediately proceding that! And right in the middle of this so-called structural deficit which according to him is something incapable of being ameliorated except by some fortuitous circumstance or act of God, they say it was good fortune with the Sugar crop, but is has nothing to do with the Sugar crop. It had something to do with the Minister of Finance putting a levy on the sugar industry which has not been making a proper contribution to the economy – not entirely due to its own fault over a period of years – nd also keeping down expenditure to 1.5 over the preceding years as compared with 16, 26 and 22 percent in previous years. But you cannot in the middle of this say that this is only a fluke and therefore the economy is in structural deficit. We are in deep trouble because of our deficit now. If you take any ten year period of the Government over which I had the honour to preside, there is no period where we ended up with anything less than a surplus which could make a contribution to current expenditure. The four year period that he talks about came immediately after the fuel crisis, $15 million 1974, $17 million and then plus $18 million, so that wiped out the $17 million, and then in a year, half of which he was responsible for, a deficit of either $7 or $8 million – he does not seem to be able to make up his mind on it but the draft Estimates before us show $9 million.

And then, Sir, I remember having a discussion with one of my Ministers – he was a mariner and everything he discussed he saw in terms of the sea – but I give you one little story. We were discussing the division of Barbados into Zone 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, and someone was saying that they did not understand how you could get from zone 1 in which you were allowed to do any kind of development to zone 5 in which you could do no kind of development, just by stepping across an invisible boundary line.

3.45 p.m.

Normally you would take it up to Zone 1 sort of shaping into Zone 2. Hon. members who deal with the law know that there is this problem all over Barbados of thin red line drawn and you jump from Zone 1 to Zone 5. We were strict on the land. There was no way in which we could introduce a nautical analogy or a maritime analogy. My learned friend made an expression and said that it is jumping from the surf into the ocean and no

would not mind. I can understand the predicament of the hon. member; so the man who used to be the biggest defender of the army of occupation is now leading the attack. He is in the vanguard of the attack against the army now; but I wonder if he is not really in retreat. He reminds me, Sir, of a general on a field and as soon as he sees the army coming, he says "There is no point in you all fighting because there is no battle today; battle postponed!" There was a famous Spanish leader called El Cid and his troops were do despondent after he was dead that they had to put him on a horse and put him out in front of the troops.

It is a very serious situation. We are in a very serious situation. The hon. member realises we are in a very serious situation, but what I deplore is the repeated efforts that the hon. member makes to blame his own incapability on a Government that performed for the people of this Island and give people the impression that his $40 million deficit has got something to do with the Democratic Labour Party. Not on these figures.
4.05 p.m.

He is saying that we treated the public officers too magnanimously in 1976. Well, if we did I am saying "guilty" because that is not what he was saying before, he was saying we were not treating them well enough. So I can plead guilty to that, because he was saying that we were not treating them with the justice they deserved, but he cannot use that as an excuse for saying that there is no increase in the cost of living, therefore do not worry to fight this battle today because there is no war going on any more, I am not fighting, I have gone back home. That is a different thing altogether. It shows that in public life you have to be careful about your pronouncements and in trying to get cheap popularity by saying things which you know would be pleasing to cheap people. Now he is adopting the attitude that I have to say unpopular things, if he had not said unpopular things before we would believe his sincerity without any reservations whatsoever. When I was subjected to the kind of attacks by the hon. member when I was Minister of Finance when I was trying to do my best both to the taxpayers and to the employees of Government, and now to hear from the mouth of the Hon. Minister of Finance that we are in a structural deficit, what does he intend to do about it? I should like to warn the hon. member about one thing. In his Budget Speech, which he calls a Budget Speech, he made a great play of coming to the country early in April with a budget. Now the first time this country ever had budgets was when I became Minister of Finance, but at least I took the precaution of waiting until we received the Government accounts and outturn figures for the financial year so that nobody could say I was raising money that might not be needed at all on a hypothesis that the outturn figures might take you further back.

There is no special virtue in rushing to the House with proposals which are not going to balance your budget anyhow just to prove that you can come with a budget within three or four days of the end of the financial year, because you have not got the statistical information at that time on which you can make clear and recent dicisions. Again you get carried away by your own rhetoric, your own pre-election rhetoric, and this can be very dangerous, so do not let us come rushing now because – and I want to say this now categorically – there is no way that the people of Barbados can be taxed another $40,000,000, there is no way that by reducing your imports into Barbados you are going to help the revenue position; you are going to worsen the revenue position. I am not suggesting to the hon. member that he should not take a critical look at some of the items which are brought into this country and which contribute nothing towards the well-being of the community as a whole and very little to Government revenue, I am not saying that. I am a Barbadian and I strongly believe that there are areas where we are providing work for people outside. Whatever we are doing or buying, let us make sure that we are going in for an exercise in import substitution that even if we have to take shark and salt it in order to get salt fish as they are doing in Guyana, that at least we are doing something which is reasonably substitutible for the items which we are banning, provided those items are in consumer demand and necessary for the well-being of the community. Just do not ban for the sake of banning because we are going to end up in a worse position than we are in right now.

If you want to get an idea, Sir, you live in a fairly prosperous area in this Island with elaborate housing and so on, but if you want to know what has happened in the country look at the number of properties going on the market for sale, everybody is getting out, and when I say everybody I do not mean every last living soul. If you want to look at the level of economic activity in a country, look at the level of activity in business. Let us see how many new businesses are being opened, how many of these businesses are in the hands of small people, because the distributive trade now is getting a little more fluid and people who normally would go and take jobs are deciding they would take a chance in business. Is that happening in Barbados today? I say it is not happening. There is a general air of despondency and alarm. You cannot go on providing services all the time, Sir, the people will want bread, that is basically what the unions and the representatives of the employees of the Government are demanding. They want to be able to buy bread.

The hon. member also stated that the Capital Estimates showed a decline of $84 million on Estimates,

but according to him the Capital Estimates were $102 million last year and they will end up with something like $77 million. On Capital you may make a fairly accurate projection, but in spite of all the trimming – and I do not mean that in any derogatory sense – that is done in the preparation of the Estimates to get them looking respectable and manageable, the hon. member is saying that we are going to have a mandatory reduction, he is going to issue instructions that we should have a reduction in expenditure in the vicinity of 10%. I think the hon. member actually went on to say the level is being prepared.

I want to examine the implications. Either they have not done a proper job in preparing the Estimates of Expenditure or they have cut them down to the bone and this is the result, because the time to cut down your expenditure is not after you come to the House but before you come to the House, and we know the expenditure is cut down. The submissions made by the various Government Departments and Ministries are reduced considerably by the time they come to the House. Therefore, taking that your inescapable expenditure is in respect of wages and salaries, no provision has been made in these Estimates that I can see for any increase for the Public Service, and if the public officers like the sugar workers get anything like a 10% or 15% increase it means that the deficit has to increase also from $40 million to something like $67 million. Let us face it, because there is no provision in here for that increase, or for any increase at all, so the hon. member is saying there is no increase because I do not intend to give any increase. Assistant General Secretary, take note, please copy, take warning. Now, let us go back and look at the other side of the picture.
4.15 p.m.

The hon. member has said he is going to reduce this expenditure which is already geared to go up by another 10%. It means that the people who are members of the established staff, whose salaries are guaranteed by law, cannot be sent home. It means that the people who are the key scale workers, as we call them the unestablished staff, will have to be the "beneficiaries" – in inverted commas – of the hon. member's 10% reduction, because the non-recurrent items have already been reduced and therefore any 10% reduction can only come in wages and in projects which will further increase unemployment in this country. This is the point I want to make but I am making the point in the context of the way in which the Estimates have been prepared, in the context that the hon. member knew that before he came here he would do his best to reduce his expenditure down to those things that were absolutely necessary. What I want to know is what further room does he have for a 10% reduction in Government expenditure unless this 10% is at the expense of workers in the Ministry of Communications and Works predominantly, if not them and them alone. So we will have the introduction of the programme you call "systematic release"; I cannot remember what the hon. member is alleged to have called the exercise, but I call it "systematic release", phased dismissal or whatever you like. Where is the $30 million going to come from in the reduction he claims he is going to introduce? It has to be at the expense of the working class man because you cannot, according to the law, dismiss the people on the established staff. But you have placed in the hands of the civil servants who are under your control the ability to lay off and send home people who are casual workers and members of the unestablished staff. All of us in Barbados would like things to be better; they cannot go on this way. They are getting worse, and for the hon. member to congratulate himself that he only has a deficit of $32 million is no cause for congratulations at all because he said it is a structural deficit; it is now planted into the economy of the Island.

As I said before, I want to make it clear that there is nothing wrong with deficit financing. But this is not planned deficit financing. This is permanent, chronic increased liability of the national debt year after year from which we may never be able to recover.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Speaker, one of the striking features of the presentation of Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure of this year as against last year is that while the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister was optimistic last year, this year he has had to admit that there has been a certain weakening of the revenue. What surprised me is that he went on to say that he himself is surprised that this is so. It seems to me this should be no cause for surprise because when the Government took the decision to protect our foreign exchange position and our balance of payments; it was clear to those of us who read this situation clearly that there was bound to be a reduction in corporate profits and also a reduction of revenue by way of customs. When we took the decision that we were going to restrict on a large scale the importation of cars, consumer durables and a large range of luxury items, it seemed to me that it was very clear that at the same time we were also affecting the revenue yield as far as duties and corporate tax were concerned. So I am surprised that the Prime Minister should have expressed any sense of mystery and alarm that there should have been a shortfall in revenue. But these were all deliberate steps which we in Barbados took and I believe that we have benefitted as a result of these steps because the position today is that our balance of payments position and foreign reserve situation are not as bad as in several of our neighbouring Caribbean countries who are terribly afflicted with these woes, as the Prime Minister himself calls it.

some major economic advantage flowing from that; but if the situation remained as it is for five more years, the country would not be worse off. So that in terms of priorities I am not so sure that the projects which have been identified necessarily represent the best interest in terms of Government expenditure for this very difficult period. It is my submission, Mr. Speaker, that there is bound to be a way out. I do not accept that we have got to live with this structural deficit which speakers on both sides have thus far spoken about as though it is something that we will never be able to lick however far down the road we look.

Turning a moment to the civil service, Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to get into any discussion as to whether or not the way in which the civil servants have been told that it is not likely that they will get an increase this year has been the right way in which they should have been dealt with and so on, but I feel that we are landed with the situation in this country where there is a civil service that is costing the country some $126 million out of Government expenditure of $298 million. That is big indeed and it is only for salaries and wages. I do not think that we can even contemplate retrenchment; that is a non-starter.

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope you are not now attempting to debate your own Resolution.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: Not at all, Mr. Speaker. I will have a full day for that, as I understand it. All I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is that it is my submission that what we have got to do in respect of the civil service is to get more output and more efficiency out of it. We are starting with a given premise, that they are there, that they have got to be paid and that the amount they are asking of the country every year is growing, and it is big indeed. The solution as far as I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, must be to get more out of the civil service and make sure that they are more efficient and more productive. That is the only way that we will be able to justify the heavy expenditure which we are making on them, and it is in this context that I very much regret that there has not been an increase in the Estimates for training in the civil service and indeed training in the country generally.

Mr. SPEAKER: In the light of your Resolution which you tabled today, I think you have said enough about the civil service.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: Very well, Mr. Speaker, but there is still a considerable overlap and the civil service constitutes an important part of Government expenditure.

Mr. SPEAKER: But in the light of the Resolution which you tabled today, I cannot hear you further on the civil service.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: Very well, Mr. Speaker. I am making the point generally about training and the necessity for the Government at this stage to make a major investment in areas that will ensure that we are allowed to grow for the future and as a result overcome this structural deficit problem which we have been talking about so much today.
4.45 p.m.

I think that one of the areas in which we should move perhaps to overcome that in the future, would be to have such trained manpower in the country that we will be able to service the growth in manufacturing, growth in export promotion and in the many sectors that will allow us to move forward in a big enough way to correct this major difficulty.

There are just one or two other points I would like to make before I give way, and one relates to the fact that we have budgeted for about $88 million in Capital Estimates, when last year it was $102 million. The point I wish to make is that that is not necessarily any evidence of a slowing down of activity on the Capital projects front, because last year the Prime Minister made the point that he was only expecting to spend $65 million, and the hon. member for St. John in his speech said that he would be surprised if he spent $65 million, because the economy did not have what he thought an absorbing capacity to ensure that we spend any more money, and on that occasion I complained of the harmony of complacency between the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Government with respect to that matter, and the point was made on both sides that we have always been over projecting the amount of money that we would spend on capital projects, so that what has happened this year as I understand it is that there has been a more realistic forecasting as to how much money we will in truth and in fact spend on Capital projects and the fact that we have only forecast $88 million instead of $102 million for this year does not indicate any slowing down of productivity on the project front.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I take no comfort in the statement made by the member for Christ Church East merely because he shows an apparent greater understanding of what is required at this time in this country than does the Hon. Minister of Finance, given the statements that have been made and the Estimates which have been laid. I take no comfort from his position, Mr. Speaker, because in the final analysis he sought to suggest, as I suppose he had to, that there has been no slowing down. It makes no difference if we debate here whether there has been a slowing down or there has not

been a slowing down, the fact remains that almost anyone who takes the trouble merely to walk around in this country can feel, can almost touch the state of economic gloom which exists in this contry.

The hon. member says that very shortly there will be figures and facts to support his contention that if you do a sectorial analysis you will see that there was growth. Mr. Speaker, if we do a sectorial analysis of almost anything, depending on who did the analysis you would come up with the answer you want to come up with. What we need to find out is what has been the total economic growth in this country. If for example, Mr. Speaker, we did a sectorial analysis on the performance of the Industrial Development Corporation we would come up with such startling information that during the last two years despite the expenditure as it appears in the Estimates of over $5 million they had a net increase of 39 jobs. A net increase of 39 jobs after $5 million of expenditure can be seen to be a very dangerous and negative road down which we are going, and that is why I said that I take no comfort in the fact that the member for Christ Church East who happens to be Chairman of the IDC is making a special plea for the Minister of Finance to try to understand what needs to be done in this country if the country is to make economic strides.

I take no comfort in the fact that a backbencher has to tell a Minister what to do, it is not the first time and it will not be the last time. The Hon. Minister of Finance sooner or later is going to have to come around to the same facts that apparently the hon. member for Christ Church East has come around to recognise when it comes to managing the economy, that mere guile, that mere skilful use of language will not substitute for straight, hard economic decisions. He has come around to recognising that the unemployment levy is a total waste of time, and I take even less comfort in the fact that the hon. member for Christ Church East now has to apologise to anybody for what he had to say.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do not let that be your greatest contribution to this debate.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I hope you are not assuming that he is capable of making any other.

Mr. TAITT: I suppose that was a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: He knows it is not.

Mr. TAITT: I am beginning to doubt that, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us get on with the debate.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, if we look at these Estimates we see that the input for national housing development in this country is going to be almost zero. If we take a look at these Estimates as they are presented we will see continuing in the vein that has been raised here that in the productive areas of this economy there is going to be little or no activity. If we take the question of tourism, the Minister not only misunderstands or appears to misunderstand the proper approach to development using tourism as a base for development but he does not even seem to have heard that everyone else appears to know that the Board of Tourism is in extreme difficulty, a difficulty which emanates from the total innocence of its Chairman of any information, knowledge of apparent talent in the field of tourism. But they go further. For almost two years now they have been fiddling around with experiments in serious fields like industrial development and tourist development. They had been playing around from the time they have taken on the responsibility of the Government with amalgamating the offices in New York, talking about deficiencies while it is clear to almost anyone who has paid attention to these matters that all they have succeeded in doing is to reduce successfully the output of both offices.
4.55 p.m.

I had the occasion to touch on it before I am going to speak on it specifically now.

When the Democratic Labour Party was in power, a certain public officer in pursuit of a pet theory suggested that there should be a single office in New York City with the best of intentions that was tried. It was soon proved to be a waste of resources and to be institutionally unworkable. The Barbados Labour Party comes into power and they come up with the same concept. Now if the Minister of External Affairs wishes to be in charge of all the external operations of Barbados, that is his business. How they do it is a matter of style and I am not getting involved in that. But administratively it is almost impossible for there to be two separate Ministries directing two separate institutions, each one giving direct advice and direct instructions; and then to confuse the situation even further they join tourism and industrial development under one person who is probably the individual Barbadian now with the ability to promote industry in this country.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of explanation, Mr. Speaker. There has been no amalgamation taking place yet in New York, and in the second place amalgamation in London took place during the period of the hon. member's term in the Ministry and his being in office. The amalgamation of London's tourism and industrial development operations occurred prior to my coming into office.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I am going to ignore the irrelevancy thrown in by the Hon. Minister because there is no IDC and tourism amalgamation in London. The

High Commission in London looks after the whole operation. But the fact is that they have taken the one officer in New York capable of promoting industry in this country seriously and have given him an amorphous situation, and regardless of what the Attorney General gets up and says, the fact is that institutionally they have been trying to function as one operation over the past two years and it has produced practically nothing, for after two years and spending all that money they have produced 39 jobs as a result. I challenge the Attorney General to deny this.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is misleading the House as usual. If the hon. member will give way.....

Mr. TAITT: I am not giving way.

Mr. SPEAKER: Two hon. members are on their feet. The hon. member for St. Michael South says he is not giving way; the hon. Attorney General will have the opportunity later.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, sometimes when we talk about balance of payments and we talk about corrective measures taken, we get carried away with rhetoric, and the hon. member for Christ Church East went on to say that you have to pay some price when you are taking these corrective measures. Mr. Speaker, if you are trying to teach someone to swim there are two ways to do it – you can go about it in the usual manner, or you can take the person out into the deep, throw them over board and hope that their instinct for survival would lead them to swim. When you are about to take corrective measures, the kind of economy in which you are taking the corrective measures has to be recognized. It is not enough to get advice from overseas, even from experts, and decide that a classic example as set out in the text book is the approach that should be tried in a particular country. I remember when the hon. gentlemen were on this side of the House they used to make lengthy attacks on some of the steps which were being taken then and especially when the then Minister of Trade was not in the House they made all kinds of statements about corrective measures. What has not been said in here by the Minister of Finance, when they talk about structural deficit, when they talk about this situation which has existed in the world – they try to suggest that we were in power during the golden age. But, Sir, in 1976, when we were climbing off the worst economic crisis the world has ever seen, coming out of the phenomenon of the energy crisis, inflation in this country was reduced to 2%. Nowhere else in the world had the economy of any country reached a level of 2% inflation. The measures taken in 1975 had brought inflation during the period 1974–76 from 36% down to 2%. And it is instructive that soon after the present Government took over the reins we started going very swiftly back towards double-digit inflation. But it is never recognized that the measures instituted then were the measures which led to a change in the economy of this country, measures which worked; if the Minister of Finance had not come into the Government with promises made – which he intended to keep – but promises which he himself has admitted were on the basis of non-information and not knowledge and that he was not fully au fait with the fact but is still proceeding to try to execute those promises. As a result we have a sort of economic asphyxia where the very oxygen was suddenly withdrawn from the economy of the country. If you suddenly remove your source of revenue and do not have the opportunity to replace it with something else, the result is bound to be what we are faced with now and what the Prime Minister now calls structural deficit.
5.05 p.m.

There is a structural deficit, Mr. Speaker, and yet we are going to spend over $1 million on the Defence Force. A structural deficit, and yet we see no substantial increase in the amount of money to be spent in such areas as increased development. We have this structural deficit, and he does not recognise that the slowing down of trade from Barbados to other Caribbean countries is vital in the situation we find ourselves in now. If we in this country are to change this structural deficit, we can only change it by increasing productivity; and the only way that we can increase productivity is by investing in areas that will result in increased productivity.

When one looks at these Estimates, one does not see any indication of investing in these areas. The P.ime Minister says that he does not think that he will tax the people of Barbados too much. If we look at where he intends to draw funds for the Capital Estimates, we see that he will be continuing in areas where money has already been negotiated or is in the process of negotiation. One question which I would like to ask the Prime Minister in due course relates to this new area of fisheries into which he intends to go.

When one looks at the Estimates, one sees the suggestion that there will be a new fisheries project involving Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and Brazil. I have no doubt that we will get details on that, but it strikes me as passing strange that the only evidence we have had of any new relationship with Brazil is newspaper statements made by Civil Servants indicating that discussions had been entered into with Brazil.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member knows that there is no provision at this time for going into all that kind of detail.

Mr. TAITT: Thank you, Sir. The fact is that relations between Barbados and countries like Brazil are accreditation. There is a question of relationships which

exist between us in Barbados and our neighbours around us. I put it to you, Sir, that the relationships which exist between Barbados and the rest of the Caribbean community countries at the moment do not augur well for any increase in output from Barbados either by way of export trade or investments from those countries. In the course of his presentation, the Hon. Minister of Finance suggested that if we are not careful we would find ourselves in the same boat as Guyana and Jamaica. I would caution the Minister of Finance that he should not continue to believe the rhetoric which suggests that Jamaica is continuing in the doldrums. The Jamaican economy, from all reports has taken a turn for the better; and what Jamaica has to do is to get institutional support from areas other than the traditional areas of promotion.

With this structural deficit that we are going to have in Barbados, one would expect to hear from the Prime Minister that he is not going to be introducing new tax levels – and I will treat with the greatest reserve anything that the Prime Minister says. What then, we would wish to hear and the people of Barbados would like to know how he proposes to finance this very large deficit; and the concept raised by the hon. member for Christ Church East that Capital Works exceeded what the Prime Minister suggested last year is one, which quite frankly, nobody can go along with. The Minister of Finance has indicated that Charges of Debt will be a substantial part of his total expenditure this year. The Charges of Debt, as I read them in the Estimates, come to about $8 million. Who will pay for the Charges of Debt five years, ten years, or 15 years from now? It is not correct to give the people of Barbados the impression that Charges of Debt is some special category of charges which has been enforced, impressioned or some-how thrust upon the people of Barbados by the Democratic Labour Party.

The Prime Minister himself has said that he believes in the expansion of public projects; but the Charges of Debt are charges which are now being paid for, projects which were development projects and which managed to keep large numbers of people in this country working. We are finding ourselves in this country, as my colleague the hon. member for St. John said where in fact the only area in which they can be a reduction of expenditure will be at the expense of the ordinary people whose only difficulty appears to be that they are now disillusioned with their Government.

Mr. Speaker, the Member for Christ Church East said that Civil Servants should give notice, that there should be more output and that there should be more efficiency. Mr. Speaker, it is very easy to be glib about what Civil Servants can do, what they should and should not do. The question of moral of the Civil Service is something which the Minister of Finance should take into consideration before he makes these statements. If he announces in advance that he will not be giving the Civil Servants increases that the economy cannot afford, and then proceeds after saying that on T.V. to enter into discussions with the Civil Servants, it is a waste of time for anyone to start talking about getting more efficiency. The first thing that he has to recognise is that they too are in need of the management techniques, that are used elsewhere, and their establishment problems and all manner of day to day difficulties which.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that we will be going into these difficulties when we discuss the Resolution tabled today.

Mr. TAITT: Very well, Sir. It is going to be very interesting, Mr. Speaker, to deal with the matter of the pay of the Civil Servants. I am not attempting to debate the Resolution, but it will be necessary to speak on the management of the Service in the context.....

Mr. SPEAKER: You have already spoken about management. Go ahead.

Mr. TAITT: The truth is that if you do not give any credit to workers, if you have extremely large organisations there are organisational problems that apply whether it is in General Motors, whether it is the IDC or whether it is some other institution.
5.15 p.m.

Those organisational problems have got to be solved before one can talk in terms of exacting more from the people who work in that particular organisation, and there are certain institutional problems which cannot be solved merely by calling for their solution. If I worked in the civil service or in any other organisation and I did not come to feel that my managers were interested in my welfare, if I did not come to feel that my immediate employers were concerned about my welfare, then I would not put out and it is as simple as that. It is going to take some time before that is clearly understood, but it will be.

Mr. Speaker, in the details of the Estimates, I have a number of questions which I will wish to raise, but it is my hope that the hon. member for Christ Church East will not rest in the feeling that merely to outline what the difficulties are for the Minister of Finance will help the Minister of Finance to do any of the things he has suggested. It is clear from these Estimates that the Minister of Finance has an institutional built-in concept about what development should be. The fact that the Governor of the Central Bank might say there was a 3% growth this year and if things continue the way they are, there will be a 3% growth next year is not an indication

that there has been any growth in this economy; a 3% growth in an economy that has been brought to its heels by the energy crisis is not a significant growth, and the Governor of the Central Bank has a responsibility when he is making statements of these kinds not to appear to be unduly harsh towards the Government, but the fact is that when one examines contrary to what the hon. member for Christ Church East said when one does a sector to sector analysis of the figures that have been published so far, it comes clear that the economy has made no strides over the last 18 months. When they talk about figures of tourism and you look at the amount of people that have come into the country and talk about the increase in the number of visitors, you have to talk about the kind of impact which the so called increase has made in the sector to which you are relating. It is not good enough to come in and say, as the Hon. Leader of the House has said on more than one occasion, that we have had a growth in the number of visitors coming here. When you relate it, when you look at the impact it makes on the total economy, tourism for Barbados has practically gone. It has shown slides and if the Hon. Minister of Finance understood the implications of that, this is the time he would have picked it up and made a significant input into the furthering of the tourist industry in this country.

I have touched on industrial development, but I want to end by saying this. It will take considerably much more to get the industrial development we started in this country than it has taken to carry it almost to a standstill. For two years nothing has happened except that they have been playing around with the institutional arrangements. As we go into some details, I will ask the Acting Minister to give me some details of what has been happening in the industrial development. In the final analysis, Mr. Speaker, if the people of this country do not get employment, if employment does not generate money, the revenues are bound to go down, and this concept that there has been redistribution because 2,000 old age pensioners have received pensions and they consider that a redistribution of income in this country when an old age pensioner gets $16 a week, not one single act on their part has caused this redistribution. They talk about age 65. A number of persons in my constituency who are aged 65 who have gone to the place where they are supposed to get this money have reported to me that they have not got it. Redistribution, Mr. Speaker, must be meaningful redistribution and I think it is time they stop the concept of raking up some statistics and using those to indicate that something wonderful has happened. When somebody reads in the newspapers tomorrow morning that the Minister of Finance and the hon. member for Christ Church East say that there has been a redistribution of income in Barbados over the last two years, they are bound to wonder where it has occurred. Redistribution has to be something that permeates the entire system, Mr. Speaker. More people have to be employed. If you take the point of the number of small persons who have gone out of business in this country, why don't they bring statistics and tell us what number of small shopkeepers have gone out of business, the number of small people who have gone out of business generally. Let them bring statistics and then we will find if there has been a redistribution. They come in and trot out figures of 2,000 old age pensioners. (Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: You are the man who put the shopkeepers out of business.) Is my name David Seale?

Mr. Speaker, it seems as if this has stirred him up. We will have lots of time for that, and we will be a lot more specific. Do you call redistribution, Mr. Speaker.... well not you, Sir, you would never do that. Do you know the redistribution they are talking about? One man in this country has now got a greater hold of the total economy. That is how it has been redistributed, upwards. *(Asides)* They redistributed the one-armed bandits. Do not come in here and tell us about redistribution of money. More money has gone out of this economy with the imposition of the one-armed bandits in this country in 18 months than ever left this country in 18 years. The revenue from the one-armed bandits does not go back into this system. When it goes into the one-armed bandits, it does not see its way back into the economy. It does not get a chance to turn over and multiply. It takes a little flight out of the country and they come in here and talk about redistribution. One of these days they are going to try this guile of the well spoken word and somebody in this country who has either lost his job or seen his family go down into the pit of degradation is going to become so concerned that that person is going to perform a wise act, Mr. Speaker. I hope that such a day does not come; but I hope they do not continue.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, there is a certain limit that all hon. members must not exceed. That is a deliberate incitement to violence. That is a malicious and deliberate incitement to violence.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, in winding up, no one has to plant any ideas about the Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. He has planted all the ideas that have been planted in this country, because he knows everything about everything all the time, and so when he jumps up and appears to be angry, he does not move me. 5.25 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: About the Estimates.

Mr. TAITT: He should be angry about the Estimates, I believe he is angry because he came in here expecting us to come in like last year and let him pass through the Estimates. I have news for him, piece by piece, bit by bit we are going to tear his clothes off, metaphorically speaking, Mr. Speaker, we are going to go through them piece by piece and if we cannot get any

more than the answers we got last year "we just came in", that would not be good enough, we want details and we want facts. Thank you, Sir.

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the adversary system of politics which a democracy such as ours allows also caters to people who sometimes do not understand economic facts, and I believe that those of us who have listened in the last couple of minutes to the last speaker would understand that democracy is very tolerant of varying ideas.

I should like to take issue at the outset with one of the points which he has made, which if believed would sound as though it is an important criticism of the Government. He said that over the last 15 months there has been no growth in the economy of this country. Like most political statements it is made to catch the headlines, but let me say straight away that it is totally untrue, measured by any economic barometer any part of the world. It is an undoubted fact that Barbados passed through a period of no growth, and indeed a period of negative growth, other than one fleeting moment in 1974 when there was a growth of 1.7, but for a period of three years – and one only has to go to the statements of the former Minister of Finance – there was no growth in the economy of this country. For the first time under the Barbados Labour Party Government in 1976 there was a growth of 3.8%, and in 1977 the growth is estimated conservatively at 4.7 and will probably be higher. I am quite sure that the Minister of Finance will in due course, perhaps in this debate and maybe in the budget, give details.

The figures I am giving are not our own estimates of the economy, it is a disinterested view of people who have no short term political axes to grin in this country, and I would like to say that the World Bank in an updated report in this country has said that the Barbadian economy recovered morally in 1976 by 3.8% after years of economic stagnation, and that in 1977 it had shown a growth of 4.7% despite continuing structural imbalances.

This debate so far has been a debate largely about those imbalances, and I think sometimes it is a great tragedy that we have followed the precedent of the former Minister of Finance where he was separating the budget device from being debated at the same time as the Estimates, because we would have had the opportunity in this year to show what measures are going to be taken and how they are going to to be taken to deal with the two structural problems in Barbados, and there are two mainly which have a consequence, and I will tell you the consequences. Firstly, the structural problem of the balance of payments, and secondly, the other problem of budgetary deficits. Both of these problems are problems that developed prior to 1976 September. Anybody with a bit of economic common sense, or a bit of common sense, analysing the performance of this country would have recognised that there was built up for whichever Government that had won the last election problems of a structural nature, with which people who have the guts to deal with them and the honesty to be candid about them must come to the fore and deal with them, otherwise the national outcome of the future would be stored up for the people of Barbados.

If we are being challenged at this time as to whether we are going to deal with the problems, the answer is yes, and if we believe that those of us who have come to power are going to be looking only for the popularity of being returned in five years, you are making a sad mistake. People must have a national consciousness and people must have the national courage to stand up in a country and believe in what is right and deal with it, and not run away on a wave of popularity and incitement to violence of the community and short term political advantage.

I want to say that the time of reckoning is now. In 1973, and the debates of this House show it, the present Minister of Finance as shadow Minister of Finance, the Deputy Prime Minister as the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, and myself frequently adverted to the problems of balance of payments which were being built up in Barbados, and the failure of the then Government to deal with them. The record is there, the record is clearly there. We had some rather hot-headed replies from Mr. Philip Greaves, who was then Acting shadow Minister of Finance, some rather scathing remarks from the then substantive Minister of Finance, but the fact is that he continued to fail to bring positive measures at that time. One of the excuses was that we were part of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Authority. They failed to put a limitation on luxury goods, and the cumulative effect of that is that Barbados has been running into a chronic balance of payments position which we have had to deal with this year. It has been compounded by the simple fact that the management of certain sectors of the economy under the past Minister of Finance was, to say the least, lacking in substance and insubstantial. What other Minister of Finance would have saddled us with having to repay, borrowing on URE dollars and hard currency, $11 million for Seafoods and the Bath venture, projects on which he set out without proper planning? That is what happened under the Democratic Labour Party. Where was the then Minister of Trade? He may believe that a big mouth is an excuse for a big brain, but it is not. Where was he then? Why didn't he make the suggestions for positive ways of dealing with the economy? Not one statement came from him at that time.

Let us move on to the second problem, the question of budgetary deficits. I am not sure how to describe him, Sir, other than the hon. member for St. John, he is not the Leader of the Opposition but he may be Leader of the Opposition; he is not shadow Minister of Finance but he is taking the leading role of shadow Minister of Finance. I am sorry to say that today he was not even a quarter of the man I knew in his heyday, but what is he saying? With one breath he is criticising us for having no buoyancy in corporate profits, saying that we have depressed the economy because corporate profits are down, and although he is friendly with the merchants you only have to look at their faces, the poor merchants aren't doing too well, and in the next breath he is criticising us and saying that we have given in to the merchants by abolishing the trade tax and the sales tax. He is approbating and reprobating altogether in the course of the debate, but isn't it a fact that the real growth in the economy resulted from the very measures he is now criticising and obviously there would have been some adverse effects? But we have stopped the slide in the balance of payments.

5.35 p.m.

We have to some extent created additional jobs in this economy, and the hard facts are there, so that although new people have come onto the workforce, we have managed at least not to let the situation slip back and get any worse than it was under the Democratic Labour Party. Obviously we now have to deal with the second major problem, which is the question of the deficit on current account.

This is not the first year that Barbados has had a deficit on current account. The hon. member himself read out the years when the deficit started at $3 million; it built up to $7 million, $15 million, $17 million then $9 million, other than for one year 1974–75, and he explains this by the fact that he had a swipe at sugar therefore it showed that he knew what to do. Not so at all. That was the year of windfall in sugar receipts because of the shortage of the world sugar market and in an open economy you had more money coming in. You had $40 million then but the price of sugar fell on the world market and therefore you found yourself back in exactly the same position. Obviously, you make your political point about wages in the Civil Service and elsewhere. There must, therefore, be a redistribution of income in areas where you are going to ask for a pay pause and a limitation for the prices dividends at the same time, and Government faces up to this problem. The easy thing for us to do is to continue running this country into deficit year after year without any proper planning and then wait for the five year period and be returned again. But we would hardly be proper nationalists if we adopted that course.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have to make no excuses at all for this Government's performance. Among the non-oil Caribbean countries we have done better than any of the others in the last two years – other than Trinidad. Even if you compare our performance with the performance of countries who are getting massive outside balance of payments support and external aid, our performance is not that bad. As I said a couple of weeks ago, Venezuela with all its oil resources finds itself $100 million in deficit this year. Balance of payments problems confront even Venezuela. Brazil, a country with a wide range of exports, has the same problem. Canada at the moment is borrowing massively on the international market because she is confronted with a deficit on her current account, problems with the balance of payments and continuing unemployment. The same problem has confronted Norway. There is nowhere in the world, other than in countries like Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, – Great Britain is now moving up – that you have had any signs of any significant recovery. Now how do you manage the economy in these circumstances? You are not going to manage it by listening to cheap gibes or a misunderstanding of economic facts by the other side. It is easy to tell the hon. member, if we are looking for $32 million, that had the last government been more frugal, had it been savings conscious, had there been an efficiency in the administration, then the massive losses which occurred in the statutory corporations would not have placed this country in such a debt position and we would not have found ourselves with the sort of deficit charges of which the hon. member for St. Michael South West now speaks. Let me list some of these losses; the Barbados Marketing Corporation from 1961 to 1976 accumulated $8 million in losses of taxpayers' money, thrown away by inefficient management under the so called wizard who now has all the answers to everything. But what did he do to stop it? What steps did he take to stop the stealing? How did he stop the feather-bedding of friends of the Government? These are the questions he should have answered.

The Agricultural Development Corporation – $4 million in losses under the DLP Government.

Barbados Feeds – I would like to deal with the hon. member for St. Michael South West now. Barbados Feeds was one of his pet children, he was the man creating jobs – this company lost $6 million of taxpayers' money.

International Sea Foods – $15 million of taxpayers' money.

CBC – $2.1 million.

These are only some, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but in my addition so far they amount to $35.1 million. If we had that $35.1 million now the country would be in surplus. You should stay out of power for ever because of the incompetence you showed.

That is what you should be talking about, how inefficiently you managed the economy. What did you do as Minister with the BMC that came under you? International Sea Foods? CBC? In those days there were those parasites making enough money to go and live in Canada. People who got licences for cement now boast of being millionaires under your dispensation. And you now come to hurl cheap gibes across the floor of this House about one man controlling the economy. *(Asides.)* It does not upset me but it may upset you; I am going to teach you once and for all.

Mr. TAITT: If the hon. member will give way. You can't teach me anything.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: It is with regret that I acknowledge the hon. member's head is so hard that it is impossible to permeate the structure.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I want to draw to attention that if we are going in for personalities we will not know where it will begin or where it will end. And I would like to draw attention to Section 5 of Rule 28: "It shall be out of order to use offensive and insulting language about Members of the House." If somebody told me in the Supreme Court about my head being hard, that might be a different matter. But I still regard this Chamber as the highest Court in the land, and I would ask the Hon. Attorney General, regardless of however intensely he feels, not to use offensive or insulting language. If we are going to maintain a high standard of debate, let us leave out personalities and such things as telling people about their head being hard, or knotty hair or whatever. It just is not good enough.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I can assure the hon. member who has just made the intervention that I will not reach any heights that he has reached in calling people monkeys or village idiots.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: If you think that a brillant reply, that is all right with me. I am sure I never called anybody in here monkeys or village idiots. If you heard me and interpreted it that way you are entitled to do so, but I have never done it, except that I may call you now. However, I still would not do that. But be that as it may, I would like a ruling on whether the remarks made by the Attorney General are insulting or offensive.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is no point of order.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. I would ask that the Attorney General withdraw the remarks. I consider them to be offensive and insulting.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot see how the Attorney General can be asked to withdraw the remark when I have ruled that there is no point of order. My point of view is that there must be a certain amount of give and take, and I do not intervene at such stages.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, am I to understand your ruling to mean that we are free to cuss and talk as we like?

5.45 p.m.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No point of order.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. I hope that the Hon. Attorney General will withdraw the remarks which may be considered offensive and insulting under the Standing Orders.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not see how the Attorney General can be asked to withdraw the remarks when I have ruled that there was no point of order. It seems to me that there should be some give and take.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I understand your ruling to be that we are free to give and free to take.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, some people who begin to give cannot take. When one is debating I expect that if he gets up and makes trite points he will get trite answers. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that the Government has begun to deal with the question of balance of payments.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order. I would hope that the hon. member who is used to crying very often does not cry later on during this debate.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is no point of order. Please continue.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I will not follow that line down the line with the hon. gentleman anymore. I think that the hon. member will find today that he may really get some good ones. Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I said, the Government has begun and will continue to deal with the question of balance of payments. It is obvious that we have to step up the amount of projects that will come down on expenditure on imports in some respects on the bringing in of foreign finance. I think that it is necessary that the Civil Service must recognise that there must not be too long a delay between conception and execution. It takes the Government sometimes nine months to see the first fruit signs of a decision taken, and if one looks at the last Government, sometimes it takes 18 months to two years before you can get started.

One of the difficulties which confronted us on the assumption of office was the absence of proper planning in certain sectors of the economy. We had to start from scratch in many cases even to identify the locations where they were doing buildings or something of the sort. We heard so much about the Heywoods project. All that happened was that $½ million has been paid out and no proper developmental study done in order to ensure that.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. I think that my learned friend, the Attorney General, knows or ought to know that the Heywoods Development Project is one of the subjects into which the Duffus Commission is inquiring. Would it not be proper to make no reference to it until the Commissioner finds out what he wants to find out? What is even worse is that the Debates of the House are being read into the evidence of the inquiry. I have never attended a meeting of the inquiry, but that is what I have read in the newspaper. It is not fair once the Inquiry has been established. I do not care what they do. I am just pleading for a certain sense of decency and fair play so as to enable the Commissioner to arrive at a conclusion impartially. *(Aside.)* If you know so much about it go before him and give the facts or tell us the facts now. If you know so much about it why do you not apply to go before the Commission and give the facts? It should be tested before the Commissioner and not in the House on privilege.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Would the Leader of the Opposition refer to the relevant Standing Order? *(Pause).*

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is but one example of the lack of proper planning. The hon. member should not have jumped up on this point. Take the polytechnic. A large amount of time and effort was wasted on merely looking for a site for the polytechnic and a site which turned out to be totally unsuitable and which would increase the cost, and that was on a decision made by one man who could not be persuaded by his Cabinet colleagues that he was making a mistake. Then we had to spend additional time in getting a proper site for the Polytechnic. These are two questions that come to mind rapidly of the lack of proper planning when a new Government comes into power. Obviously it takes time to get all projects off the ground and of course to bring them into fruition.

When the last Government went out of power there were projects that they have given currency to, but nowhere was the stage reached where feasibility studies had been done. The same thing goes for the cement plant project. Nowhere was a feasibility study to show the rate of return this Government would have got on its investment done at the time. We are talking about mismanagement of the economy. It is in areas like these that we must see how we have built problems for any Government that runs the country; and if the Government is not strong to deal with them and tell the people outwardly what are the problems, we would continue to drift, and drift, and drift; and it will not only be nearly impossible, as the hon. member for St. John said, but we will get ourselves in a state like Argentina with rampant inflation, a depressed economy and great problems of social injustice. We do not want that in Barbados, and that is why we say that public finance must be looked at.

I compliment the Minister. I do not criticise him for having put on a cut in various areas of the Estimates, particularly in the area of recurring costs. Civil Servants have to understand that perhaps in this year or the next year we cannot get a fan here or an air-conditioner here or a carpet there. There must be a less amount of expenditure on things like wastage of paper, the use of the telex machine for sending numerous replies to something that could have been replied to by a saving gram. We must therefore say quite clearly that there must be some savings done in the management of the Government.

There is another area, and that is the area of productivity. Both the member for Christ Church East and the member for St. Michael South West spoke on the area of productivity. I believe that there is room within the civil structure for an increase in output – a serious area in which we conceive of many things and fail to execute them is sometimes due to the fact that there is no follow up; and I believe that there is some frustration among young Civil Servants because of the present structure which they have inherited lock stock and barrel from former colonial masters, and which have been perpetuated for the last 15 years. There has been no attempt at structural change in the organisation and management of the Civil Service.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. I do not know if you were in the House at the time, but Mr. Speaker gave the ruling that on a Resolution introduced by the hon. member for Christ Church East we cannot at this stage debate the Civil Service as a structure. He ruled that it was out of order. Are you going to change the rule and permit the Attorney General to debate the Resolution which was introduced? It is a matter entirely for you, but I am drawing to your attention the ruling of the Speaker. He stopped the member who introduced the Resolution and who was not even dealing with structure but was dealing with productivity. We are now hearing about the structure of our colonial past.

5.55 p.m.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will talk about organisation and management. The organisation

and management sector of the economy must be made to perform and must be allowed to perform if you want me to put it that way. There were numerous reports which were made to the former Prime Minister including one on C.B.C. which have never been implemented during his time which would have shown some increase in the productivity throughout the whole Civil Service structure.

Mr. SANDIFORD: On a point of order, the hon. member for Christ Church West is speaking about organisation and management and the lack of it in the public service, but I would like to ask him which Government and which Minister it was who set and instituted the division of organisation and management within the public service of this country to deal with the problem?

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: And who promptly did, like people who do not want to take a decision, ignore this report because it did not suit him? The hon. member for St. John. That is the answer.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: If the hon. member would give way, the very man who was sent to be trained to take over from the U.N. man, your Government has now sent as project manager of the Polytechnic, so what nonsense are you talking. He was trained at BIMAP, so how are you spitting in the air and it comes in your face?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please continue with the debate.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I will not do like the hon. member. I will neither spit up in the air nor spit in my own face, nor will I compliment myself on saying that the debate is so vital that I have to keeep them jumping. The point is that organisation and management reports have been pigeonholed and not acted on. What is the point of us having set up an organisation and appointed someone to have had the benefit of a report and turn around and ignore it, and you can get now in the Government Service several reports on which nothing has been done. That is the position.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I turn to the area of export. I believe the hon. member for Christ Church East is right when he said there must be a greater emphasis placed on export from this country, but let me say this: there has not always been a ready reaction in the manufacturing community in the Caribbean as there ought to be in looking for new markets. This is an area in which the Government can only give the lead, but we cannot go any further than giving the lead unless we ourselves get heavily into manufacturing, and surely in the last 18 months if there is one thing which is certain, it has been the increased effort which the hon. member for Christ Church South Central has placed on getting the export aspect of manufacturing of our goods going. I want to talk about CARICOM because it is so easy these days for people.....

Dr. CADDLE: On a point of order, do I understand.....

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is the last bogus point of order that I will give way on.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will determine whether a point of order is bogus or not.

Dr. CADDLE: The Standing Orders are quite clear about the length of time a member may speak at this stage, and I would like to draw to your attention that the hon. Attorney General has exceeded that time.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He will have exceeded his time when I say so.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Not only that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but I have been watching the interruptions and obviously two can play at a game. I would be prepared to make points of order on the speeches of hon. members if they believe this is how they are going to play the game.

Sir, I would wish to say that despite the problems which confronted both Jamacia and Guyana, because of the effort placed by the Ministry of External Affairs on export promotion, our performance within the CARICOM market has been highly favourable, and indeed because of the emphasis again by both the IDC and the export agency.....

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

.....because of the emphasis placed on export and the combination of the efforts of the hon. member for Christ Church East and the hon. member for Christ Church South Central, it was possible for Barbados at least to increase its export in fields other than CARICOM. Now I want to say this: it is not true that relations between Barbados and the other countries in the Caribbean are such that this will continue to affect our position. The relationship between Barbados and its Caribbean neighbours has improved significantly between December, 1976 and today. There is much more cooperation, coordination and consultation than had taken place at any time, and the sourness in relationship has drifted from what it was before. It is not every trip that we make to talk to a CARICOM Minister that is being publicised, but I wish the hon. member to know that we have just concluded with Brazil a tentative agreement dealing with fisheries. We have also got a firm agreement with Cayenne. Only a few days ago we

discussed with Guyana concrete proposals concerning fishing within the Guyanese territorial waters and we are in the process of discussing fisheries along with Trinidad and Tobago.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: With due respect to your ruling, I think you suggested to the hon. member at one time that these details would be better done under the Ministry of External Affairs rather than talking about fisheries. The hon. member was talking about fisheries and about Brazil, and I remember your making some comment, I do not know if it was a ruling, that it would be better done when the particular Head was called, whereas we are not dealing with the principle.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, so far as the coordination of external agencies is concerned, have a look at the Estimates and you will see the small growth that we have allowed in expenditure in external affairs, and you will see that the coordination of the External Ministry and the Ministry of External Trade not only in the area of fisheries but in the area of trade promotion as well has made a significant difference to the manner in which we have survived the hard period of 1976 to 1978. *(Asides.)* Mr. Speaker, are they begging for time already? I have been tired hearing the hon. member for St. John for ten years, and I am glad to see him back though.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member should now begin to wind up his debate.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to say that rather than the hon. member throwing out figures by claiming that the IDC has only created a net 39 jobs – that figure is incorrect and during the course of the debate we will deal with it in detail – when we came into power the IDC was in a state of almost total collapse. There was no plan for it. You had little staff there. You were attempting to bring industries only from North America; you were not looking ahead of North America in other areas and the reorganisation has gone on; that should have taken place if you had been doing your job at the IDC. Today promotion goes on in other areas. It was under this Hon. member that the Canadian office was closed down and Mr. Chase brought back in. You did not go and expand the office to see what was the prospect of getting Canadian industrialists in here.
6.05 p.m.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, on a point of elucidation. In the context of my speech it is not right for the hon. member to say that we did not examine the closing down of the Canadian office.

Mr. SPEAKER: You must tell us what is right.

Mr. TAITT: We went to the Canadian office on numerous occasions, we examined it in great detail, and after we came to the conclusion that it was a bad economic investment we closed it down, Sir.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: That is his explanation. I shall conclude by saying it is very easy for the hon. members now in Opposition to look at a situation which they have created and try to push it under the carpet, particularly where people find themselves confronted with the stark reality of an economic situation but which commenced prior to 1973 under their management, but I believe that the next two years is the test of whether this country has true national spirit or not. Those of us who have been called to serve have done the first act of self-legation. Nowhere have we tried to set the lead after an increase in parliamentary salaries, we have said quite clearly that people at the top must take the strain so there can be some redistribution from the bottom up, and this applies to civil servants, politicians, lawyers, as well as those in private practice and consultancy, and I trust that the hon. members on the other side will spend their time in constructive criticism rather than destructive and pointless and baseless arguments that I have heard from the hon. member for St. Michael South West.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I think the member for Christ Church West has made a valiant effort after the very telling address to this Chamber by the member for St. Michael South West. I believe he got up realising that the battle was going against the Government benches and he tried his best to correct the situation and of winning back some lost position for the Government. How did he set out to do that and how did he fail? Mr. Speaker, I am putting it to you that the ploy utilised on this occasion will not be accepted either by this Chamber or by the people of this country for much longer, because it is time that we all realise that the Barbados Labour Party is the Government of the day and they must cease blaming the previous Government for the matters for which they have control now. It is time that references to Bath, Seafoods, BMC, Carib West and so on, it is time that we turn our attention to the management of this economy by the Barbados Labour Party since they came into power in 1976 and what they have done during that period of time they have been in power. That is the issue we have got to concentrate on, but I am not worried, and I can understand the debating ploy used by the member for Christ Church West in trying to divert attention from the very solid and telling point made by the member for St. Michael South West, and to try to divert and to channel attention back on to the old worn out issues which were the issues of the 1976 election, and which they are protracting to the discomfiture of a number of people into the years coming on.

I think that the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance made a very solid and a very sombre speech to this Parliament and to the nation today, and we all had better take warning because it follows in the line that I

have been using in my addresses to this Chamber, and at last, having got over the fervour and the first blush of victory of 1976, the warnings which I issued and the advice which I gave, these are now being taken, and he said one significant thing, the chickens must come home to roost some time, and that time is now. But what are these chickens, and where is that roost? The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that you realise, and the members on those benches realise, that the fiction which was given to this country in 1976 that a Utopia could be created in Barbados by putting the Barbados Labour Party into power, it is that fiction that is being exposed today, and it is that fiction that the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance has come to realise. When he talked in 1976, I would not have believed it if I did not hear it with my own ears today, that anybody could fool the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of this country, I refuse to believe that. I refuse to believe that it is possible for anyone on this Opposition bench to fool – singly or collectively – deceive or trick the member for St. Thomas in any way at all, I believe he is a very clever person.

Mr. SPEAKER: Today.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Today, Mr. Speaker. I just refuse to accept that, he is too clever, and as his friend, Mr. Gladstone Holder – he referred to him as his friend – said he has a very capacious mentality, and he takes in anything on everything, and I do not take any argument about being fooled in 1976, the situation was too clear, and the member for St. John on that occasion set it out quite clearly. An award was made after some 22 meetings, and that was what the economy could afford at that time, but what we were told at that time? The member for St. Thomas was saying, " we believe that the sacrifice which the public servants are being asked to make is too great, and the way in which they have been asked to make it is also too great, back to the bargaining table." and now in 1978.....

Mr. SPEAKER: From what is the hon. member quoting? From what document?

Mr. SANDIFORD: The words I am quoting are from the debates of the House of Assembly.

Mr. SPEAKER: What date and page?

Mr. SANDIFORD: The date was the 22nd June, 1976.

Mr. SPEAKER: That will help the Hansard Reporter.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, I believe it will help the member for St. Thomas too. Mr. Speaker, the exception, back to the bargaining table then, that was the cry and the slogan on that occasion, and it is said that sometimes countries may be run by slogans.

6.15 p.m.

Today and a few days ago we were told that the Government cannot afford any increase; that far from an increase the Government should be talking about decreases in its expenditure; that is the message that is going out.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I wish the hon. member would explain. I never understood the Government to say it was decreasing civil servants salaries.

Mr. SPEAKER: Nor did the hon. member say this.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The point that has got to be made is that there are a few things wrong with the address by the hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, but basically what he is saying is that the economy is in bad shape under his management. He has been responsible since September, 1976.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think that is a fair assessment of what the Prime Minister said, that the economy was in bad shape since September 1976.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I did not say that it was bad since 1976.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, Sir. I tried to copy down what the hon. member said and then realised what he was saying. I never said the economy was in bad shape under my management; I said the economy was in bad shape for some time; that is what I said. He can put what gloss he likes on it. I did not say from 1976 or under my management.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Very well then, for some time the economy has been in bad shape now and he is at present responsible for the economy has been in bad shape now and he is at present responsible for the economy. I do not have to draw any conclusions from that, but the explanation for all of this, the turn around, the tergiversation – if I may use that word – the complete change and somersault which we have seen can be explained on the ground of real polity – political warfare. Political warfare is about power; politics is about power; and in order to gain power certain positions and certain stances are taken and adopted, and I think that in this particular area rather than anyone on the Government benches being deceived through lack of information or lack of clarity in presentation by the then Government. It was in 1976 that there was an election and it suited the then Opposition to put forward a particular position making

the public service believe that they could get 50%, 60% or whatever, certainly a higher percentage than what was offered. I believe this House is going to realize that in this era of open Government some powerful speeches are coming from the back benches of the Government side, for I believe it was the hon. member for Christ Church West who congratulated the hon. member for Christ Church East on certain aspects of his speech; but the Attorney General and the hon. member for Christ Church West have nothing to fear. We were told once that the Minister of Finance is too conservative in his policies; we remember that coming from the back benches, and we were told that there was something wrong with the proposed employment levy and a powerful statement was made that the.....

Mr. SPEAKER: It was during this Session that is why you cannot refer to it now.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I seek your guidance a little more, Mr. Speaker. If a member makes a point during a speech in this session, are you indicating that I cannot make a reference to that?

Mr. SPEAKER: You may not reflect on it.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I accept that, Mr. Speaker, that I cannot reflect on it, but I can certainly say there was a call for certain companies operating on the industrial estates and who were given certain incentives, to be exempted from the projected employment levy and that that call was certainly heeded. And today we got some very good insights into the development and working of the finances of this country.

I wish, Mr. Speaker, to make a few points before I conclude. We have heard about the Capital Works projects, and I would again say this was in praise of the programme of the previous administration. We heard them all – the Oistin's development, the Speightstown development, the Polytechnic, extensions to the Harbour – most of the projects which we heard about are a continuation or implementation of projects started out by a Government that was so bad. I wonder if that previous administration was so bad how come so many of its projects are being implemented.
6.25 p.m.

That brings me around again to the member for Christ Church West the Hon. Attorney General. He made reference to the Polytechnic and the selection of a site. I have spoken on that matter already; but the point is that they are talking about a site and about money spent on driving piles into the ground. They are talking about money being spent driving piles into the subsoil and saying that that was an instance of bad planning by the Government; but I challenge either the Attorney General or the Minister of Education to come and tell us now how much money was spent in driving piles under the school in Country Road. Let us have that figure today.

Mr. SPEAKER: You can get all of this when we are dealing with the Heads of the Estimates. I think that you have given ample warning to the Minister.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I know that there will be a continuous sitting. That is why I said it today. I am sure that you will see that that was an example of good planning. I have dealt with the remarks by the member for Christ Church West, still speaking generally on this matter, because of the very valiant attempt he made to turn away the attack from this side. He also made the point that 1976 was the first year for some time in which the country's economy showed any real growth. I believe that he used the figure of 3.8% in 1976. That is the growth, I take it. *(Aside:* Real growth.) Real growth, Mr. Speaker. I believe that the member himself indicated that it takes about nine months or some longer period of two years before the benefits of planning can be realised. So that any growth in the economy in 1976 might in fact be credited to some previous administration.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of explanation the hon. member is misunderstanding the thrust of my speech. On the basis of the hon. member's conclusions, it will be concluded that the deficit for 1976 will therefore be attributable to the past Government as well. That is the whole point I was making. If you are judging our performance over a period of time, they also had to give positive things and not only negative. If he is claiming the positive in 1976, he must also claim the problems of the structural deficit in 1976 which his minister, the hon. member for St. John has run away from.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, the fact is that our position is one that will not go away merely by words. The fact is that the Barbados economy is very susceptible to the winds blowing from outside of this country. There is no doubt about that at all. We have to import our raw materials. We have to import a great part of our foodstuffs, and the materials for our capital growth have got to be imported, including expertise as well in certain areas. So we will for some considerable time be subjected to those winds that blow from outside the country, and there is no way that we can get away from that.

The position with the world economy is not improving at the rate that some anticipated and all of us hoped for. That just has not been realised; and I believe that the Minister of Finance is hoping that there will be some improvement in the world economy so that Barbados can get some of the spin offs. I do not

think that we can take seriously the comment made by the member for Christ Church East on this matter when he said that you cannot give credit to the Democratic Labour Party for what happened in 1964 or 1965. The fact is that whenever anything happens in the world economy which we are in a position to take advantage of, we must take it and grasp it with both hands. This House has not been told how long this period of wage restraint is supposed to last. I have listened carefully to the statements on it and I believe that it was indicated that it might be for some 15 months or some such period.

Everything falls into pattern, and I am making bold to predict that our clever Minister of Finance, in spite of these dark clouds that we see in 1977, in spite of the sombre predictions for 1979, I believe that somehow or other that around 1980 things will get a little better.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I am glad that the hon. member showed such confidence in the forthcoming handling in the country's affairs that they will improve by 1980.

Mr. SANDIFORD: All I am doing is predicting that it will happen. I do not believe that in that year the Minister of Health will have any problems trying to argue for more money for trucks or justifying an increase in her expenditure. I do not believe that the Minister of Communications and Works will have to plea for more money to employ more people or money to buy materials to keep employed those who are in employment. He certainly has had to do that this year. I do not know how he will manage, but anyhow things will get a little better by 1980.

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope sooner than 1980.

Mr. SANDIFORD: By that time the Speightstown project will be well on the way.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do you mean Speightstown, St. Peter? *(Laughter)* Let us get on.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I have not heard about a Speightstown in St. Thomas yet, but there may very well be. I do not think that I wish to contribute anything further to this particular debate. I merely wanted, as I have done, to indicate and I do this now in winding up that a certain decision was made with regard to the public financing of this country in 1976. 6.35 p.m.

In 1978 we have a complete change around in terms of what is possible as far as the economy is concerned and as far as major categories of workers in this country are concerned. I believe this country will not overlook that political somersault and the people of this country will realise the reasons why that position was taken in 1976, and will not allow any waving of the magic wand in 1980 and 1981 to prevent them from doing the right thing and bringing the present administration to the end, the conclusion and the termination of its five years in power, and only five years in power and no more five years in power.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, as I listen to the debate today and heard the Prime Minister with his predictions and his study of the economy, I think it came back to me a story which I read perhaps when I was in Primer Standard of two persons saying "Come, Tom, let me play that your doll is sick and I am the doctor", because in my view all we have been having is a playing with Government, and in spite of the Government being in power for 18 months, you hear the same old story of D.L.P. mal administration and its responsibility for the position in which the Government now finds itself. When I head the Attorney General, perhaps I could make a speech like him because we are both on the way out, from reports, and therefore we would have no responsibility except as John Citizen for the running of this country. If it is true he is on the way out from Cabinet if not from the House, from his type of speech it is clear that while he is prepared to make sacrifices as a Minister, he wants to come back down in town to see if the grass is greener down there. He does not mind making these sacrifices as a Minister, but is still hankering after where he sees the grass is greener. The type of speech he made, I could make, all his fulminations and attack on the Government instead of realising as I had realised, having listened to the members of the House, that for some reason we all have got to put our heads together to solve the economic problems of Barbados. The economy of Barbados is in difficulty and it calls for a herculean effort. I hope I have pronounced it right for the Prime Minister; de-RIS-ory and DE-risory. It needs a vast effort on the part of every Barbadian to solve these problems.

What I would like to say to the Prime Minister is that in a society which is fast becoming divisive, he has to mobilise the entire effort, and as long as he continues to lay the blame after 16 to 18 months in power on the former administration, assuming that he cannot turn back the Duffus Commission now because that is a promise which he had to honour, and I will deal with that when I see the amount of money voted for that and the Hanschell Commission, since he cannot terminate that aspect of his policy, yet he should be statesmanlike enough, not by going on television and trying to be a smart aleck, but he should endeavour as the Prime Minister of a Country where the economy is in difficulty to mobilise the united and self-sacrificing effort of every citizen in Barbados. As I live and work in the City, I would like to tell this Government now whether or not they win a bye-election, that the people in this country

are terribly dissatisfied. Almost all sections of the community are beginning to feel the pinch, unemployment is rampant and these Estimates do nothing to solve it or create any employment, and I am sorry for the hon. member for Christ Church East if he knows with whom he is dealing. I hope he does not go to the Executive of the B.L.P. on Monday. He should avoid a few meetings. That is how you have to operate because you are going to be over the coals for what I consider a very sensible speech and for pointing out that in this country the Government has not in these Estimates laid the emphasis on those aspects of the economy which are productive and can increase employment. To that extent you are right, but for that you will have to pay the price especially when it is said you are a potential Prime Minister. You know how Prime Ministers are. Whether you are self-announced or somebody announces you, you have to watch your step; so I would like to give that particular warning.

To get back and be more serious, when we seriously go through these Estimates and look at what the Government is asking us to do in terms of wage restraint in an economy such as ours where the minimum wage for shop assistants is $64 a week and where prices as you take up newspapers every day are rising, fish is $2.25 per pound and other articles are rising on this question of wage restraint which has not operated in the United States or Canada to the satisfaction of either Government, I think this Government has got to re-think its entire views on the economy and what it is asking the public to sacrifice for. If you, Mr. Speaker, read through the Estimates which we are going to discuss in greater detail, as the hon. member for Christ Church East says, we are not laying the emphasis in an economy which is in trouble on the right thing, and one of my colleagues on this side has drawn attention to several things which will be dealt with such as the Defence Force. Now in a country that is in that sort of trouble, is this a priority? As for the projects which we see under Capital, even although they have been more realistic as the hon. member for Christ Church East has admitted in bringing the spending within the capacity of the Government to spend, yet you will see that these projects are neither economic, employment-generating nor likely to contribute to the lasting development of the country. I am not anticipating the budget, but I have a shrewd idea of what the Minister would have to tax.

Mr. SPEAKER: This is not the budget.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The Prime Minister inspite of all his promises to the people of this country will have to do some taxing, and what does worry me in this particular situation is that the Government over there got into power on making certain promises to people which up to now, after September 1976, these Estimates do not attempt to fulfill or even to meet: old age pension to be increased, free uniforms, a million and one things – I have got a manifesto here – playing fields, and all you are getting in Government apart from what the Prime Minister says which I think is a very serious indictment, is that before the House of Assembly can discuss these figures, a letter is being drafted by him to tell the civil servants that they must cut these figures down by 10%. To me that is an insult to this House and if that was going to be his view, he should come in with amendments to the figures and to the item rather than put them down for public consumption to keep the figures almost on a par with last year's total global figure, and this is secretly, well not secretly because I believe it would not be a secret to tell the civil servants they must lop off another $29 million from what he has sent to the House for the House to approve, because that is what it is tantamount to. The utterances clearly state that in spite of the figure sent down here the civil servants will be instructed to spend another $29 million or $30 million less than the money which the House in a short while will be asked to discuss and approve, and if that was going to be his view and if he was the fore-seeing Minister of Finance, he should not put figures in here which before they are even passed are going to be adjusted and amended by the civil servants on his instructions.

Mr. Speaker, whatever the Democratic Labour Party ever did, this was never our method, to come to the House with figures which we knew before they were even passed were not the real and true figures of Government spending and Government forecasting, and as I say, if this is going to be the new method .....I am not pretending to know much about economics as I have never had much money to spend, but I have picked up a little economics being in the Cabinet in Africa and ten years in the Cabinet in Barbados, and I think I have the intelligence to understand basic economics. I am not the P.P.E. at Oxford, so I do not know so much about that.
6.45 p.m.

Be that as it may, I shall not be much longer, I will have to be more detailed on the particular items. Let us face facts. The hon. member for St. John made a speech which in spite of whatever the Government may say showed an experience and an awareness of public financing in this country, which apart from his training he has gained from practical expenditure, and the Attorney General by his arguments and utterances cannot detract from that statesmanlike speech dealing with the economy. What I would like to urge on the House is that in the present state of the Barbados economy being aware that none of us is likely to benefit from the collapse of the economy or from the difficulties of the people either in our professional capacities or in our several callings, that this debate generally on these Estimates should reach a stage and should undertake the main purpose of bringing home to people not that it is the DLP which has brought it to this position but that it is the BLP who is

managing and that in the years to come if Barbados is to survive efforts would have to be made on all sides to meet the economic demands and to keep this country afloat.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, my colleagues from this side who have spoken already on this Bill have to a large extent ventilated the points of view of the Opposition on the matter which is before the House. There are however two points which I would like to make in my short presentation here today particularly as it relates to two points which were made by the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance when he was making his introductory speech. I was privileged to hear the Prime Minister making a comparison between the sugar indutry and private enterprise on one hand and the Government on the other and this comparison was extended to the profit and loss situation, where on the one hand he indicated that if a business – at least he compared the Government to a business – that in a situation where a business is losing money and it is not in the position or would not be in a position to pay any increase in wages, and I am sure that all hon. members who have some idea of really what is the purpose and intention of a Government would recognise that that kind of comparison is not in truth and in fact a fair comparison because the Government obviously has got to be involved in activities which cannot be directly related to any particular profit or loss situation. Certainly if one were to examine the efforts of the Government in the area of health, in the area of education in the area of communications and works, one cannot see directly what is the profit situation or what is the loss situation, but in truth and in fact it is a contribution towards the improvement of the quality of life in the community, therefore I cannot understand how the Prime Minister can expect anybody to accept the argument that because the country and because the Government is faced with a deficit that people who work for the Government cannot expect to get increases, or indeed are not in a position to be able to negotiate reasonable and adequate increases for the work which they do within the Government Service. This is a very important point which I think we have to look at.

The second point, Mr. Speaker, has to do with a claim which the Prime Minister made relative to workers in the Government sector and where he stated that Government workers at the lower level are better off than workers of similar categories in the private sector. I want, Mr. Speaker, to give you the comparative situation from an analysis which I immediately instituted as soon as I heard the Hon. Prime Minister making that remark. I am in possession of information which I am sure that not even the Governor of the Central Bank, the Statistical Service, nor the Labour Department has access to, and I would challenge anybody to deny that, because there is nowhere published in any of the Government documents any real analysis of the income situation in Barbados, the wages and wage rates which are the going rates in the private sector in Barbados. From my vantage point in the Barbados Workers Union we are in a position to collect that kind of information since, as it were we are the competitors in that particular area, and I just want to give the comparative situation to demonstrate that the point which the Prime Minister made about the workers in the public sector being in a better position than the workers in the private sector is simply not true.

If you would take the example of a Maid in the Government sector who comes under, I think, Category I, the last category in the public sector, a Maid gets at this stage $70 a week. In the private sector in certain areas one would find that Maids receive $75, in other areas $78, in some other areas $83 and in some other areas $92, and this is the 1977 position that I am comparing because you should appreciate, Mr. Speaker, that the position in 1978 is even better in the private sector, and I could go right down the line. General workers in the public sector earn between $70 and $80 a week, and in the private sector they earn $90 in some instances, $100 in some instances, and it goes right up to $110 per week, so once again we would see that the point which was made by the Prime Minister is simply not true. I am making comparisons between the kinds of occupations which can be identified in the Government sector and in the private sector.

Gardeners could be identified as another category of worker.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Since you have the details of the Estimates under respective Heads, I would think it a better opportunity to go into those details then.

Mr. GREAVES: Fair enough, I take your point, but I am just making the comparison for the simple reason that the Prime Minister in his presentation made this point, and I think that once and for all we have to disprove the point made by the Prime Minister in his presentation of factual information, because I will challenge the Prime Minister that he is not in possession of this information and is therefore not in a position to make the kind of statements which he made as far as comparing wages in the private sector and the public sector are concerned. This is my particular point, so that if one were to go through all the categories from I – XIII and take the comparative position in the private sector one would see that in every instance workers in the private sector earn much more than workers in the Government sector. Therefore one must dismiss the argument which the Prime Minister has made and continues to make about what he claims to be a fact, that the Government sector workers are better paid and therefore I would assume this is one of the strong points

which he is using to refuse a reasonable wage increase for workers in the Government sector.

There is no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that the workers in the Government sector have lagged behind comparative workers in the private sector, and this is one of the reasons why we are saying that the workers in the public sector are entitled to a reasonable increase. One hears a lot of argument about the balance of payments position, the deficit on Current Account, and what have you. These things are nothing new to Barbados, and I think that we cannot therefore try to use this as a kind of argument against granting an increase, or try to demonstrate that things are so bad that the workers in the public sector have got to hold strain and therefore have got to be further paid behind workers in the private sector, so that I think it is important that we recognise these factors because these are factors which are going to be coming up from time to time.
6.55 p.m.

I am in no way attempting to argue at this stage or present any kind of case for workers in the public sector, because we will be doing this in another capacity before the end of the week. But, as I said, since the point was made on the floor of the House it should be clarified, and that kind of argument which has been advanced by the Prime Minister should be laid to rest once and for all.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, I want to make my contribution to this particular Resolution. Today we are debating the Estimates which deal with revenue and expenditure for the coming financial year and I want to look at it from a number of areas. For one thing, we have got to bear in mind there are certain factors which revolve around this year's Estimates and we must look at some of the basic things which confront this country today, for the Opposition will be calling on the Government to undertake certain projects to create employment and ease the situation in this country. Last year when the Estimates were brought before this Chamber there were a number of comments made from members on that side. The hon. member for St. John made his contribution, so did the hon. member for St. Michael North Central; and I have got before me a copy of the debate on that occasion, and when I read the debate and hear what the hon. member for St. John said today, and the hon. member for St. Lucy, it makes me wonder how people can be so inconsistent in their way of thinking. The hon. member for St. John said last year – and I will quote him – "But primarily what we are discussing today are Estimates of revenue and expenditure and you cannot go on with the policy....."

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the hon. member quoting?

Mr. BRADSHAW: I am quoting from the debates of this House.

Mr. SPEAKER: What date, what page, what number?

Mr. BRADSHAW: I am quoting from the debate of 21st March, 1977 page 748.

Mr. SPEAKER: Proceed.

Mr. BRADSHAW: I shall continue. "....and you cannot go on with the policy of inflating your expenditure because we do not have the courage to say that there must be a pause to unneccessary expenditure and that a few people should not have too high a standard over the rest of the community....."

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member will give way. I would like to draw to attention that it is 7 o'clock. It is said that I obviously would have the courage to draw to attention the moment of interruption and I move that this Sitting be suspended for forty five minutes for dinner.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move an amendment for a suspension of one hour instead of forty five minutes.

Mr. TAITT: I beg to second that.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I will go along with the Leader of the Opposition on that amendment, and withdraw my motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: If it is agreed for one hour I need not put the motion. This Sitting now stands suspended until 8.00 p.m.
7.00 p.m.

On resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to beg leave of the House, if there is no objection for the Government to deal with two Bills. There are the Barbados National Bank Act and the Insurance Corporation Act, which stand in the name of the Minister of Finance and Planning, and I would now ask that the hon. member take charge of these bills.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I don't want to interrupt at this point, but I think that at the suspension we were on the second reading of a Bill. I do not know if we can go into these Bills now mentioned without taking procedural steps to stop the Bill we were debating at the

suspension. I further assume that this time will be not taken from the Estimates debate. I hope the Clerk will take a note of this. But I wonder if there is anything to stop the Bill which was being discussed before the suspension. *(Asides)*

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. ADAMS: Is leave granted, Sir? Mr. speaker, the Other Place has returned the Banking Act to us asking that the following words in Clause 6(1)(b) be deleted: "after the appointed day may deposit money on account with the commercial division of the Bank," and the following words substituted therefor: "after the appointed day deposit money on account with the commercial division of the Bank or have money deposited on their behalf in such an account." The Government fully accept this amendment and I beg to move that the House do now concur in the amendment.

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

The question that the House concur in the amendment was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, the second Bill in which I would invite the concurrence of the Honourable House is an amendment proposed by the Other Place to the Insurance Corporation Bill, and it relates to the date the Bill will come into force. As passed by the House, this read: "Subject to subsection 2 this Act shall come into operation on the 1st day of March, 1978." The Other Place has deleted this and substituted the following new Clause 33(1): "Subject to subsection 2 this Act shall be deemed to have come into operation on 1st March, 1978." Again, Sir, the Government fully agrees with this amendment and I beg to move that the House now concur in the amendment.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to ask the hon. Minister one question in connection with this amendment. Am I to understand that in fact the National Bank has been functioning from the 1st of March?
8.05 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to ask one question. Am I to understand that in fact the National Bank has been functioning from the 1st March, especially as it relates to the Barbados Development Bank? (ASIDE: This is the Insurance Act). All right Sir.

The question that the House concur in the amendment was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

BILL TO AMEND PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX ACT

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, the third Bill relates to the Property Transfer Tax Act. When we passed it in here we did not realise that we would be in fact preventing a resident company from taking advantage of the transfer of taxes available to residents and nationals and that the effect of our passage was to eliminate them from this; and we are therefore happy to support the amendment made in the Other Place which effectively restores permission to a resident company to receive property without having to pay the Transfer Tax on the proceeds. Foreign companies will of course have to pay at the rate of 10%. Also there is a typographical error drawn to my attention by deleting Paragraph 6 in the first line of the page. This is only a typographical error and there is no need to go back to the Senate with that. I have seen the paper signed by the President of the Other Place, and it does say "by". It is a typographical error which does not need to be amended. This is an error which can be corrected.

I beg to move that the House concur with the corrective amendment of the Other Place.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, I realise the position in which the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister is placed at this particular moment; but I am wondering if this House can pass such a measure which is before us without stating "as amended". I know, Sir, that it will have to be returned to the Other Place. If that is done, I would be very happy to know if we are taking the right course when somehow, in my humble opinion, I think that there is an amendment. You, Sir, would be in a position to intimate to this Hon. House if this House can pass it without stating "as amended".

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I want to say, Sir, very briefly, that I hope that as a result of this the Hon. Attorney General will appreciate that even Homer nods.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I am not sure, Mr. Speaker, about the reference to Homer nodding. If the hon. member had spoken in the language of Homer, I might well have recognised the actual reference. I think that like myself he has some classical training, and I would have preferred the actual quotation even if it was a little difficult to follow it, Sir. If I may explain to the Hon. member, certainly two of the amendments which have been made to the two Acts today were amendments called for by certain circumstances which had nothing to do with drafting. The last amendment had to do with an omission in the draft. We meant to repeal section (a) of the Act and both (b) and (c) were repealed at the time. Obviously we had to correct this. We saw it after it got to the Senate and it was drawn to my attention indeed by one of the Clerks at the Table. At that time the third reading of the Bill had actually taken place and the Clerk advised that it would have to go to the Senate and come back.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, the Senate passed it with "by". We would have to ignore

what is our printed sheet and accept what the Senate sent down.

Mr. SPEAKER: I believe that the hon. member for St. Philip South is very familiar with the contents of Standing Orders 52 and 53; and I am sure that that will satisfy him in its entirety.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I believe that this Bill was debated when the Attorney General was not in the Chamber. I take this opportunity to ask him now if he is satisfied with the definition of "national". It seems to me that we are indicating in this piece of legislation that a person can become a national of Barbados for the purpose of this legislation. I recognise that, but I am wondering if we are not creating a strange precedent to have this particular definition of what is a national. I would like to know the thinking behind this particular definition of "national" and if there was any thought of giving effect to the principle of this Bill without using this particular definition.
8.15 p.m.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Perhaps I might explain this: what happened is that when the Bill came through originally we deleted the complete part of "national" as contained in the Act whereas we were only deleting the (a) section rather than (b) and (c). What we have done here now is to have extended for the purpose of this Act the concept of "national". We have included a category of person wider than a person whom we would consider a "national", and it is not only a citizen of Barbados and a dependent of the citizen or resident which was the original, but we have included a permitted entrant to whom the Minister has granted permission to become a resident under Section 6. I think that is basically a policy decision by the Ministry concerned and we have merely responded to drafting in that manner.

The question that the House do now concur in the proposed amendments was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

THE APPROPRIATION ACT, 1978

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to move that the debate on the Appropriation Bill be now resumed.

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

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

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, I will resume by restating the point which was made in this Honourable House when the Reply was made by the hon. member for St. John last year and he was calling on someone who had the interest of this country to take courage, and note, be courageous enough to do something about the expenditure of this country. He was not alone in his plea because the hon. member for St. Michael North Central in his contribution did not vary very much from the hon. member for St. John when he on page 757 of the debate for March, 21, said and I shall quote: "I would believe that any person – and I am not talking in political terms because I feel we have to look seriously at the country and this is not the time for us to be indulging in adversary politics – but I would believe that any person who is concerned with the future of this country must look seriously at Government expenditure, see in what way it can be contained or prevented from increasing at the alarming rates which happen to fall on us in recent times."

Mr. Speaker, you will see that hon. members of the Opposition last year recognised that something should be done about the expenditure which Government from time to time found itself committed to, and we cannot go on and on without taking heed of these pleas. The Opposition knows that this is the case, that something must be done about the expenditure, and if this year's Estimates indicate that there is a cut in expenditure whether it is current or recurrent, then it should be welcomed by all hon. members of this House, because one thing people must understand is that we are hearing about Government revenue, we are hearing about Government expenditure, and we must find money to pay for the projects which the Government undertakes. Money can only be realised by way of taxes, and what taxes cannot bring by way of revenue, one has got to seeks loans. In the words of the hon. member for St. John, you cannot go on borrowing money to pay salaries, and if we are going to reach a situation where we are going to involve ourselves in expenditure and to seek money to pay salaries, then we are going to find ourselves in the situation like some of our Caribbean neighbours. We must avoid this. We have got to sit down and understand that this Government has got a commitment and I will say this Honourable House has got a commitment, members from either side of the House have got a commitment to the people of this country, and that is to see that we do not overspend because when we overspend we are committing the taxpayers of this country to a debt and the debt is not only shouldered by us but by our children and our grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I would say there is nothing wrong in borrowing money, but when that money has got to be sought by way of borrowing money, it is my firm conviction that it should be spent on projects which would generate employment for the people of tomorrow to see, and it should not be borrowed on a short term basis. We cannot look at the narrow political capital which one may seek from time to time to benefit from. We have got to put that behind us. We have got to look at the situation as it now stands. The deficits simply mean

that our revenue is less than what we are paying out, our expenditure, and if we are going to close the gap, Mr. Speaker, we will have to resort to increased taxation, and it is within the knowledge of this Government and hon. members from that side have pointed it out that we in Barbados are very heavily taxed. We cannot afford to go to the taxpayers and ask them for more money, and that is why we are asking the country as a whole, those who have got the interest of this country at heart, to realise the serious situation. It is not a matter of asking for more capital projects, asking to spend more money and then sitting down and saying the Government is doing well. That is not proper planning because if you are going to embark on capital projects which would cost lots of money, it means you have to ask taxpayers to bear the brunt of this.

Mr. Speaker, the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister has informed this Honourable House today that there are projects which are designed to produce so that people can benefit by way of employment. These productive areas have been identified and those hon. members who were listening carefully to the Prime Minister will recall that he mentioned the Spring Garden project, the National Fisheries Corporation, the Oistins Development, the Speightstown Development Plan and the Bridgetown Development Plan and he also spoke about the building of the school at Trents and the Barbados Marketing Corporation. He also went as far as to mention the development in housing. Now these are productive areas and they have not been touched. What we have done in actual fact, Mr. Speaker, is to try to eliminate and cut out the projects that will not benefit us in the near future.

8.25 p.m.

There are projects which a Government can embark on, but such projects should only be embarked on when the country is in a very sound economic position. I will repeat this, I am firmly convinced that we in Barbados at this present time cannot afford lavish spending and we have to look at every iota of expenditure very carefully. It would mean of course that those who are supposed to minitor the financial situation in this country will be called upon to work more strenuously and more vigilantly to see that the expenses are kept well in check, that proper accounting is done. We have to look at this, we have to eliminate waste, we have to see that we do not bring on people – and while on the bringing on of people, the hon. member for St. Michael North Central would recall that he said last year on the floor of this House that in 1973 when the public sector was faced with a situation where they had to lay off people it was the Government, or the public sector, that was called upon to absorb those people and as a result the Government incurred an expenditure which they did not foresee or anticipate. The people are still there, that was the hon. member for St. Michael North Central who made that point on the floor of this Hon. Chamber, and we have to face the situation, so when they speak in terms of this Government laying off people they must remember that the hon. member said that they had to take on people in order to rectify a situation to help families.

Now that we are faced with this serious situation, what must this Government do? This Government is called upon to acquiesce in terms of wage negotiations. I am not going to say anything which will prejudice the outcome of the negotiations which are currently being undertaken, but what I want to say is this, that only an irresponsible person, one who has no commitment at all to this country, who is not thinking nationally would call upon this Government to acquiesce in terms which would amount to expenditure for the country. We have to look at this situation. What we must be doing as politicians, as members of Parliament, as hon. representatives is to let the public at large understand that we are all on this boat together and we are not out to sea singularly, and I am making a plea to the Opposition, if they are nationally conscious, and I feel that they are, and in this particular exercise this year when we are called upon to restrain ourselves, to contain our expenditure, that they will join with us in this exercise. They act to the contrary. You see, Mr. Speaker, it is easy for members to criticise a Government, and it is easy for an Opposition to criticise any measure that is brought by a Government, but we must not be carried away, the nation, the public at large should not be carried away by what is cheap, political gimmickry, we have to understand what it is all about. How else are we going to get the money if we are going to involve ourselves in other projects? It is all right to have the projects, but where are we going to get the money from? Are we going to go on borrowing money? We cannot afford this because it is going to be charged to what is known as the balance of payments or the national debt. Not we alone will have to pay it, but our children and grandchildren will be called upon to pay for this, and my Government is prepared to take such drastic steps in order to rectify the situation.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for St. Michael South has alluded to the Roebuck School and spoke about the Government wasting money. I want to remind the hon. member that the decision to build the school at Roebuck was taken under his administration and it is not fair and just for him to come and throw aspersions that this Government is responsible for that expenditure. Whatever difficulties, whether they were foundation difficulties or not, whatever expenditure that is now incurred, let him understand he was the Minister of Education and it was he who took the decision to build the school there, and the problems were always there, so he has got to be blamed for part of it now.

Mr. SANDIFORD: On a point of elucidation. Mr. Speaker, the point I was making was that criticisms were made about pile driving at the Martindales Road site and the present Government made those criticisms and came and found themselves having to drive piles at Country Road. The member for St. Michael South East is surely missing the point, as the Minister will explain to him that the area he is talking about for driving piles in Country Road was not part of the original plan for the school conceived by the Democratic Labour Party Government. That came in after an extension had to be made to the school to turn it into a secondary school.

Mr. SPEAKER: It has been a wonderful exercise between a former Minister of Education and a former Headmaster. I take it that the Headmaster is now saying to you that he has been a Headmaster but he still has a master head.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, it was not meant to be critical of the hon. member for St. Michael South, but what I wanted to point out was that these are problems which no one foresaw, and with other projects, as the hon. member mentioned, we were able to avert that calamity because there were two other expenditures which the Government would have been called upon to meet but we were able to divert one and the other we are hooked with, but that was just for the record, Mr. Speaker.

We must understand that we have got to approach this question of Estimates in a more serious way. We have got to be more responsible in some of the criticisms which we make on the floor of this House. I sat today and heard the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister say, and I will venture to repeat what he said, because it is very important, for the records. When I heard the hon. member for St. John turn to the member for St. Lucy and ask him to take note, take note of what? Because I have heard the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister say that he could not afford an increase at this time and he went on to say the Government cannot afford wage increases to public workers at this time, and he continued to say he will not only think in terms of reducing salaries, but expenditure. Futher, Mr. Speaker, and this is very salient, he said that Government has not ruled out small increases to the lower level of public workers.

Now I want this to go on record, because the Prime Minister did not say that there was not going to be any increase, he said that he would consider, or he indicated that there was not going to be ruled out an increase for the lower paid civil servants. But people have always distorted statements and this is not good for the country. I will call upon persons who are in public life to understand that they have got a commitment to this and to the future generation, not to misquote and set this country at a stage where it becomes very divisive. We have to understand this. Let us get the record straight. The Prime Minister in his address before this Chamber did not say – and I shall repeat, he did not say – that there would not be any wage increases. Everyone on this side understands that there are some people who can do with an increase, and who need one, but what we are saying is that we also understand, and members from that side understand, that there are people in this country who are earning enough.

8.35 p.m.

But what we are saying is that we also understand that there are people in this country who are earning enough; and when we talk about redistribution, we mean to allow some of the underpaid people to benefit; that is what we call redistribution.

The hon. member for St. Michael South West alluded to old age pensioners. What he must understand is that when we decided to come before this House and to amend the Act whereby the age for old age pension would be reduced from 68 years to 65 we understood what was meant by the words "redistribution of wealth;" and we allowed 3,000 odd people who would not have normally benefited from old age pension to qualify. Is that not redistribution of wealth? Instead of giving more to those already partaking of the national cake, we decided to split up the cake, and in our vocabulary that means redistribution of wealth. Three thousand more people are benefiting from old age pension. So we have got to understand this. If we are going to give more and more money as some members on that side are asking for, we must understand the price we have to pay – higher taxation or loans from outside – and either one is going to be disadvantageous to this country, both now and in years to come. So we have got to look at this realistically.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for St. Michael South West has brought up the question of IDC. I am not going to labour on IDC because he was the Minister responsible for IDC, and if he does not know that when you allocate money to IDC it is not merely spent on providing jobs directly within IDC but also goes towards the building of complexes that other people occupy for the manufacture of goods, I am very sorry for him. But he was sitting in the seat for a number of years and should know this. And for this hon. Chamber's information I would like to state that there has been a distinct increase in the Handicraft industry. I was responsible for the development of handicrafts and I can assure this Hon. Chamber – look at the statistics, look at the exhibition, and you will see there has been a vast improvement both in exhibits and in the income derived from the handicraft industry in this country. So let the hon. member for St. Michael South West understand that I know what is going on in IDC, unlike him who

did not know or seemed not to understand what was going on.

Mr. Speaker, let me assure this Honourable House that there is no question of economic gloom; we on this side do not think in terms of economic gloom. What we are prepared to do is to make sure that we face reality. We are going to analyse the situation so that we do not over spend, so that what we spend is spent on projects and that there is no wastage, and we are going to appeal to the Civil Servants who have got lots of responsibility to come to the cause and realize that they have a duty to perform, to produce a bit more. This is not a criticism but just to let them know that such divisive measures which some members of this community are adopting are not good for the welfare of the country. We will all see the true benefits, as the hon. member for St. Michael South indicated earlier on. He is saying 1980, but I am sure that with the astute Prime Minister and Minister of Finance that we have we will see the benefit to this country in the not too distant future. We are sure the nation will respond despite the detractors. We are not afraid to tell them when 1981 comes and we have got to face the polls; people will understand we had put our cards on the table and hid nothing; we were honest and told them the truth. And they will decide on the issue. Nothing will cause us to stray from this point. Some one has got to arrest the situation. The time has come when we must understand that, and despite what others say we will puruse those measures we see as in the best interests of our country. We are thinking like statesmen, and I would say this: Just before the election campaign in 1976, I remember listening to a sermon preached by the Dean, and he said that we have to forsake political party interest and think in terms of the country, and he called upon people to adopt a more statesman-like attitude. Now to be a statesman you may have to pursue policies that seem to be unpopular for the time being, but if you are convinced that they are in the best interest of the country you will let nothing dampen your resolve; and we believe on this side that we have got the situation in hand. We are going to come face to face with it and are going to pursue corrective measure so that it will benefit all of us. The national cake needs to be redistributed, and that is what we on this side are aiming at. So I want hon. members to understand that this is no issue on which to call for divisive tactics where political points may be scored, but in the lasting interest of our country we have got to think in terms like statesmen. Let us show our true statesman-like qualities and let us understand that when the Prime Minister says a year of restraint that we on this side have already set an example in that we have decided we will not ask for increases although there has been no increase since 1973. We have said this; we will set the standard – no increase for any members on this side, because we put our country first. This is our slogan in the Barbados Labour Party. The situation is something like in England. England was faced with a similar situation, and the people of England decided – the Archbishop, the Queen, Members of Parliament, the unions.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I don't think the hon. member is in order in bringing the name of Her Majesty the Queen into the debate.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker what I am saying is that in England those who held the highest executive offices decided to put the country first; they underwent wage restraint and now we can see what Britain tightened her belt for. The Labour Party had pursued measures that were unpopular but are now beginning to bear fruit. And we have got to understand that all this gloom that the members of the other side are predicting is just a mere diversion. Let us understand it now that we believe that some day, and very soon, if we take the measures we intend to take, we will champion the cause and people will respect us even more so in 1981.
8.45 p.m.

This is not a matter of looking at elections. We must forget elections at times and look at what is for the good of the country. If we do that, I am sure that all of us will some day realise that we have made an invaluable contribution to the country and to the nation. All of us will be able to say "well done thou good and faithful servant"; we have done our part, and we will look back in our latter years and see we have made a good contribution. Mr. Speaker, I want this House to understand that this is a very serious matter and we must approach it in a very serious way. This is no time for gimmicking, no time for making fun. Let us address ourselves to it in a nationalistic way and be serious. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, after listening to the Hon. Attorney General today I must say that the rumours of his imminent resignation from the front bench should not have taken of a sudden the people of the country; but after listening to the hon. member who has just sat down I can only hope that he has a successor in this House to whom he can give some practice. So far we have been treated to a very long winded approach to the problems of this country, and also we have been given reasons to believe that the prospects are not as bright as they should be. We have also been treated to a lot of excuses and explanations as to why we are now confronted by this position. I would like to point out that however plausible the excuses and explanations, I do not believe that the broad masses of people in Barbados will derive much consolation from these excuses.

It is my feeling that the Government must always be operated as a business; and in a private business the

surplus is accepted as desirable; and therefore in the Government Service also the surplus is an objective which is desirable, and a deficit however structural, cannot be entertained in the place of a surplus. There may very well be good reasons for a deficit, and there may be very good reasons to explain why this should continue for some length of time, but in the long run, if we are going to run Government as a serious business as people in private industry run their businesses, we must be anticipating in the near future to see that this deficit, however structural it may be, is converted in a surplus.

The requirements of the Estimates are that they indicate to the people of this country what sources of money the Government is looking for to enable them to carry on; and they also indicate to the people of the country whether or not new or increased taxation can be expected in any budgetary proposals, and bearing in mind the argument of the Hon. Minister of Finance when in Opposition about the inability of Barbadians to bear any further increase in taxation, one would anticipate that it is the intention at present not to further burden the people of this country with taxation. Therefore one has to infer that at some time the Government must get around to curtailing expenditure if not reducing it.

I have made this statement on previous occasions not only when the present party was in power, but also on other occasions when my own party was in power. I think that we have to look seriously at the question of expenditure to prevent it from rising by leaps and bounds, if not to reduce it. Their efforts in that direction are feeble, and the people of this country are expecting to see a reduction in the expenditure which is now a headache, not only for the Government, but for the people of the country as a whole. I do not believe that the objective can be achieved by singling out a section of this community and saying that they should "hold strain".

Wage restraint has its advocates and opponents in many parts of the world, especially in Britain, and we all know what has been the attitude of some of the people of this country. At the same time it has been pointed out that if you are going to embark upon a policy of wage restraint, the people of the country must see a tangible effect or a demonstration that we are serious about it. To date the attempt in that direction can hardly be characterised as serious. They have to come around to the task of tackling the rapidly rising increases in the prices of commodities in this country. If that had been presented simultaneously with the proposed wage restraint, I think that the Opposition members' objections to a wage restraint policy would be less grounded and be on less safe ground.

As you look around this country, people will tell you of the remarkable increases in the prices of commodities. I do not know what the Hon. Minister of Finance has in his budgetary proposals, but in passing I would say that if he thinks that the bitter pill of wage restraint must be accepted by the people of this country, then it must be indicated in clear and unmistakeable terms that they are expecting a reduction in prices in order to increase their purchasing power. I do not know if the Government is considering increasing personal allowances or a reduction in personal income tax or a new package of price control which will go a far way so that the money the people get, although not increased, will be able to meet the needs of the people from day to day.

If you look at the Estimates, you will see the increases coming in certain areas. For example, Defence and Security, Ministry of the Attorney General, Ministry of Communications and Works, Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Health and National Insurance and Charges of Debt. That is a commitment from which we cannot escape. We have to meet that, and therefore it would be irrational to expect to tell the Government that they should try to reduce the payment of that debt. They cannot. We have to meet it and therefore that is one of the areas that you have to accept as necessary in these estimates.

When you look at the others, it is my contention that when you look, for example, at the Ministry of Communications and Works, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture, the services which will be rendered in those areas could be rendered more efficiently and with less cost by using other methods. If the Minister is concerned about expenditure in this country, he must take a serious look at the way in which the Ministries of Communications and Works, Agriculture and Health are operating. In these areas I know that some effective saving could be brought about. I am not going to tell it because I get the impression that hon. members on that side have all the answers to all the problems of this country; and they are now the supernationals. They are more national in their outlook where Barbados is concerned then anybody before them or who is likely to follow them. *(Aside).*

It is not a question of why I did not do it, because I was an individual. If I were in a position to do these things I would do them. We are now in a position where the Minister of Finance under the Constitution has an absolute right and therefore what he does cannot be questioned even by his colleagues in his Government. The Constitution gives him that prerogative and we have to acknowledge that.

8.55 p.m.

The Constitution gives him that prerogative and we have to acknowledge that. Sir, we have to be concerned about the debt and we have to be concerned about the expenditure as a whole, because when we look at the way in which we are spending money, I am afraid I have to join with the hon. member for Christ Church East in pointing out that if we have limited money to spend, then there can only be certain areas in which that limited money can be spent, and certainly for a very long time we have been harrassed in this country by the problem of unemployment. It has been a problem for many years and I would like to point out very strongly that unemployment in Barbados has been perpetually the problem of black people. We do not find it a problem in other sections of the community, and when we have limited money as we have been made to understand, I would like to see some more serious attempt being made to direct this money into channels where the unemployment problems of this country are being effectively tackled. There are areas which now have money that can be asked to hold strain. There are other areas in which money is now being given where maybe with a better approach to efficiency vast economies can be effected, and I have mentioned three areas in which I believe economies can be effected to help reduce this burden of expenditure on the people of this country. When you go a step further and start looking at the area of housing, I would like to say that it is the experience of Mexico from which we can gain some benefit in dealing with the problem of housing. That is an area in which I think we should look because I would like to draw to the attention of the hon. member in charge that in Mexico they have been able to build up reserves for the express purpose of providing houses for the working class people of the country by the donations and contributions from the worker and from the employer, and that should be an area in which the Government or Minister of Finance can look rather than using money raised by taxation for carrying the total burden of producing houses for the people of this country. I am not saying we can do it to the same extent as Mexico, but that is an area in which I feel we could look to see to what extent the experience of Mexico can be of benefit to us in dealing with the problem of housing.

Sir, at this particular time in our history one has to look very seriously and question whether we can entertain the kind of expenditure for defence and security with which we are likely to be saddled. It is the experience in many countries that as soon as you move into that area, you find that that expenditure starts going up by leaps and bounds due to the increased cost of equipment and the other things that very often you find yourself being asked to supply your military forces with, and you will find in a very short space of time that countries have a very high percentage of their revenue being donated to the military forces, and I do not want to believe that this is a situation that is likely to befall Barbados. I know that is an area in which some form of employment is being given to the people of this country, and that could prove very attractive in making a Government move in to spend money in that area, but at the same time I would like to point out that the experience in other countries has been that once you start in that direction, expenditure starts going up at fast rates, and that is one of the areas we would have to keep under strictest consideration and evaluation to ensure that we do not become saddled with a very high amount of expenditure attached to the Defence Force and the other matters relating to the Defence Force.

Sir, during the actual debate on the Estimates there are a number of points which I will raise depending on how the Heads come out, but I will join with all of those remarks on the difficulties which are now confronting Barbados, and I should like to believe that I am going a step further in not only commenting on the difficulties but indicating that there are some areas in which the Government can make some move to contain this expenditure. I would like to say quite clearly that we cannot go on using adversary politics in matters like this, because in the long run and that long run is not too far off, we are going to find it would be extremely difficult to keep the economy of this country going as it has been going for some time, and when that happens, it is going to be a lot of people in this country who are going to suffer. We have the experience of Latin American countries and even some countries in the Caribbean area which have been saddled with the type of deteriorating conditions affecting the interplay of the economics of the country. Sir, we also have to be reminded that very often when Government moves into certain areas in the economy as evidenced in Italy under the Fascist regime under the direction of Mussolini when he moved into insurance, public utilities and banking, what happened, and we are dealing with people in this country who due to the way in which things have been explained to them in the past have taken up stands from which it would be rather difficult to remove them; and one would hate to believe that as a result of Government taking the initiative in certain sectors of the economy of this country the type of problems and disaster which beset Italy are likely to beset Barbados. I can only join with those who are concerned about the present economic straits in which this country finds itself in hoping that a lot of national-mindedness, a lot of enthusiasm and a lot of proper direction from all people concerned, not only from those in the Parties within the House of Assembly but from the people outside in the country can come together to ensure that the conditions on which we are sounding a warning do not befall us. It is going to be no satisfaction to the masses of people of Barbados to be constantly told that things are as they are

and National Insurance when I say that any citizen who has ideas that can be useful to any individual in Government, or to the country as a whole for that matter, should come forward with the suggestions. I am going to make this clear – we are not begging for help; we have been given certain duties to perform and we are prepared to carry out and perform these duties; but if there are any suggestions to be made by any hon. member, I appeal to him to come forward with the suggestion. During my time at the Ministry of Communications and Works I have come across a number of problems and I have tried in my short time at the Ministry to correct these problems. But I do not believe I alone have all the answers. I think there are many people who can come forward with ideas, and I am quite amenable to those ideas. A lot of play has been made, especially by the Leader of the Opposition, about the implementation or carrying on of the projects of the Democratic Labour Party. Mr. Speaker, only an ill-advised Government coming into office at a very critical time would seek to scrap the projects which they found, especially when large sums of money have been already poured into these projects. Would anyone want, for instance, to stop the extension at the Deep Water Harbour which we originally built? Would anyone want to stop the building of the Polytechnic, even though we consider that the area they had selected was not desirable? The hon. member for St. Michael South referred to the fact that a school being built in Roebuck Street had run into certain difficulties and piles had to be driven. This is a formal thing to be found anywhere in building in Barbados, especially in areas like the one where the school was being built, but I wish to assure the House that there was no great expenditure involved in the few piles that were driven.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please remember that the hon. member is in the Opposition now.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: That is quite true, Sir. And this brings me to the point about the removal of the Polytechnic. We regard the area originally planned for the Polytechnic as not the most suitable area because we had to think not only in terms of the foundation but also in terms of leaving a large area of land open in the Bridgetown area in order to help take off the heavy flow of water that comes into Bridgetown whenever there is a heavy rainfall. The original planners did not take this into account. You must have in every community an area for this purpose.

Getting back to the question of unemployment and inflation throughout the world. Take the City of New York. I am told the hon. member for St. Michael South West would certainly be more acquainted with that area than any other, as I understand he occasionally lectures there. In New York thousands of people were laid off just over a year or two ago – nearly 100,000 people were laid off, and not only people from the private sector but people from the Government sector as well, in rich and mighty New York City. I read of the situation in New York where buildings were being burned and firemen were being sent home because there was no money to pay them. You hear the question here of wage restraint and negotiations. This raises a very interesting point, for you may not have wages at all. The question of restraint might not even apply, because only a foolish Government would attempt to allow people to work when there is no money to pay them and only a foolish Government would attempt to negotiate for high wages when they know that there is no money in the till. I also read quite recently where the new Mayor of New York has plans to lay off an additional 20,000 city employees. We have not yet reached that stage. For all the problems you hear about laying off people – and I want to make this point clear, that during the regime of the Democratic Labour Party they had very wonderful economic times. Money came in, they were the golden years for the country. Although this was so between 1973 and 1974 over 473 people were laid off by MCW under the Minister who is now the Leader of the Opposition.

9.25 p.m.

You will not hear that from the Other Side. I remember hearing in this House the Hon. member for St. Michael South referring to a pamphlet with the name "Rolling Along" which is issued by the Transport Board. I have asked for copies of that pamphlet to be sent to members of the House, and I hope, Mr. Speaker, that you will soon get yours. If you read that you will see that at the Transport Board over 400 additional people were recently brought in to work. That is what we are doing. What we have to do now is to get rid of the dead wood. If you have a tree with dead wood you trim it off. We have got certain functions to perform, and those functions must be performed.

We have had modest improvements in the economy of this country. I did not hear anybody specifically refer to Agriculture. That is not my area. The Minister of Agriculture is here and can speak for himself. Just let me make one point on this. During the regime of the Democratic Labour Party thousands of acres of agricultural land were taken out of production, and that is another matter which led to a serious drain on our foreign reserves; because if these lands were in cultivation at the time when we got a good price for sugar, we would have reaped a harvest by virtue of the production of sugar from those acres of land. The Ministry of Agriculture, in its enlightened policy, has brought back of that acreage 6,000 acres into agricultural production. You are not only hearing about it, but it is being done.

There are a number of other things that are being done as far as our projects are concerned. The National Development Bank – we have put that into operation; and there are a considerable number of other things we have been doing. We have cut out waste in Government spending. As a matter of fact you will hear that the Ministry of Finance is so frugal that they do not even want to see a bad penny spent. What is wrong with that? We have had too much wastage in this country in the past 15 years. It is time now for us to control it. At the Barbados Marketing Corporation over $1,000 a month was being thrown away. We are hoping to correct that very bad and unfortunate situation. We have had a situation where we are forced to find money to pay bad debts created by the last administration. Where is it going to come from? That is part of the problem.

The hon. member for Christ Church East made mention of the serious position with respect to the amount of money which goes to the public sector in terms of emoluments as against the total estimated revenue and the total estimated expenditure of the country. That is something like $298 million whereas we are spending something like $126.212 million in wages. Now this is a very serious inbalance in any part of the world; and when you think in terms of Barbados with its very limited resources – if you can call it resources at all – I think that we are doing amazingly well in this small country. That we can stand up and fight back and withstand the pressures of the world and do as well as we have been doing within the past few months is certainly a credit to this present administration; but, Mr. Speaker, the times demand new measures and new men. We have got the new men and we are introducing new measures.

It is difficult for the Other Side to understand the new measures because they are too much in the habits and the ways of the old way. I have no doubt that as a result of the implementation of the enlightened policy which the Barbados Labour Party is introducing, and the form of Government which it has brought to this country, in a very short time with careful and frugal spending, and goodwill on the part of all people, we can overcome. *(Cheers).*

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, after having what I consider an interesting debate, unless other hon. members wish to speak, it is now 9.30 p.m. and I would like to move that the sitting be suspended until 10.30 a.m. tomorrow.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly at 9.32 p.m.

On Resumption

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed.

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, I sat patiently yeaterday morning and through most of the day and listened to a recitation particularly from the members of the Opposition benches, a recitation purporting to demonstrate that Barbados is in trouble. Indeed, Sir, that is the summary of the statements put forward by the members on that side. The hon. member for St. John, who is not here, made a very long and reasonably good speech, I must confess, and one must only conclude that the stint in New Heaven helped him. I understand he was lecturing or doing something at Yale, I do not know if they are the lock people because he brought back a lot of keys on how to unlock the economy, how to answer all the problems or solve some of them, but, Sir, he made a good speech and I am very, sorry he is not here this morning because I wanted to make him understand that I was very glad that he is in this Chamber while I am serving because I can learn something from him.

You see, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member from St. John is extremely adept at seeming, but we sometimes confuse the appearance for substance, and he is extremly good, his best gift is the ability to bamboozle and camouflage realities and talk a lot of long fancy stuff, so if one wants to learn how to mesmerize people with words and not to make anything of a serious contribution the hon. member for St. John is the person to emulate. He said Barbados is in deep trouble and he sought to put forth the argument that this country because it has a deficit of some magnitude is on the brink of collapse, and he used a lot of nautical language as if he is a mariner, and he said it is like jumping from the surf into the depth of the ocean, and he behaved as if he had never heard the word "deficit" before. He gave the impression that it was only after the advent of the Barbados Labour Party that deficits were heard of, but in 1962 deficits began in this country because deficit financing was introduced into Barbados by the hon. member for St. John. The first time in the history of Barbados that a deficit was ever recorded was in the year 1961–62 when a deficit of $948,000 was recorded on current account. In 1962–63 another deficit, 1967–68 you got into the million dollar figures, in 1968–69 it was $3,355,000, in 1973–74 it was $5,200,000, big figures now, $219,000 in 1974–75, and in 1976 with the windfall he managed to ease out with $9,225,000, but we have to bear in mind that during 1974–75 he raped this country of

$28 million which he took away from the sugar workers of Barbados and he used to push himself out of a very embarrassing situation and walked away leaving the people of Barbados to believe, at least the ones that were susceptible to deception, because had the majority of the people of Barbados been so enthralled by the leadership of the member for St. John he would still be on this side, but the people of Barbados cannot be fooled forever and in 1962 the average man in the street recognised the difference between seeming and doing.

Warren Stevens wrote a poem, he is a favourite poet of mine, and wrote some very interesting poetry and I have the feeling he had the hon. member for St. John in mind because when you put him in the sun it all hangs out.

Sir, I am here to bring good news. I fear that even sometimes the members on this side when they begin to talk about finance begin to twist their hands in despair for the economy. I have even heard some of them say they do not like how things look, but I want to tell you, Sir, that if the people of Barbados did not despair in 1974–75 they need not despair now, now is the time for national rejoicing because in 1974–75 we had an inflation rate in this country.....*(Asides).*

Mr. SPEAKER: Would the Hon. Leader of the House desist from interrupting the good news?

Mr. JOHNSON: Good tidings of great joy, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to hear the good news.

Mr. JOHNSON: I am reading, Sir, from the Central Statistics Annual Report 1975. In 1974 the inflation rate in Barbados was substantially below the average 22.2% rise for the years 1972 to 1974. In 1974 inflation in Barbados was moving at the rate of 44% and in the first quarter of 1978 – this is the good news, Sir – the inflation rate in Barbados is approximately 4%, and I ask, is that an occasion for us to walk around dejected like a bunch of people who have just gone through the Boer War? I believe that is a fantastic accomplishment for the BLP after 15 months in power, that they have been able to launch this economy back to a position where inflation is only going along at 4% (Mr. TAITT: Is that an accomplishment? It was 2% just before we left office.) The hon. member for St. Michael South West was presiding over the Ministry of Trade which is responsible for the greatest single contribution to the inflationary spiral, and I am talking about the cost of food and clothes in general.

Sir, I would like to read something for you from this report, because this is further news that the hon. member for St. John – and the hon. member for St. James got annoyed with me just now for saying that the hon. member for St. John made a good speech – but I congratulated him for that one gift he has of bamboozling people, because I want you to listen to these figures. The budget measures of November, 1974 and May 1975.....

Mr. SPEAKER: From what document is the hon. member reading?

Mr. JOHNSON: Sir, I mentioned earlier the report from which I was reading. "The Government's policy on fiscal restraint led to an encouraging budgetary performance in the first nine months of the fiscal year 1975–76. Now, these factors contributed to a surplus on current account of $25.7 million, seven times larger than the similar period for 1974, and restricted the overall deficit to $7.3 million. One third of that was recorded in 1974, however much of the revenue increase was of a windfall nature." That is the part I want, much of the revenue increase was of a windfall nature, suggesting that the budgetary performance in the first three-quarters of fiscal 1975–76 was merely a temporary departure from the trend towards increasing Government deficits started, initiated, presided over and perpetuated by the hon. member for St. John.
10.40 a.m.

At the end of 1975 the revenue total was $149 million; the total spent was $152 million. Mr. Speaker, this thing goes on further to state that after inflation was taken into consideration you have to bear in mind that anything resembling growth in that period would have to be discontinued back to zero because the inflation rate was so high. Government spending would certainly show a significant decline in 1974 and only a slight increase in 1975 if the inflationary rate was taken into consideration. Now the reason why I am dealing with inflation as much as I am doing now is because people are generally led to believe that a situation where you continue to get higher wages will necessarily lead to a situation where the economic position becomes better. But that was not the case during those years. During those years the gains that Barbadians had managed to accumulate fell off dramatically; as a matter of fact they went to zero because the inflationary rate exceeded the rate of increase in wages and salaries; so you were in a zero position, and the hon. member for St. John has the audacity to come to this House and suggest that this country is in deep distress. We do not deny that certain measures have been necessary to bring this economy into line. It is just like the case of a sick patient; medicine becomes necessary. And it was the hon. member for St. John's propensity for fooling

people that prevented him from taking the necessary measures to stabilize the Barbados economy.

I want to mention that there are a number of factors which at this time must be borne in mind if we want fully to appreciate the fantastic achievement of the present Minister of Finance. So engulfing, so frightening is this propaganda that we hear about the bogey man of capital deficit, general fiscal deficit – so frightening is it that the hon. member for St. Thomas, the Hon. Prime Minister, was relatively restrained yesterday in his speech and I got the impression that he was sort of weighed down by the rhetoric that he heard so that I believe it is the function for us on the back bench to make sure that when the firing is hot and when the noise is plenty we get up and shed some light and bring back a measure of sanity to our discussion.

I want you to listen on the matter of construction during the period we are talking about: "Activity in the construction sector continued to decline." During the first quarter of 1977–78 we had a significant increase and this continued to increase in the construction industry in Barbados. There used to be a newspaper seller in my constituency in St. Stephen's Hill who used to sell newspapers on a bicycle. He had not been working for years and I knew he was starving. I had some work to do and I went for him and told him I wanted him to build a door for me. He said to me "I am not selling newspapers anymore; I am a foreman on construction projects in carpentry." Here is an example of a man who had to give up his profession of carpentry and sell newspapers because this particular sector of the economy had so badly declined under the Democratic Labour Party and now here was a man who was able to say "I have found a job."

As regards tourism – for the first time since tourism became a major economic activity, the number of visitors arriving in the Island declined. The period 1974–75, the period under discussion, is one which people would have you believe was a period of growth under the Democratic Labour Party but tourism declined somewhere in the region of 18%. But I am here to bring good tidings of great joy because people must not think that things are worse than when we took office. We have had to give medicine – castor oil– but it has had some effect and the patient is responding and the prognosis is good.

With regards employment – the hon. member for St. John is fond of saying that he does not know how high unemployment is. He likes to throw out this little catch phrase. But I would like to point out that when a former Prime Minister says he does not know how high unemployment is, it shows he does not have sufficient interest in the business of Government. When a man is unemployed he has no means of visible support and all sorts of sub-cultures emerge – grass, and so on.

As regards retrenchment – there was retrenchment in 1974–75 in the casual labour force. The hon. member for St. John said yesterday that the Barbados Labour Party is contemplating the prospects of laying off people at MCW. But nobody said much at the time the hon. member for St. Michael South Central jumped on MCW and wiped out a whole squad in one fell swoop in a single day. At that period when the Democratic Labour Party did it they had this fancy word "retrenchment" for putting people out of work. They did it in 1974 and yet would have us believe that those were the golden years of the Democratic Labour Party.

10.50 a.m.

That is what they would have us believe, but the thinking people of Barbados know better. In the same period the price retail index was running wild, and the Governor at the Central Bank had to whisper in the ear of the hon. member for St. John that the Barbadian economy was in deep trouble and that he had to do something. That is when our money was tied to the United States Dollar because its value was declining. You had a certain amount of money in your hand, but you were not able to buy anything. I do not want anybody to go away from here believing that this Government of which I happen to be a backbencher is not doing everything in the best interest of the people of Barbados. This is the time that every right thinking person in Barbados should get up and say thank God for sending a deliverer. The 17 men on this side said to the people of Barbados, do not worry; we will look after matters for you, and we have been doing that. More people are going to work, and inflation has been slowed.

A responsible Government demands that those who sit in positions of responsibility and labour unions generally should be prepared to stand up in a statesmanlike fashion and call for a period of wage restraint when the economy of the nation demands it. Great Britain, one of the highest industrialised nations in the world, has had to impose wage restraints in the interest of the economy and the total national good. Canada has had to do precisely the same thing. The USA has had to do the same thing. President Carter had to invoke the Taft-Hartley Act demanding that the miners go back to work for a cooling off period. Here in Barbados we have some half baked people who get up and talk all kinds of irrational things – talking about $42 million or $87 million for the public sector.

You do not have to be a genius to realise that we cannot take up money of that magnitude and inject it into a non productive sector of the economy without

doing severe violence to the economy; and if the hon. member for St. Michael South West and the member for St. John think that we will follow the advice that they give us, they are in for a big surprise. They were in power, and they did not do the things that they tell us to do now. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central was telling us how to run the Ministry of Communications and Works and we have seen no tangible impression of anything done by him. He wanted to whisper in the ears of the hon. member for the City about how to run the Ministry of Health. He wants us to sit down and listen to him, but when he had it he did not know how to do it. I wanted to deal with him at some length, but frankly, I do not think that it is necessary because I believe that he would be more comfortable dealing with the subject of medicine, bacteria and that kind of thing; but I do not want to hear him at all when it comes to the economy of the country; because yesterday he displayed a general lack of orientation by indulging in a falacy when he spoke about balancing the budget and that the Government should do something about it.

We have heard that in the 1930s when Herbert Hoover had the situation in the United States where things were looking bad and the tax situation was declining, he said that the thing to do was to cut down on spending so as to get a balanced budget.That programme put the USA into what is commonly known as the Depression. Thousands of poor people who had struggled to get houses had to sell them for $2,000 or whatever they could get because of the Depression. Even though we have that horrible expression, the member still remains in the dark when he talks about balancing a budget. When a householder has expenses that are rising too fast, all that he has to do is to put the wife to work to earn a little something extra or severely cut back on his consumption; and nothing happens except that he becomes able to save a little something later. The Government cannot work in that way because when a householder restrict his capital he does not lose his job, but when the Government restricts spending, the Government must necessarily look at the prospect that its income will decline because a very substantial part of Government's spending goes towards goods and services and the stimulation of the economy in ways which we know about.
11 a.m.

When you withdraw those, people are out of work, taxes fall off and if they fall off in a sufficiently large magnitude, you will have the problems which the hon. member for St. Michael North Central does not appreciate. You will have the problems of the depression of 1930 to 1933. It is not possible to contemplate a reduction of Government expenditure because people who are actively engaged in productive enterprise would no longer have the income from which they would be able to generate, and the multiplier effect which we know about comes into force and all sorts of bad things begin to happen.

I should like to point out further that this business of balancing budgets is not always a virtue as it relates to families even because there is hardly one householder in Barbados of whom I can think who aspires to owning substantial consumer durables who can put his hand in his pocket and pay for it in cash. He has to go and borrow the money from the bank to buy durables.If he wants to buy a house, he has to accumulate it through mortgage financing, and not a single person in this country would own the house if we all practised this virtue which the hon. member for St. Michael North Central would seek to teach us. Not one man would be able to own a house because.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member should wind his debate at this stage.

Mr. JOHNSON:.....because it would be easy trying to put down 15 cents a week; but we all know that by prudent management of deficit financing which is becoming a norm, we are able to accomplish a lot of things which ordinarily would escape us.

Finally, Sir, Government can afford to engage in some measure of control deficit financing because the national debt goes on for ever and ever amen. A country does not disappear and die just as I would die and my son would come along and die and my debt remains. This country goes on *ad infinitum* and therefore it will never ever be required to look for one lumpsum to pay off its debts. That is one of the virtues of deficit financing. We are able to buy goods and services which are in current demand. Sir, I have great pleasure in winding up my good news, the good news that the Barbados Labour Party is engaged actively in putting this country back on its economic feet. We have rescued it from the sea where it was drowning and I am sure that the people of Barbados whenever they get ready to put their verdict will say, this man came at a very opportune time and we are grateful that they were here.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to follow the evengelical style of the hon. member who has just sat down. However, it is convenient for me to speak at this time because without any collaboration with the hon. member for St. Michael West I found it necessary and convenient to choose as the focal point in an examination of the economy the year 1975, and I believe that too little emphasis has been placed so far in this debate on the year 1975. Indeed, Sir, it may be useful to start with the words of the hon. member for St. John on Friday, 30th July, 1976, when in this House he reviewed the economy and made certain

budgetary proposals. The then Prime Minister in his Budgetary Proposals and review of the economy said at Page 6:

"Depressed economic conditions with our major trading partners has had a dampening effect on the performance of the productive sectors of our economy."

At the very outset of his speech on page 1 he said that there was some ground for cautious optimism, but present indications are that while the first half of the year witnessed an intensification of the process of economic dislocation which had begun in late 1973, by year end the international economy was back on the road to recovery. Suffice it to say that in the middle of 1976, the then Prime Minister had found it necessary to speak of the country in very cautious terms about the performance of the economy.

Now the hon. member for St. Michael West referred to the annual statistics, I believe, of the Central Bank for the year 1975. Throughout the by-election and general elections campaign of 1976 the Report and Financial Statement of Accounts of the Central Bank of Barbados for the same year 1975 were dealt with well and treated as though they were vital by members especially of the then Opposition for the reason that 1975 had only one favourable aspect about the performance of this economy. The one saving grace of Barbados between 1973 when the whole non-oil producing economies of the world were afflicted by the oil crisis, including Barbados of course, apart from the fact that the receipts for sugar reached unexpectedly high levels, was that there would have been a deficit on current account in 1975 and in previous and subsequent years, and it must be made clear that the only outstanding feature of the revenue situation in Barbados in 1975 was the exceptionally high price which we got for sugar. So the Hon. Prime Minister was right in my view yesterday when he said or chose as his point of reference the five year period between 1973 and 1978, because it was seen that from 1973 all non-oil producing economies suffered almost disaster, and so as an open economy one has to assess and judge the performance of the Barbadian economy in the context of similar economies close at hand and against a background of the general international economic situation. In 1975 which as I say had one aspect of boon in it, the Central Bank Report revealed that the productive sectors of the economy were stagnated.
11.10 a.m.

Between 1971 and 1976 – I stand liable to be corrected on this – but if my memory serves me right, the then Prime Minister when he had to introduce budgetary proposals in this House was never in a position to tell the country that this country had made real economic progress. At least for three years I can recall specifically his saying that the country had made little real progress. One year he even said the country made no progress, and despite any headlines and despite speeches in the House that there has to be a clamp down on expenditure, despite the fact that we recognise that some pruning has to be done in terms of Government and governmental agencies expenditure, it must be clearly understood by the general public, not only who come here but through the Press, that as I understand the Government's position today and what was being said yesterday by the Prime Minister, the Government's finances are not happy, the Government's revenue position, is not booming, but the economy itself on the other hand has shown very encouraging signs of increased activity and productivity.

You must separate the two things, and unless people understand this you will hear wild statements about things being bad in Barbados. The Central Bank report for last year, similar to the one I have for 1975, will soon be out but even if that is not published before the budget the quarterly report up to December 1977, which is close enough for our general purposes – what the hon. member for St. John would call out-turn figures and so on, those are not here – but the opening statement in the quarterly report up to the end of December 1977, two and a half months ago, says the performance of the economy during the third quarter was encouraging, and then the authors of the report proceed to specify areas in which there has been a noticeable increase leading to the conclusion that the performance of the economy had been encouraging in the third quarter. Industrial production was maintained at the same level as for the previous quarter, that is of 1976. In the tourism sector arrivals were 23.1% higher than the previous summer, domestic exports were higher than usual, so that it must be clearly understood and the distinction must be drawn.

I have seen it emphasised that what we are saying is that though the productive sectors of the economy – agriculture, tourism, construction, industrial activity – whereas these have definitely improved over the last year at the same time Government's revenue capacity has not expanded. There is therefore a leakage in Government receipts, this would obviously take a little time to identify, but I have no doubt that the advisers of the Minister of Finance and the Central Bank will soon be able to find where the leakages are or why there has been this fall off in Government revenue.

Now I am not going to say that I bring tidings of joy or gladness, I am not given to speaking in hyperbole or to the super optimistic, but I would say this, that against that background of a general economic depression from 1973, against the background that it is clear that some of the measures taken by the Government are beginning to bite, there may be reason

– and I will use the language of the former Prime Minister in 1976 – there may be reasons for cautious optimism. Why? It is clear that if the productive sectors of the economy continue to produce at the same levels and increase that the economy will maintain a certain level of activity, but against that one has to look and see what Government has been doing with a view to closing the gap between revenue and expenditure which forms the deficit and which has been the crux of the arguments and the contributions made in this House since yesterday.

Now let us look at it. Government could go on spending wildly, increase expenditure at the same time as revenue is failing to produce commensurate levels of receipts, and burst the economy. You can indulge in a lot of show projects, or projects which people say have high visibility content, or you can run into the country and tell the constituents that you have just built a big building down there or that you have just done a large road in such and such an area, and you have wasted $3 million. Or on the other hand you can say that since you see signs of recovery you will hold down for a further period Government expenditure and seek to increase the avenues of obtaining revenue.I am not suggesting any increase in taxation. Now if anybody has been studying recent legislation passed in this House of Assembly, perhaps they will agree with me that there may be reason for cautious optimism, not next year necessarily, but perhaps in three or five years. The Government has seen it fit to establish an insurance corporation and a national bank. It is specifically enshrined for example in the National Bank legislation that the profits of the National Bank, or a proportion of the profits, will be paid into the consolidated fund. What is that? Isn't the Government therefore expected without increase in taxation to obtain additional revenue from, let us say, the National Bank and so reduce the gap between revenue and expenditure? Isn't the Government therefore entitled to a compliment for its farsightedness in establishing a revenue earning organisation belonging to the people of Barbados, operating within the traditional heights of the economy and at the same time increasing the revenue capacity of the Government? Nobody has adverted to that, but clearly that is one of the measures, as I read it, being taken to close the gap between revenue and expenditure.

11.20 a.m.

In other words, it is very simple. If you are a private individual and you have certain financial difficulties it may suit you to establish your own corporation to avoid an excessive tax liability and at the same time use dividends with a view to bolstering your own personal financial position. That is all Government has done by establishing a National Bank – transferring from private individuals to the whole country. This is where I want to see the level of political analysis reach. There is no point in just saying that the Government has established a National Bank. We must be concerned with what are the potential benefits and how the National Bank can assist in reducing the national deficit. I have suggested a way and it is there in the Bill passed last week. So I do not believe that though there may be structural deficits – the Minister of Finance and the former Minister of Finance may call it by various names – there is a deficit and there has been a traditional deficit, but that does not mean that it is everlasting, as far as I can see, and I believe the Government has wisely taken alternative measures short of taxation to prevent the deficit from becoming chronic.

Now, Sir, between 1961 and 1971 even members of the Opposition would concede that throughout the world this was a boom period. The pound, for example, in England never started to flounder until after 1972. Barbados had come on the map as a stable country with people of charm and was considered an ideal place for a holiday. Travel fares were not as high as today and tourism took off. All of the various sectors of the economy showed good improvement, perhaps with the exception of sugar which was a result, I believe, of the Government's policy to play down agricultural development as against the development of industry. But in the 1970s what the hon. member for Christ Church East calls the golden age gave way and many of the developing countries had to look for new ways of development of their economies and devise schemes and strategies for the development of their country into the year 2000. It was during this period that the Democratic Labour Party was found wanting in terms of the development of ideas and concepts for advancing this country, and the people looking at the two teams arranged before them in 1976 felt in their wisdom that the Barbados Labour Party provided the greater hope.

Every individual at some time in his life has experienced financial difficulty and it has been necessary for every individual at some time to make sacrifices and cut down on certain types of spending so that in the long run he could attain the goal he desired for himself and his family. And so it is with a Government; a Government is only an extension of that idea. Nobody has said that the problems between 1973 and today have been the doings of the Democratic Labour Party; nobody has said they have been the cause. We have said the causes were there but the remedies to effect a change or the solutions necessary to deal with the situation were not taken by those who had control of the affairs of the country. But to return to the point I was making; just as an individual may find it necessary to hold strain with his personal finances, so it is with a Government, and we are asking the country to hold strain for a limited period of time to ensure that while

spending necessary expenditure we do not run into a position similar to that of Jamaica or Guyana.

Now, Sir, it is often easy to be wise after the event. On the other hand, coming events sometimes cast their shadows before. I believe it was in 1968 or 1969 that the them Prime Minister, whether he was omniscient, perspicacious or prophetic or whatever – told this country that one morning they might wake up and find that they did not have a country. If I want to be charitable to him, I could say that years ago he saw that there could be economic disaster facing this country. But I cannot be so charitable because the oil crisis was still five years away from the date of that statement. But it is amazing for one who uttered this statement not to have taken certain corrective measures earlier.

Last year in the debate on the Appropriation Bill he recognized that it was necessary to hold down spending. Now a year later you are hearing criticisms. You were asked then to have the courage to take bold measures even though unpopular, in the national interest, and for doing that you are criticised. They may feel entitled to criticise this, but those who look at the situation objectively must recognize that the problems of today are not the making of the Barbados Labour Party and that the Barbados Labour Party is taking certain corrective action.

Now I heard the former Prime Minister complaining yesterday about shortages. What shortages? I have never been one who feels it is not a man's place to shop, and so I still go into the supermarket at Fairchild Street, the BMC and other places and I have not found any shortages and so far I believe that that is just a lot of wild talk. For one who has been moonlighting at Yale or some university to come back to Barbados and within a couple of days even though he is a person very interested in the culinary arts.
11.30 a.m.

I say that he is stretching the limits rather far. After he has returned to Barbados after a year and the day before consideration of the Estimates begins, he is talking about shortages. Is he listening to hearsay? It is a very unfair criticism and it is a wild statement which is not supported by anything that I heard in the debate; and I do not think that it will be supported by anybody on his side. I have an appointment for three years as Chairman of the National Housing Corporation and so, you will expect me to discuss the general proposals for that corporation. I am not going to do that now. The Opposition were offered the opportunity to call the Heads. If they had any interest in Housing in this country, they could have called the Head. I will give my own Press Conference later on; but I will let the country know that in terms of Housing the Government fully recognises our need to house the people of the country properly. A large proportion of our finances comes from the Government, and we are satisfied that when we have cleared some of the backlog of arrears – over $2.5 million – we can use that $2.5 million in new housing programmes.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member.....

Mr. SIMMONS: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I was now starting to wind up. I just want to say that in terms of Housing the Government recognises its commitment, but there are certain problems which we have found and which we are getting rid of; but I want to throw out perhaps one ray of hope for Housing. For the first time certain experiments have been carried out in Housing which do provide some ray of hope. Now it costs $21,000 to built a unit like the ones in Wildey – a permanent type house. As a result of the experiment done at Free Hill, we got independent engineers to advise us and we were told that we could build the same unit in future for $12,000. I told the engineers not to worry about $12,000. I would be satisfied with $17,000. It seems to me that it will allow a greater projection of Housing in this country.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, it does not appear that any other hon. member wishes to speak, so I will seek to conclude debate on the second reading at this stage. Yesterday in many ways was a good day for Barbados. We won the Shell Shield, we held off the Australians and we had a sober and informed debate in Parliament fuelled mainly by the back bench – I could call them the backbone – of the Barbados Labour Party who made contributions that I think are going to be an important part of the general economic debate in Barbados for the next year; and I would like to thank all hon. members, especially those on the Government bank benches for what they said yesterday and today.

There were one or two contributions too, Sir, from the Opposition which contained elements of sobriety and commonsense. Unfortunately there were some which contained neither. I will draw a veil over the speech of the member for St. Lucy who said that balance of payments is nothing new nor is a deficit. The speech of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition contained only a plea to us not to revert to what he described as the old story of the Democratic Labour Party and its woes. The speech of the hon. member of St. Michael South – there is no need to draw a veil over that, apart from the error in prophesy which he made at the end. He might have been speaking on our side of the House and making the same contribution that he made today. Even the criticisms of the 1966 campaign which he voiced could very well have been

made by an independent supporter for the Barbados Labour Party.

I must say, Sir, that I was unable to grasp the main part of the speech of the hon. member for St. Michael North Central. He took us to Latin America, to Mexico; he took us around the West Indies. I cannot remember if there were any excursions into Eastern Europe, but there was such a cloud of fluent verbiage, that I was unable to identify the fallacies as completely as they have been identified by the hon. member for St. Michael West in his contribution this morning. I draw a veil over that also, because although it was thoughtful, it only, I think, indicated a lack of depth when thought is applied, of the economic knowledge contained in the brain of the member for St. Michael North Central. I regret that there was really nothing in his speech which was of assistance in approaching the problems which the Government faces. I gather that he said that the Government must not have a Defence Force because it is essential, and it must not have a defence force because it will give employment. He said that the Government should not make the country bankrupt by spending too much, but it must spend more in areas of Education, Health, agricultural and industrial development – areas that will create employment.
11.40 a.m.

I really was not very able to deal with that. He said the Government must be seen as operating as a business, surpluses must be seen as desirable, and then a little later on he went on to say that there is no room for additional taxation, taxation was too high, you must look seriously at expenditure and examine ways of getting value for expenditure. I really, Mr. Speaker, cannot deal with that at any greater length with any greater quality than it has been dealt with by the hon. member who spoke penultimately. There were other speeches made.

It is impossible for me to say anything about the speech of the hon. member for St. Michael South West without becoming personal, because I do not think I have ever heard a speech which was so empty of content and so full of confidence. I have never heard commonplaces, non-facts, irrelevant applications, of theory so confidently and fluently delivered in any public speech in my entire life. Peter Sellers made a record many years ago; it was meant to be a take off of a conservative speaker of the 1959 general election campaign in Britain. It sold, I believe, over 100,000 copies. Peter Sellers was wasting his time and the record company was wasting their time. All you would need to do is to record the hon. member for St. Michael South West and people would laugh at the speech without realising that it was meant seriously. I think there must be subjects on which the hon. member can speak with authority, but I regret to say that budgets, estimates and economic subjects in a theoretical sense are not among those subjects, and I wish to congratulate the Leader of the Opposition and the soon to be Leader of the Oppoisition on their wisdom, their sagacity and their knowledge of the people of Barbados in jointly elbowing the hon. member aside from his appointed position as principal spokesman on economics. As I sat in the lobby behind the Speaker's Chair, Mr. Speaker, somebody said after some of the speeches had been delivered "you ought to be glad that you have the hon. member for St. John back because he will keep you on your toes; if you had to deal with the other speaker you would get complacent and would not understand when things are going wrong." It was a pithy way of expressing Disreali's principle that no Government can be long secure without a formidable Opposition, and I really realise that a good deal of benefit will accrue to Barbados and the Barbados Labour Party's great combination from the relegation of the hon. member for St. Michael South West in regard to economic affairs. I honestly think that it is worse than the hon. member for St. Michael North Central's speech. I could contradict some of his facts that there were only 39 jobs created by the IDC, but I believe I could safely leave that to the hon. member for Christ Church East. I could examine some of his theories.....

Mr. TAITT: If the hon. member would give way on a point of elucidation, I never said that there were only 39 jobs created. I said the net was 39. There is a difference, and the wizard that the Prime Minister is on economic matters ought to be able to distinguish that difference.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am glad I have given the hon. member a chance to correct himself. However if he reads the record, I think he will find that he is mistaken; but mistaken or not, this would not be the first non-fact put forward with fluency, confidence, with all the style and quality that the best public relations training at perhaps the relative mediocre American University can give even to such unpromising material as the hon. member.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is only an estimate. *(Asides)*

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Oxford is a different matter. I have said in here that the greatest tribute that could be paid to Oxford University was the success achieved in life by Mr. Cameron Tudor that never before had so little been taken and made so much of by an educational institution, but I think that in public relations terms I have to give some considerable credit to the institution from which the hon. member graduated with the degree which he now holds.

Hon. members, as I say, have largely dealt with individual speeches of the members of the Opposition other than the hon. member for St. John, and I will have to deal with that at some length.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what we saw in here yesterday was in a way more than a speech and more than a performance from the hon. member for St. John. It was a demonstration, and it was a demonstration of the fact that after twenty-five years in politics certain things rub off and certain experiences give rise to instinctive reactions, and that there is a certain quality that attracts itself to anybody who has enjoyed public confidence over a period of time. In 1971 we in the Barbados Labour Party sat and marvelled while we saw a performance by the then Government of being able to ride every conceivable horse in no matter what direction the horses were going. We saw at that time how our party was attacked for Black Power by those persons who were susceptible to prejudice in that region, and we saw how we were attacked for being favourable to the conservatives by those persons who wished to say that, and we had another example yesterday from the hon. member of managing to express and categorise the fears of many different groups of society.

Now there is a place in every Parliament and in the public life of any country for an elder statesman who has been around for a long time, who has enjoyed a knowledge of the secrets of Government and the confidence at one time or another of an electorate. Such a one was Sir Grantley Adams; he played the role of elder statesman very successfully in here. I think it was a role played instinctively; I do not think he consciously set out to be that, and I think that yesterday we saw the beginning of the same role being played by the hon. member for St. John. We saw for example how he expressed the fears of the merchants. I never thought that in this Parliament I would sit down here and faithfully hear repeated, especially after only one or two days of having the opportunity of hearing these fears expressed, all the arguments which the business community have been putting forward, all the complaints which the merchants have been making to this Government for the whole of this year, that life is difficult for them, profits are down, that they cannot import things, they find it difficult to get prices which suit them and so on.

11.50 a.m.

We heard this carefully put. Now I know that these arguments are being put forward, and I am going to say something, Mr. Speaker, there is also something in the arguments. Undoubtedly over stringent controls on business have an effect which is obviously unfavourable to the businesses themselves, but they have a wider effect on the economy. In due course the prices and profits policy of the Government will be set out in the budget, but some corrective measures have already been taken, and prior to the speech of the hon. member, to repair some of the damage, if it indeed be damage, complained of in the hon. member's speech. This is something which indeed I believe was dealt with during last week, Sir, the Cabinet had some idea about it perhaps even the week before last, because we well understand that there is a dichotomy. You cannot in Barbados completely control prices because we import things which we consume and many prices are beyond our control, but even when they get here certain types of control reflect unfavourably on supplies and they reflect unfavourably on employment. The hon. member for St. John well expressed the worries and the fears of business people in this regard and in a way, Sir, I welcome the fact that he is their champion on this particular occasion, because I very sincerely hope that he will think out to the end the logic of what he says and at least be consistent in this particular regard.

But then the hon. member dealt with other things. He spoke of the Civil Service salaries and he spoke of structural deficits. I really could not make out what he said about structural deficits. At one stage he agreed that we were well into a stage of structural deficits, he said it was doubtful if we would ever come out, and then at another point he said that these things can be a subject of amelioration. There is something about elder statesmen, and something about the expression of fears. Usually you find that elder statesmen are very negative, they see what is wrong, they can express a public attitude about what is wrong, they know how to empathise with complainers and the people who are worried in the society, but they do not know how to put things right, they do not know how to find a solution, that has to be left usually to a more vigorous breed of politician, a younger and more determined type of political leader, and I fear that in moving into this role the hon. member for St. John has in no way proved an exception to the general rule of negativism because we heard a long speech, we heard something about a general and a battle. I really thought when he started to give the story that he was going to give it with some class. I refer to the famous battle of Oliver Cromwell and the Duke of Manchester. We are all familiar with it in films, but as I recall it Cromwell sent a messenger, the Duke cheered and said, "the battle would start at 10 o'clock, thank you, my lord," and they saluted and separated but I have long lost any hope in getting these analogies exactly and precisely drawn by hon. members on the other side other than the hon. member for St. Michael South, but as I say, that was all part of the general burden of his speech. We unfortunately cannot deal with generalities, irrelevancies and ill-remembered historical titbits when we are analysing the conditions of the economy today.

In 1971–72 the estimated deficit of Government was $1.5 million. That was before the fuel crisis. The following year the hon. member for St. John as Minister

of Finance, without any salary increases for the Civil Servants and without any oil crisis, estimated a deficit of $12 million and that is exactly when it all started, that is precisely when it started. It did not start alone with the oil crisis, it started almost immediately after the 1971 elections. On July 22, 1972 I made a speech at Eagle Hall and I said that Barbados was facing its greatest political and economic crisis since 1937, and I will go back to that because I was not persuaded at that time that the economy was moving in the right direction. There had been a very big give away in the 1971 budget when the incomes of husbands and wives were divided shortly before the General Election so as to present a give away for the election period, and during the course of the budget debate in 1972 the hon. member for St. John said that he did not know any other sort of budget in an election year except an election budget. There was a big give away, a bigger give away in cash than any which has been given away by the present Government, and proportionately a much greater give away, all the economic indicators were there from the middle of 1972. Despite that at the time of Estimates in 1972 the Government estimated for a deficit eight times greater than the previous year. That was the estimate, and as I say, there was no salary increase. The estimated deficit the following year, in 1973–74, was $19.7 million. That was what the Government estimated for before the fuel crisis and these were estimates far in excess of anything that had gone before, so when we say that the economy got into a rut at that time, and when we say that the then Government was to blame and not external circumstances, this is what we mean.

Now the hon. member made a quite untruthful statement when he said that expenditure increased only 1% between 1973–74 and 1974–75 following the actual $15 million deficit. That is quite untrue; expenditure increased 26%.

12 noon.

These statements are made by people who should know and they have turned out to be quite false. If you glance at this year's Estimates you will see expenditure went up from approximately $144 million in 1973–74 to $181 million in 1974–75. Not a 1% increase, so it was a complete falsity in the speech by the hon. member for St. John. What it means is that all that time the Government was not paying serious attention to the condition in which the Island found itself. After I made my speech in 1972 there was a Press Conference held by the hon. member and he was asked to comment on what I had said about the Island facing its greatest economic and political crisis since 1937. He leaned back in his chair and said: "You know the Leader of the Opposition; he has to find something to say. He gets excited and makes hyperbolic statements." But my statement was justified, not by events the following year or the year after but by the events of today, by the events of March 1978, and these are the facts and reasons why it is impossible for us to be led down the garden path by hon. members opposite when they say we should forget about the DLP and concentrate on the present. The present condition of this country is a result of the operations of the past Government, and it is impossible for one Government to seek to take a credit without acknowledging a debit. I would be a mad man, and hon. members on this side would have to join with me and walk hand in hand to Jenkins if we all sat back and be criticised for mismanagement of the country and when we explain the situation be told that we must not look back at what the DLP did. Mr. Frank Walcott at negotiations he attended with sugar producers once said "You are behaving as though you put the money in a puzzling tin last year and now you go to it, it is empty." And members opposite are merely producing a variant of the same method by tell us that history began on September 2, 1976, when we took over something and that everything that was wrong with that thing we have to put right, we have to manage to correct. But we cannot conceal what has gone before. The electorate has not forgotten or forgiven the Democratic Labour Party for the years 1971–76.

There was some talk in the speech by the hon. member for St. John about the size of this deficit that it was never as much as $30 million. I believe the deficit is going to be a little more than $32 million but even if at the moment we take it to be between $32 million and $35 million, that represents between 15% and 16% of the Government's revenue. But the deficit of $15 million in 1973 represented very nearly the same figure –12½% of Government revenue, and the deficit of $19 million the following year represented 12% of Government revenue. So the projected deficit for 1978–79 and the actual deficit of 14% of Government revenue in 1977–78 is not a significantly different figure from the deficit over which the hon. member for St. John presided. The value of money has fallen since then and if revenue has double and the deficit has doubled, at least you are being able to hold the same position. You cannot improve, but you are at least holding strain, and hon. members all seem to have forgotten that the entire weight of the 1976 salary increases fell on this Government. They were voted in the 1975–76 Estimates but supplemented in 1977, we have had the burden since we were in power of dealing with the 35% increase and carrying the entire weight of the 15% increase for the year now coming to an end, and it is worth noting that in spite of these increases we have held our deficit down as we have done. Honourable members must not be misled by all these Yogi Bear economics of the hon. member for St. John in a style calculated to give confidence to old ladies and party hacks of the Democratic Labour Party. We have to understand what we are really dealing with in terms of the condition of the economy at the present time.

The issue of public officers salaries has to be seen within the context of government's financial position as set out and explained. I do not want to dwell on it, but members opposite have enjoyed themselves on the debate of 22nd June, 1976. But if you will notice, Mr. Speaker, no hon. member can find any statement attributed to me that the Civil Servants did not get enough. What they will find is that I said that Civil Servants alone should not be called upon to make sacrifices and that Government should not abandon the principle of collective bargaining. And if you make a search of the debate you will find that I said that I cannot accept a wage and incomes policy which concentrates only on the incomes of civil servants.

I believe in paying respect to the speeches of my political opponents and I read them and analyse them. The hon. member for St. Michael South, I believe, afford, some respect to the speeches of hon. members on this side. It would behove everybody, those who have to instruct and inform the public or those who debate in Parliament, to follow the example of the hon. member for St. Michael South and the hon. members on this side who think seriously about politics.

The point of sacrifices has been abundantly dealt with by this side, and one thing the civil servants cannot accuse us of is that of demanding sacrifices from them and not from the rest of the society. If sacrifices have to he made to protect our balance of payments position, such sacrifices reflect the fact that mankind has ups and downs and that there has never been in human history continuous expansion of any society, and you get depressions and recessions as well as periods of boom.
12.10 p.m.

Nobody can say that I have asked the public service of this island to bear the entire weight of the depression. There are numbers of people in North America who cannot afford to travel because of inflation. They know that there are numbers of people in North America who cannot afford to travel. They know that there is inflation in Britain; but they insist that in Barbados things must be good for us, although it is not for one of the most booming economies in the world. The Barbados Workers Union takes up slogans. They know that things have got worse for people in America and Britain, they want to beat the Government as if beating the Goverrnment will somehow make things better. You cannot get blood out of a stone. There is no way in an open economy like Barbados that you can stop Barbadians from sharing in the world recession; and anything to the contrary is economic nonsense. There is no conceivable way that people can get poorer in the USA and Britain and not get a little poorer in Barbados.

I do not know why the means of expressing this was not found by the hon. member for St. John in 1966. They sell the public officers all kinds of things. I do not know why they seem to think that Barbados is an off-shore island, and that what goes on in America does not have any effect on Barbados. We share similar characteristics with perhaps 20 small nations around the world. There is Trinidad, Singapore and so on. Perhaps they want to suggest that while in some way we share many of the problems of these other small countries, we are so unique that we expect to receive higher standards of living.

That is part of the argument as it has been put to public officers, and I do not intend to pursue it any further; but I think that anybody will recognise the sacrificed point once it is analysed and put to them in terms that they can understand. Sacrifice is not a deliberate choice of the Government. It is imposed as a result of world conditions over which we have no control. Sacrifice means what it says – that all of us must make some sacrifice. I would emphasise what I said in 1976, and that is that I am not calling on public officers alone to make a sacrifice. I am repeating that again in 1978. I will come back to balance of payments later.

I would say that the Government thinks so much of collective bargaining, that although we know that the Government cannot afford a revision – the hon. member for St. John produced figures which appeared in the Advocate this morning. As far as I can understand, what they are saying is that we know it, but we are prepared to stand behind our crenellated walls, and the most we can say is that we are now prepared to have any talk with you even in a situation where we know that there is no possibility of picking up $56 million for salary revision to Civil Servants. And, Mr. Speaker, we are not negotiating about wages, but about conditions of work, about Widows and Orphans and Leave Passages. All those are the areas being discussed with the unions at the present time.

I would like to dispel any belief that there is any hostility towards any union in Barbados or any officer associated with it. All that we ask is that there should be proper behaviour among individual officers; but so far from having hostility to unions, when we had training courses for middle management Mr. Goddard was invited to be one of the lecturers at that course, to give some instructions as to the role of the union in that light; and I would like to thank him for the service that he rendered in that connection. We are not a Government of pettiness. In 1966 when we were thinking of the necessity of maintaining good industrial relations, we thought of maintaining man to man discussions with the workers just as much as anybody else. This year, next month, at the ILO where conditions of employment of public officers are going to be discussed, among the team being carried by the Minister for the second year will be a

representative at the NUPW, something that was never done before.

The Nation Newspaper is filled with some criticism of Senator O'Brien Trotman for being a supporter of the Barbados Labour Party. Part of the article says: "Consternation was the profound reaction in the NUPW ranks, and among the general public when, at the formation of the new Government, he was appointed to be one of two parliamentary secretaries. This astonishment reflected neither on his right to accept the office nor on his competence to perform its duties. It was rather that the announcement tended to put into some harsh perspectives his role as a trade unionist in the period of the negotiations."

Has he never heard of someone called Frank Walcott or someone called Evelyn Greaves who are members of the Democratic Labour Party? Are the poor columnists of the Nation swimming in the same bottles of ignorance in the pages of what is otherwise a very reasonable newspaper?
12.20 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I said I would say something about balance of payments. Balance of payments do not really to my mind enter conveniently into a discussion of the Estimates, but some little knowledge of it, I think, has to be used in understanding the constraints of public financing and indeed private financing in Barbados. Until 1973 we had no recognisable balance of payments problems, not because the Government was handling things in any particular way, it was just that that was a path that the Government had not yet trod. The Government was driving and using kerosene, it had not caught up with the gasolene engine because until 1973 we were a part of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Authority, and if we had a balance of payments problem we shared it with the Eastern Caribbean and it showed itself as a cash shortage where Government financing was concerned. Our currency was fully backed by overseas securities. If for some reason the collective balance of payments of the Eastern Caribbean went out of shape, foreign securities would have to be sold and there would be a limit on cash and credit available to Government whether by way of circulation of cash or borrowing for credit. The Government could not predict for additional spending unless it had the means of borrowing money, and it would not be able to borrow money from the banks unless the banks themselves either had the credit terms or the general cash position of the whole Eastern Caribbean, or were able to bring in, and indeed the banks used to bring in, money to lend to Governments thereby automatically correcting the balance of payments. They are simple economic facts, and in many ways I think some of the problems we have today arise from the fact that the then Prime Minister had a great difficulty making a transition from understanding a society not plugged in to its own independent balance of payments management, and a society with a Central Bank which then automatically acquired a balance of payments problem.

For twelve years he has been Minister of Finance and balance of payments problems never concerned him; they showed themselves as a general cash and credit shortage, and the Government achieved some expertise, until the oil crisis, at handling that. The people who handled it, the then Financial Secretary and other Officers of Government knew of that sort of economics; so did the Minister of Finance, but there was a new sort of Government economics in 1973. The Central Bank was introduced, Barbados took over the management of its own currency and immediately it became possible to have a balance of payments problem. We took over foreign reserves which amounted to our share of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Authority's reserves. I have forgotten what the amount was, but it can be looked up. Immediately there was a problem. The oil crisis occasioned and the way this problem had been solved was by extensive foreign borrowing in 1973. We are still paying back some of these debts now; indeed the increase in Charges of Debt arises out of the need to meet the five to seven-year repayments for the money borrowed in 1973. You will notice that I have not criticised to any great extent. I said as an introduction that the reason why we have this heavy debt repayment is because we have to pay back the foreign debt incurred then. Our foreign debt then was higher than it has been under this Government. We are actually reducing foreign debt. I think there is room for more foreign borrowing. I believe it is necessary to balance what is going out in foreign repayments by new borrowing. I have recently been reading analyses of some undeveloped countries that borrowed abroad and I note that some countries carry this principle to extremes. When the rate of interest falls or the repayment terms get better, some undeveloped countries go and deliberately borrow more than they need and put into reserves. I do not believe we are going to go so far, but the fact is that something will have to be done in the direction of preventing this continual outflow of money.

I think hon. members will understand that when we had to pay back $7 million in American currency in respect of Seafoods that we were not going to take up money from foreign reserves to pay the bank foreign money which is needed to pay our import bill. Naturally we borrowed it abroad and we will pay it back over a period of time; but that really is a digression. In 1973 there was a lot of foreign borrowing, and events since then have highlighted this expression "balance of payments", an expression not known to Barbados at that time. Nothing was done by the hon. member for St. John to control imports, nothing was done to try to promote exports on the level which we have promoted, and I think that nothing

was done purely because nothing was fully understood of the trade off of the balance of payments and the economy as a whole.

There is a deep and fundamental reason why you could not use the device of printing money in order to run a country. The basic reason is that you can consume only really what you produce and increasing people's wages, printing money to meet a Government deficit sooner or later is going to put money into people's hands that is not represented by production; the money will either go out of the country to bring in imported goods because people want to spend money; if you give them the money they will spend it, but there is no corresponding production going out of the country to bring in money to pay for these goods or alternatively it trades off within the society in inflation. In the last analysis the reason why we cannot pay the civil servants more, the reason why we had to impose wage restraint on society as a whole is that the balance of payments will not support it. Our foreign trading position cannot support any increase in consumption, any increase in Central Bank credit to the Government which is the modern way of printing money without actually using the printing press, and cannot support what we call living beyond our means. I do not think that these economic conclusions were ever written down by the hon. member for St. John when he was Minister of Finance; I do not think he understood the trade off of balance of payments. I really do not think that after twelve years he was able to make the transition to a new kind of Government financing and economic management, and immediately difficulties arose the only solution available to him was to borrow money abroad. That is all he understood. He borrowed money abroad, it worked for two years, then the sugar money came in in 1975, it worked for a year and a half, but there was no other solution available to the hon. member. He did not grasp the inter-relationship between Central Bank credit and public spending, private investment policies and the balance of payments, and that is the nettle which we in the Ministry of Finance are grasping today. There are hon. members on the other side young enough and with agile enough brains I believe, to understand and grasp these principles. The hon. member for St. Michael South perhaps already understands them, and he will understand them better after today. The hon. member for St. Michael South West will have to make a new approach to economics because when you live in the United States and you are taught in the United States, you are again dealing with another country that really does not have balance of payments problems because its own currency is the international medium of exchange, therefore the United States can suffer perhaps from cash shortage, but in its way you will not expect the American Secretary of the Treasury to be able to handle balance of payments shortage, so an American trained economist perhaps needs a little thought and a little return to the textbooks in this matter.

12.30 p.m.

Now I have gone on, Sir, a little bit about that because it explains what we mean when we complain of mismanagement or when we complain that there was a failure to grasp the bind into which society had got itself, and I must tell hon. members that it will be impossible for the Barbados Labour Party to ignore what has happened in the past because I have to take decisions every day that relate to some previous financial infelicity of Government. They may be firing the first chance in the forthcoming St. Michael South Central by-election, they may but they need not think that they are going to drive us off explaining to the public what I have had to explain to the public today. We are doing our best. There can be nobody on earth, Sir, who thinks that the Barbados Labour Party is imposing imports constraints, is restricting imports, that the Barbados Labour Party is refusing to pay civil servants, that the Barbados Labour Party is offending the business community by refusing to allow increases in prices in the interest of popularity. Nobody can think that we are doing these things because we want to be unpopular, we are taking these unpopular measures because we know they are right, and I have said to my colleagues and they all to a man agreed with me that if the choice comes between doing what is right for the economy and losing an election we have to choose what is right for the economy. The electorate can have my seat and the seat of every hon. member on this side if they choose, but in the fullness of time they will see that we will be doing what we believe is right. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: Not what you promised them). Hon. members can read the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party and not just read what they think is in it. Let them read it and let them read their own Manifesto of 1961 and they will see who are the defaulters.

There are one or two smaller points, Mr. Speaker, arising out of the speech of the hon. member for St. John. First I will return to the question of business and the question of corporate profits. Business profits depend not only on savings but they depend on the investment policy of the business. Business profits are less in a year where new investments have been made, where there is expansion of business than they are in a year where business men took the cash and did not plough it back into the business. It appears that there has been undoubtedly some investment in business houses in Barbados during the past year. We have seen the principal retail outlets and groceries building new premises and extending their operations; we have seen the biggest retail outlet in the way of department stores carrying out expansion. I just mention this because the hon. member says there is no confidence, business is doing nothing, but I would suggest that he looks at the figures when they are published for commercial bank activities and he will

realise that the commercial bank have actually in 1977 been net investors in Government securities and they are pressing us now to get money back out of the compulsory deposits to lend people not to buy motor cars, not to buy consumer goods, but to expand business and to improve retail and othe outlets to the public and to improve indeed productive outlets. For instance, the Catelli factory is shortly about to commence production and hon. members may be glad to hear that in the interest of the small shopkeeper we are going to make it possible for wholesalers to handle macaroni and spaghetti products and get them into shops all over the country where at the present time the bad distribution system has held us up.

Let the hon. member for St. Michael South West deny, now that we are talking about the small shopkeeper, that it was he who put them in this predicament because there was not the deeper understanding of the entire wholesale/retail prices and licences set up. When hon. members on the other side thought that they were doing something about the middle man they did not understand that all they were doing was making it impossible for many small shopkeepers to go on in business, and the speech which has often been quoted of the hon. member for St. Michael South West in 1973 and which appeared on the front page of the Advocate stating that the small shopkeepers were going out of business was as a result of the policy of the Government at that time. If you did not like the three tier distribution system where there were the wholesalers, the commission agents and then the shopkeepers – because the commission agents specialise in trying to destroy one or destroy the other – and in due course the Government will be following a policy endeavouring to make the wholesaler provide a service to the small retail outlets that are so important in village life in the country districts of this country, and let the commission merchants concentrate on the big supermarkets which in any case many of them are trying to buy up, but those policies were not understood and the merchants were allowed to make a bundle of profits, merchants at the top like Bryden's, Geddes Grant, DaCosta and others in fact have squeezed others by the policies of the previous Government. Nobody will know what the corporate profits are for the whole year until perhaps the end of next week and into the week after, and therefore we cannot draw any serious conclusion at the present time, but I merely mentioned in my speech initially that as a fact that corporate tax receipts were down over a ten month period, and the advisers of Government are taking steps to find out why.

The hon. member for St. John also carefully ignored the explanation which I gave relating to collections of income tax. He carefully ignored it. The gross collections of income tax are up by 6% I said so, but I said they are less than the increase in the Gross Domestic Product as revealed by the analysis of international agencies, and I hazarded the suggestion that this is because of redistribution of income.
12.40 p.m.

I heard one of the champion *non sequiturs* of all times, that will be one of my most treasured memories of Parliament, and this was the hon. member for St. Michael South West saying that we could not really say there is redistribution because it has not spread itself through the society. The hon. member does not understand that redistribution in the context in which it was being used means taking from the rich and giving to the poor. Not everybody has to get – the whole meaning of the word is that everybody cannot get.

Mr. TAITT: If the hon. member would give way, it is clear that despite his infinite capacity he did not fully grasp what I said. I made the point that the mere trotting out of figures of 2,000 old aged pensioners does not in itself constitute redistribution of income and that there are large numbers of persons in this country still to feel the effects of this redistribution which he is loudly talking about.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member did not have me to speak for him how would he get these wonderful opportunities to put a gloss on his ignorance? He ought to be glad I am here, because if the statement was left alone in Parliament that there was no redistribution because it did not permeate through the society, the hon. member could justifiably feel his ears burn when he read it and feel ashamed. But he got up and said something else. He sought to put a gloss on one particular piece of his ignorance and has now created another bit of ignorance. But it was not to old aged pensioners alone to whom there was redistribution during the past year. It is obvious there was also a redistribution to the lowest level of the Civil Servants who got a 15% salary increase on April 1, last year. The whole point is that it appears that last year's economic improvement in Barbados accrued largely to persons who were not payers of income tax. That is a simple fact, comprehensible in itself except perhaps to the hon. member for St. Michael South West.

I have seen the hon. member in here with the Shorter Oxford Dictionary. I have the Longer Oxford Dictionary at home, the one with the fine print, and I will bring it and the magnifying glass and let him see the word "redistribution" and let him see what it means, and then let him consider whether he is still going to say that redistribution is something intended to permeate throughout the society. Two thousand old aged pensioners got something more. Is that not an achievement?

Mr. TAITT: On a point of elucidation, Mr. Chairman. Again, the hon. Prime Minister clearly did not

listen to what I said. The point I made was that the people of this country have not benefitted in the context of what they were saying is redistribution. But the Hon. Minister keeps repeating the same argument. He obviously misunderstands me.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I would like to tell the hon. member that there may be a list of subjects on which he is an authority and which he understands and I don't, but none of them, in my opinion, includes politics.

Mr. Chairman, just one or two small points more. I gather we are accused of giving away too much, and the abolition of the five percent sales tax has come in for a lot of question. I honestly believe that if you went into the Gallery of the House of Assembly and asked if Government should put back on the five percent sales tax you know what kind of answer you would get. They can be nobody in this country, outside the Democratic Labour Party who are opposed to the abolition of the five percent sales tax. The Central Bank, the IMF and the World Bank have all said there was a psychological atmosphere released by that abolition and it was desirable at the time and that the abolition was a good thing. People are glad at the abolition of the tax. We released purchasing power and the deficit of Government revenue estimated by the hon. member for St. John at $26 million even before the Civil Servant's increase, was reduced by eight or nine million dollars. Although the civil service increases were paid, the business boom which was engendered in the last quarter of 1976 stimulated a growth of employment in the country. The last quarter figures for 1977 showed a small percentage decline – a 1% decline from the employment figures of the year before. And that particular business boom in the last quarter of 1976 was as important to Government's financing as was the coming in of the sugar money the previous year. And the General revenue accruing to Government at that time far exceeded the 5% sales tax. What is meant was that people bought a sufficient volume of goods to give to Government enough revenue that made up for the 5% sales tax. I have no apologies to make about this and I think it was a wise move. We simply took off a clumsy tax; some things should have carried more than 5% and some should have carried none at all. Just a tax on luxury goods could have improved the revenue by between one-third and one-half.

As regards the trade tax. I cannot talk anymore about that. I always said we would abolish it and we did. We increased the corporate tax and put on a corporate levy. In the end corporations will pay more in 1978, so we do not think that we have to defend the abolition of the trade tax. At the same time it has been realized that staff have much more profitable and useful work to do in improving the system of tax collection both for income tax and for the Inland Revenue Department.

12.50 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, the second reading of this Bill has seen a return to some measure of parliamentary sanity on the part of the hon. member for St. John. I welcome him back into the House, and I very sincerely hope that now he has presented himself so sensibly as an edlerly statesman and a voice of wisdom from the distant past, now that he is introducing himself as a true lover of ancestral worship, now that he is showing some of the wisdom that the years must have rubbed off on him, I hope that he will continue to give us the benefit of that wisdom. The hon. member for St. Philip South and the hon. member for St. John can now walk through the portals of retirement when the time comes and the electorate of Barbados decide that these are old and honourable war horses who should be put out to pasture, and give their wisdom to the surrounding parks and beaches, especially the beaches where the surf blends with the ocean.

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

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, it is now 12.55 p.m. and I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 2 o'clock p.m. today.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the House accordingly.

12.56 p.m.

On the Resumption:–

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply to consider the Annual Estimates.

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

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

GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Head 1 – Governor-General was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 1 – Governor-General in the sum of $122,981 stand part.

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

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say one or two things. I have had occasion in this House to express to the Prime Minister and the Government my disapproval regarding the Governor General's Private Secretary. From my experience in Government the salary of the Prime Minister's Private Secretary should be on a par or even greater than that of the Private Secretary to the Governor General. That is one of the results of independence to allow you to say that the salary of the Secretary to the Governor General should be under that of the Private Secretary to the Prime Minister.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. First of all I want to give complete praise to Mrs Hanschell, and deplore the attack on her which has been going on over the years at a personal level. You are speaking of an officer of whom there is only one – the Private Secretary to the Governor General. You are speaking of Mrs Hanschell a lady deserving of the highest praise. Do not let the hon. member go on doing what is wrong and entering into personal merits or demerits. In any case, the expense is statutory and cannot be discussed in a general debate on the Estimates.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I want to resent certain remarks. If I talk about Mrs Hanschell, how in the name of God.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the Hon. Leader of the Opposition withdraw that.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: How can you ask me to withdraw? You cannot stop me from speaking. Very well, I withdraw the words.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I want to draw the attention of the House to the conduct of the hon. member.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, as I was saying.....

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, have you ruled on my point of order?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Can you stop me from speaking on the Head? What the hell is going on? I withdraw.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I will withdraw, but it is not fair to me.

2.05 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. member continue.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Am I allowed to speak?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There are two hon. members on their feet. I have called on the hon. member for St. Michael South West.

Mr. TAITT: I am speaking on a point of order in relation to the question of the post. I think the Hon. Prime Minister raised the question as to whether you can discuss a particular post under the Head because it is statutory expenditure. I am submitting that one cannot discuss the matter and call the name of a person and I take the point which the Hon. Prime Minister made that if there is one person working in a particular job, it may be difficult to differentiate between the post and the person. I would wish to make the point that one can discuss the relativity of two posts with equal responsibility without necessarily engaging in a vendetta or being personal.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You will have a chance to discuss any other item.

Mr. TAITT: I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if you can rule. I think the Hon. Prime Minister is asking for your ruling.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The point raised by the Hon. Prime Minister.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Leader of the Opposition is out of order. He will please take his seat.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On that particular issue.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair has ruled. Will you please be seated?

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I wish to speak on another item, but I am rising on a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are going to speak on another item, but rise on a point of order?

Mr. SANDIFORD: I rise on a point of order and I want to deal with this question. There was a reference made to statutory expenditure. Standing Order No. 68 in reference to statutory expenditure only states that statutory expenditure shall not be voted on by the House. It does not say you cannot speak on statutory expenditure. I was drawing this to your attention, Mr. Chairman, but I wish to speak on another matter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Does any other hon. member wish to speak on this Head?

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, could you please give me some guidance as to whether you have ordered the Hon. Leader of the Opposition to desist from speaking on the Head altogether? I am a little confused.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have listened to the point of order, but I have to inform you that I have not told you that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition should desist from speaking on this Head, but I do rule him out of order in that he must learn to behave himself and carry himself with dignity in this Chamber, and I will not tolerate any misbehaviour on his part or on the part of any other hon. member in here.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I just want to refer to Head I – Governor General, Item 10, Library. There is a sum in these Draft Estimates of $2,200 provided for the Library. I do not know if there is a breakdown available of the books, materials and so on which this sum purchases, but for years now the sum spent was $1,000 or thereabouts, and I find it strange when I look at other areas of the Estimates including some of our very large secondary schools which are provided with $1,000 for 1,000 children or over that at Government House we can be providing $2,200 for the Library. I really want to know if this is a continuing substantial sum for the Library at Government House to serve the occupants thereof and any visitors and guests. It is desirable that there should be a Library in the State House, but I am drawing the comparison of $2,200 for the Library at the Governor General's residence and approximately $1,000 or thereabouts for 1,200 children, 800 children and 1,400 children in the secondary schools of this country, and I think this in itself represents some type of situation which needs some comment. I draw it to the attention of the Minister responsible for any comment and observation.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, dealing with Item 12, I would like to say that as I represent for the time being anyway the constituency of St. Michael South Central, above Government House there is a complex of a nursery school, a secondary school and a primary school, which means roughly, and I am speaking subject to correction, nearly 2,000 children who have got to use the Government Hill Road which carries a considerable amount of traffic in the mornings. There is a road in Government House which is on the edge and there is a gate which could take the children from the complex straight to the side walk which starts at the north gate. Are we going to wait to take action when a lorry runs and kills some children on Government Hill? It is time for the Government to democratise the place without losing the dignity or making it a thoroughfare or allowing people to be disturbed. It is a very easy road. I asked the question years ago with my own Government and I raise it again with this Government. That road is paved. It is true that the children might interfere with the flowers or in some form interfere with the amenities of Government House, but either Prefects or some form of protection should be given to the Governor General, but the children themselves, if they mean anything to us, should be allowed to use that road. There are children from five years right up to eighteen at the Springer Memorial, the Charles Broomes Secondary School, a Nursery School, and even now I think the Minister is using the Charles Broomes School for the education of some mentally retarded.

2.15 p.m.

I had from my Government the assurance that if we were in power and a new Governor General were in there, provision would be made, but they did not want to disturb the Governor General at the time. I think we should enable the children of this community to be protected and taken off the road, because if you know that road the sidewalk starts just below the north gate, and I have seen children almost being squeezed going to Springer Memorial. There is a sidewalk on the other side and there is a road which can be used with proper protection and proper supervision to take those children on to the main road at Government Hill.

Secondly, Sir, I would like advice as to what this purchase of one motor car means. I know there was a big issue about a new motor car for the new President and it was costing so many hundreds of thousands of dollars, and I want to know which car they are referring to, whether it is indeed they just got or to put in another one so that the Governor General would have two cars in a situation where the ordinary citizen cannot even buy one. I suppose the Governor General should have two cars, one for State occasions and the other for other occasions, but I want to know what is the price of one new car; that is the main thing.

I suppose it might be argued under Item 16 that a television set is part of the furniture for Government House and a sewing machine. I do not know, I am asking whether the television set is for the staff or whether it is for Government House as part of the furniture, and whether the sewing machine is part of the furniture for the maids to make table cloths, napkins or sheets. I would just like these few questions answered.

Mr. SIMMONS: Sir, between the corner of the road taking you to Erdiston and the St. Winifred's School, the road as you come down Pine Hill after you leave the Attorney General's house and you turn left, on the right hand side of the road there is a lot of unsightly bush between the corner by the major road and St. Winifred's School. I am not sure if all that property belongs to Government House, but certainly the area is and has been in need of debushing. I am not sure under whose Ministry the responsibility falls, whether this is part of

Government House I don't know, but I know that the area is very very untidy, it does not make at all for the decor of Government House, because as you leave the gate and turn left going up the hill you meet this bush on the left hand side, and I am drawing this matter to the attention of the appropriate Minister.

Mr. TAITT: One small point, Mr. Chairman, in keeping with the point made by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition and following the hon. member for St. Philip North, I am fairly certain that this property falls within Government House. You will recall, Mr. Chairman that St. Winifred's School donated a piece of its own property to the Government in order to make a sidewalk to facilitate the children, and I have been made to understand that the piece at the corner of Government House lands would also be so arranged that the sidewalk would go right up to the major road. I wonder if the appropriate Minister could tell us what is the position with that, because for the same reason if you have cause to travel in that area early in the morning, there is the Erdiston Model School, there is St. Winifred's up the hill, and there are literally hundreds of cars which use that area daily and I am just wondering if it forms part of Government House whether it is the intention of the Government to do anything about it.

Rt. Hon. J. M.G. M. ADAMS: The road through Government House has been under consideration by both Governments, that is, the road referred to in the speech of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central. The difficulty is that Government House is a security area, the entire place it is considered should be closed and it should be easy to protect. Important persons stay there from time to time, Presidents and Kings and Queens of foreign countries, and there are certain security requirements which must be made before you can accommodate these different people. I think President Kaunda, Sir Seretse Khama and the Queen on occasions have stayed there, and the road referred to passes within, I would say, about thirty feet of the guess rooms. It comes down as it approaches the gate, perhaps it is not realised how close Government House is in relation to Government Hill in the region of the north gate, and it is considered that before the road could be used you would have to have some protection, preserving the security integrity of Government House. It is considered undesirable under present conditions to allow general traffic even of school children down the road because there really would be no way of policing that only school children use it and that anybody who is ill-disposed to anybody who is on the staff of Government House or to anyone else in residence there.

Hon. members would also perhaps care to recall that prisoners from Glendairy Prison are often in Government House doing one thing or another towards its maintenance, looking after the grounds and so on, and you may appreciate that it would present a very difficult problem for the security of the school children that use the road and the security of even those prisoners who are in working parties if there is general traffic towards the area where the prisoners are working.

2.25 p.m.

Again, when you get down to it, it is not a question of not disturbing the view of the Governor-General, as you call it. I do not believe that any hon. member living within a curtilage would particularly welcome a road down which several thousand children would be passing every day within twenty feet of his house. The wall of Government House cannot be more than fifteen feet away from the edge of the road. There is one room for attendants and security officers, and there is a VIP guest suite. This is the only difficulty in the way of accommodating a walk way for the children. This is being worked on by the Ministry and we hope that when we can afford it we will be able to put a pavement.

On the other side of Government House – this is another case where the understanding of the hon. member for St. Michael South West and my understanding are at variance. It is not the case that the piece of land falls within Government House. In a technical sense it does not even fall within Barbados because it is part of the sovereign territory of the Government of the United Kingdom and really belongs to the British High Commission. However, we went into negotiations and they are giving us a piece for road improvement, and the Ministry of Communications and Works has informed me that plans are ready for road improvement in the area, and I am sure that the complaints of the hon. member for St. Philip North and the hon. member for St. Michael South West will be allayed when the road is improved.

As regards the library, hon. members will observe we are spending less on books. There is a particular expenditure of $1,200, otherwise we are spending less than years gone by. The particular expenditure of $1,200 is to buy a set of encyclopaedias. The library is kept up to date with books on Constitutional law and the Governor General does have Constitutional matters to deal with. There need to books on protocol and other diplomatic volumes that come out annually, such as *Satow's Guide to the Diplomatic Service* and these have to be regularly paid for. Honourable members will know that in past Estimates the amount used to be over $1,400 in some years but it was reduced last year and is being reduced this year again. Also included in this amount are subscriptions. Those of us who attended the dinner or luncheon tables of the late Governor General, Sir Winston Scott will remember how up-to-date he was on various matters, and they will find the present Governor-General no less up-to-date. But they can only be up-to-date by reading the foreign Press and being familiar with matters

which they may have to discuss with foreign visitors and so on.

Mr. SANDIFORD: On a point of elucidation. I was not saying there is not a need for a library at Government House. The burden of my contention was a comparison with the provision made for schools where a school of 1,800 children will be getting a grant of $1,000 and you are getting here over $1,000 for Government House. If there is a special provision this year by buying a set of encyclopaedias I can appreciate that, or to put the Library in a good state, but I also think we have to look also at the way we deal with schools.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I cannot be responsible for the vote for a secondary school. Perhaps the hon. member will raise that point at a later time when we reach the Education Head. But I think he will understand that at Government House where in the course of a year you may entertain one Head of State, several senior persons – diplomats and so on – there must at least be the Times Newspaper, perhaps the New York Times, etc., – these are part of the furnishings of the palace of a Head of State in any country. I have no doubt that President Breznev's reception hall contains the Bulgarian, East German, Guban and even perhaps British and American newspapers. These are necessary parts of what comes under a diplomatic library vote. The TV set is to replace an old set that was second-hand when it went to Government House and repaired so often with such little result as to give no hope of proper reception.

As far as the motor car is concerned this is the matter over which there was some controversy and it was removed from the Estimates in order to allow more mature consideration of its replacement. The two previous motor cars will both be sold. The reason for buying this car is that Government House needs a No. 1 car and a No. 2 car. The No. 1 car is a State car – a big elaborate car, the sort that all Heads of State are provided with. Of the other two cars Government House now has, one is a superannuated car not suitable for a No. 2. It would be unreasonable to ask that it be used to go to the supermarket to pick up groceries; it would baffle even the public. It is not considered wise to have two huge motor cars as the only vehicles at Government House and the smaller of the two previous cars has over a period of years not given very satisfactory service. It is therefore intended to sell both the present extra cars at auction and members of the public will be welcomed to buy these cars. It is intended to sell them and replace them with a car smaller than the present one. I think those were the only questions that were asked.

The question that the sum of $122,981 under Head 1 – Governor General – as amended stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 2 – PARLIAMENT

Head 2 – Parliament – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 2 be postponed. It has been represented to me that the public officer necessary to discuss this Head has urgent business elsewhere also of a public nature, and I am therefore asking for a short postponement until later this evening. This would very much accommodate the Clerk of Parliament.

I beg to move that this Head be postponed.

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

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I would normally have no difficulty in agreeing to postponing any Head, but I am a little concerned as to the reason given by the hon. Prime Minister unless he is more explicit – he said that the Chief Personnel Officer – if I heared him right..... *(Asides)* Oh, I see.....

The question that Head 2 – Parliament – be postponed was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

2.35 p.m.

HEAD 3(1) – SERVICES COMMISSIONS

Head 3(1) – Services Commissions – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 3(1) – Services Commissions – in the sum of $272,065 stand part.

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

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, one question. Under Item 13, I see Expenses of Commissions, and included in those Commissions is the Teaching Service Commission. Now, I find this very peculiar. I may be wrong in saying that, because up to now there is no Teaching Service Commission in Barbados; and if the Government is establishing a Teaching Service Commission I would like them to tell me whether it is dependent on the new Education Act and whether that Act will come into force before the Constitution is amended. How can they put in expenses for a non-existing body? The correct thing would be not to put in money for a body that does not exist, but to come to Parliament at the time when they have got their house in order. I do not think it is right for the Teaching Service Commission to have a place in the

Estimates unless the Government will give that information.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, we found it there. We did not put it in. The hon. member may have forgotten that he helped put it in. It is no part of our policy, but it has happened that the money has been taken out, but the item has not been deleted. I want to move that the words "Teaching Service" be deleted.

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

Hon. F. G. SMITH: These are your Estimates. Do not criticise me.

The question that the Head be amended was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, speaking under this Head which deals with the Services Commissions, there are two points I want to raise which I consider to be of importance. Under Other Personal Emoluments, Item 2, there is a section dealing with the payments of substitutes. This will arbitrarily introduce a situation where a period of time in which persons can be paid acting allowances for acting in a post had been extended contrary to the protests of the various public service unions which are involved in negotiating such matters. I want to find out from the Prime Minister whether this situation is going to be allowed to continue; because the Unions were actively involved, but before a decision could be arrived at the Government went ahead and implemented a decision which we consider contrary to the principles of decency which would be followed in this matter. This is one matter which has got to be looked at and faced squarely because the Union representing public officers are not satisfied and certainly do not commend this particular matter because it creates a situation where a public officer who might be called upon to act for a month or so – there are situations in the Service where an officer may be out of the country in excess of one month.

What used to happen in the past was that a number of officers used to benefit from this arrangement. That no longer obtains because of the arbitrary decision of the present Government. I think that this should be ventilated and a settlement should be reached on this particular matter. This brings me to my second point which is that in late 1976 or early 1977 there was what I perceived to be an inherent fear among people working in the public service a fear of the long arm of Ministerial intervention making a number of decisions which should more properly be made by other people in other places. There is no doubt of that when you talk to people working in the Civil Service. I am certain that this is not a wild statement because it can be substantiated by members of this side and by other people – the fear of not being able to perform their jobs as they should under the present administration. I would like to appeal to the Government to desist from this type of interference so that people can get on with their work. I am saying that a debilitating influence is the type of interference we are experiencing now.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, the first thing I would like to refer to is the Overseas Service Aid Scheme. How soon are we likely to see the termination of that Scheme and what are the benefits from having these people still operating under this Scheme?
2.45 p.m.

The other point I want to raise is in respect of the expenditure on Commissions. A lot of reasons will be advanced for the setting up of these commissions, and you would like to create the impression in people's minds that fair play is being practised and that people are being protected from interference from politicians. What I would like to get from the Hon. Prime Minister is some indication of the work load of these commissions, how often have they met during the past year for which they have been voted money in the Estimates, how long is the average length of these meetings and the quantity of work which has come before them. I would like to get this information because it would serve as a useful guide to indicate really and truly how great and how important is the position of these commissions in the affairs of Barbados. It is all right to argue on theoretical grounds the purpose they serve in keeping politicians away from civil servants and things like that, but we know very well what happens where you have a Government that is particularly keen on seeing its policies and programme take effect, and therefore from the point of view of the usefulness to the Barbadian society, I would like to know something about the work load of these commissions during the past year, what have they been doing, how often have they been meeting and what matters have been engaging their attention.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, before the Minister responds, there are a couple of points I would like to raise under Head 3(1). This Head deals with the Public Service Commissions and although there are two or three Heads coming afterwards which deal with the Establishments and Training of Personnel, I am going to take the opportunity of speaking on general personnel policy under this Head. Before I do that I would like to associate myself with the remarks made by the hon. member for St. Lucy and go a step further to raise this question. The Government has a policy which I understand is imposed by the Minister responsible for Establishments and personnel in which one must now act for two months in certain positions before one is eligible to receive acting allowance, and I am also aware that there are certain statutory posts for which you can

be paid an acting allowance even if you only act for one day if a vacancy is in existence.

Mr. Chairman, on first blush this may seem to be a perfectly equitable and desirable policy, but in truth and in fact if you take for example a clerical officer working at the Post Office on a given day can be thrown into the position where he is acting as a postmaster in a particular sub-branch with all of the responsibilities and all of the normal requirements of a postmaster, and that officer may act for one month and then twenty-four days in the following month and not receive any compensation for having carried out what would have been different and increased responsibilities. Another point that has to be taken into account is that a number of people still in posts such as a postmaster or in the case of the Police Department some of the senior posts where a person will go on leave for as much as two months — normal vacation leave does not exceed two months and unless a person has accumulated a large quantity of leave, what it means is that persons in the Department will be required to act over long stretches of time without any compensation. I am not quarrelling about this, I am merely raising the question which is seriously concerning a number of persons, certainly persons to whom I have spoken who feel rightly or wrongly that if they refuse to act, that senior officers might very well decide that if they do not act, when the time comes for promotion the fact that they had refused to act in the past without compensation might very well weigh against them in recommendations for promotion.

It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that although this practice has been tried in other parts of the world that we have to relate our personnel practice in Barbados to the peculiar circumstances of Barbados, and I know for a fact that it is considered by many persons in these services in Barbados to be an onerous imposition. I have reason to believe that it was imposed without the sanction and the will of the workers representatives but I am sure the Minister will wish to shed some light on that.

Another matter relating to the commissions. Some time ago there used to be what was called, for want of a better word, consultation facilities between the Service Commission and the workers representatives. Persons in the Civil Service Association then became the National Union of Public Workers. I believe this system stopped some time in the last few years and the National Union of Public Workers from what I understand has been trying to get it restored and they have been unsuccessful in this sphere. I do not know if the Minister is responsible for it, but I certainly believe that the Minister is not without some influence in the specific activity of the Civil Service Commission, and certainly I would like to know what the Government's attitude would be.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I am going to take the opportunity to raise a fundamental issue regarding personnel practice in Barbados, and what I am going to say hinges on what in Barbados is described as establishment, recruitment, training, and in our Estimates we do not refer to personnel as such, we discuss personnel under the Services Commission. I believe that one of the problems relating to personnel administration in its widest sense in Barbados is the continued artificial separation of the three sectors of personnel administration as it is generally regarded in the rest of the world. I have said in here before and I will continue to say that whatever might have been the reason for separating the three divisions into three separate entities, it is time that some serious consideration be given to streamlining the personnel administration functions of the Government for a country the size of Barbados. There is something slightly grotesque about our having a separate training division, a separate establishments division and a separate personnel division.

When a person is recruited, Mr. Chairman, that person is recruited not only for the job on hand — I am speaking of recruitment at the lower end — but that person technically at least is being recruited for the higher position as well. It means that the policy of an administration is to take into account the organisational development as well as the personal development of the individual. After a person has been recruited, the conditions of work, the possibilities of personal advancement, the kinds of opportunities that are available at the top all form part of the requirements for the development of not only the individual, but the organisation itself. The last Government had a study done by Mr. Gorvine who recommended that there should be a Public Service Ministry. I am not myself moved by the call for a Public Service Ministry as such, because I do not believe that having a Public Service Ministry *per se* would solve the problem.

2.55 p.m.

But to the extent that there would be a coordination, or better than that, an amalgamation of the three main functions of what is generally known throughout the western world as personnel administration, that there should be an amalgamation of these functions. To that extent I believe that very serious consideration should be given to the recommendations of the Sorum Report.

One last point, I do not believe it is necessary for me to expand that point much further, except that when we come to Training I would have a few more things to say, but one thing we should bear in mind, as it stands now under the personnel requirements in the department most of the persons who function as personnel officers in the public sector in Barbados are not persons who have had specialist or specific training in personnel

administration. That does not necessarily mean that the persons who now fill the positions are incapable of being good personnel officers. That is not the point I am making, what I am saying however is that the whole concept of personnel administration has changed considerably over the last few years and the requirements of a personnel officer far outstrip the mere keeping of records, the mere coordinating of systems, if you like, and what is required is a new approach to the boosting of the morale of those persons who function in the public sector by way of a continuing exercise of interest in their daily existence as part of the organisation. I am putting it to you, Mr. Chairman, that in the present arrangement of the personnel system in Barbados, that that kind of arrangement that the individuals working in the organisation do not care or have had courses of very minimum standards, in these days a good personnel officer not only caters to filling the gaps in the knowledge of the employees by way of letting them know what are the hours of work or what their duties are, and that sort of nuts and bolts material, a good personnel officer must also have some training in psychology and also have some training in understanding the personal problems of the various people who work in various departments, but it goes further than that.

In an organisation as large as the present Civil Service it should be that in every single department, every single Ministry, but certainly in every single senior department or department where there is a relatively large number of people working, there may be a trained personnel officer, not someone to whom the function has been given, it is the practice and has been the practice for some time now for an officer in the Ministry to be allocated the responsibility of being personnel officer. That really is a figment of the imagination and bears no relationship to the real problems connected with the functioning of a modern day system, and certainly the modern day civil servants can only be described now as modern day civil servants.

It is very vital that the personnel department, or the Chief Personnel Officer, should be able to get feedback from the departments and the professional officers, people who have been trained specifically for the task or for the overall personnel policy of the administration and bear some relationship to the overall development not only of the organisation but of the country as a whole. Mr. Chairman, I want to make it clear that I am now not criticising those persons who fill the role of personnel officer in the various departments, for some of them it is not very definite that they have been designated, but I am making the point however that there ought to be a clear specific personnel policy on the part of the Government and that one of the ways in which this can be accomplished effectively in the 1970's and in the 1980's and nineties is an amalgamation of the three divisions, a careful outline of policy in consultation with the National Union of Public Workers, and without going any further, I am sure that when we come in due course to debate the Resolution which was given notice of we will be able to go into much more detail, but I hope that the Minister responsible will recognise the points made under this Head, and I will reserve the rest of the points I wish to make on the personnel administration generally for the two Heads that follow.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to deal briefly with one point which was raised by the hon. member for St. Lucy, and which has been endorsed by the hon. member for St. Michael South West. I think the hon. member's views are totally mistaken on this point. The point which was raised that the arm of the politician has been extended into the careers of the civil servants.....

Mr. TAITT: On a point of elucidation. My association with my colleague's remarks was specifically in regard to the period of acting allowances.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I misunderstood the hon. member's association with the hon. member for St. Lucy, but I would just like briefly to refer to the history of these matters. Those of us who were at the constitutional conference in the United Kingdom in 1966 would recall very strongly the effort which the then Opposition parties put up in order to build into the Constitution certain protections for the independence, as much as one could have, of the Civil Service of this island, and indeed eventually it was agreed that in section 100 a provision which even in relation to the payment of the principal offices of Barbados you would have allowed some consultation with the Head of the Foreign Service as a counter balance to the feeling of ministerial appointment. That point was very seriously argued and I remember the then Premier being insistent on the fact that with these principal offices it should be put to the Head of the Government as a deciding factor of what should happen, because those principal officers when abroad were almost of equal ministerial rank to the Ministers at home. That was his argument then, but certainly members of this House, the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and myself, who constituted part of the Opposition then were for this counter balancing procedure.
3.05 p.m.

The history is very interesting because as late as 1974, if the hon. member will read the speech and that of the then hon. member for St. Michael West – this matter came up again in the debate on the Constitutional amendments. What happened then was that the former Premier, then Prime Minister, with the concurrence of the hon. member for St. Lucy, extended political influence into the Civil Service by an amendment to section 100 of the Constitution, and now you have section 100(A) where the Prime Minister must

pass on the transfer and appointment in relation to persons serving overseas and not only the principal officers. It is necessary to document these things historically. What I am inviting the hon. member to do is not merely because he is now in Opposition and trying to score political points; if he believes what he says as a matter of principle let him go before the Constitutional Commission and give evidence and put up a position paper on the matter. Let him do that and let him say that he is dissatisfied with Sections 100 and 100(A) as at present existing in the Constitution of Barbados and that what he would like to see is less political interference and that the views that he formerly held or his failure to speak out at the time because he was afraid of the power of the then Prime Minister no longer apply and that he has now been released from that situation and is in a position where he can now speak according to conscience and not according to expediency. I challenge him to do that. I have asked him on many occasions to document those instances of political interference with appointments since we came into power. What I do know is that there were several members like the hon. member for St. Michael West who were formerly sympathetic to the Barbados Labour Party but who when they got a job felt that they had to go over to the DLP. During their fifteen years the DLP built up an attitude that you had to be a card bearing member of the party to get on in the Civil Service. This is a fact. People went around boasting they had to get a card. If we look back at the records of this House you will see that I said before that there were people in my constituency whom I have told to go and join the DLP if they could not get a house otherwise. And this was because the system of yardfowlism was carried to its extremity during the DLP regime and the learned and gallant hon. member for St. Michael South Central – gallant since he was in the army, I believe –

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. Attorney General knows very well that if he is addressing a person who has served in the armed forces there cannot be any question of "if". This is very wrong and the hon. Attorney General should deliver himself properly.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I do not know what the intervention by the hon. member is about. I not only called the member honourable and gallant I also called him learned, which is an epithet which unfortunately I cannot bestow on the hon. member for St. Michael South West.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. If the hon. member thinks one is learned just because one becomes a lawyer, how they can go on calling each other learned – many of the lawyers we know, especially when we look at the other side – has always been beyond me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: If the hon. member wants to criticise past Attorneys General he may do so; I doubt he is referring to the present one and I believe I am the first Attorney General of the Barbados Labour Party. But let me get back to the point. The point I am trying to make is that it is a fact that the debate will show consistently areas in which we said yardfowlism was being extended, and the hon. member for St. Michael South Central one day made it quite clear himself, and the then member for St. Andrew, Mr. DaCosta Edwards, that when they were in power they were put there through the people. In fact the hon. member for St. Andrew at that time did not even have the reservations of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central who said that all things being equal, if he had to make a choice, it was obvious it would be a DLP member. The then hon. member for St. Andrew, Mr. DaCosta Edwards, at that time said nothing about all things being equal but said that if he saw a DLPite come up and one of the other people he would be a fool if he did not get the DLPite appointed. That was the era of "the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh". Well the true deliverer has delivered us from those days and the hon. member need have no fear about interference with appointments in the Civil Service.

With regard to the overseas agreement which was asked about by hon. member for St. Michael North Central, I would refer the hon. member to a Bill passed in this House last year in which the agreement was extended until 1981. It is now operating in a very limited way and it is a way of the British Government giving aid by way of technical assistance to Barbados and it is confined to certain limited areas.

Dr. CADDLE: If the hon. member will give way I would like to know how many people are involved in the scheme and what skills have been made available to Barbados.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The terms of the agreement operate in a manner in which we must request the services of an officer and the United Kingdom designates someone with our approval and pays the passage of that officer and pays a supplement to the personal emoluments. The supplement is paid to his account in the United Kingdom and is not subject to tax in Barbados. We then pay a basic rate of salary here. I believe at the present time there are seven such officers – one in Town Planning, who is Deputy Chief Town Planner; an architect on the Airport Development Project; a Quantity Surveyor at MCW; the Commandant of the Regional Police Training School; an

Instructor at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic; a Consultant Psychiatrist; and a Mechanical Engineer.
3.15 p.m.

So that the hon. member can be satisfied that this is mostly in a bigger field and perhaps one knows about the Regional Police Traning School. This is regional in character, and while the accounts are shown in our Estimates we are refunding from the U.K. Government on behalf of the Associated States. It is intended from time to time to decrease this area of assistance and shift expert advice to the short time practice we have with the U.K. I believe that the Minister will be approaching the Leader of the Opposition to deal with the matter of Overseas Officers serving in Barbados but who are now British citizens as such. It may be mean passing a Bill which will apply in effect to entrench Laws of the Constitution. I have given some indication of this to the Leader of the Opposition, and quite readily he has asked that we should put this in writing. The tendency now is to run down this scheme and to look in a different area for technical assistance. I think that those are the two main points I would like to make.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I want to get from the Prime Minister some information relative to the functioning of the Services Commission. How often do they meet, and the quantum of work that they do. When you look at the Boards and other Coporations which provide the services for the Government, there is always a means by which you can get an idea of their functionings. I would like to know what the Commissions are doing. There may be good reasons of security why they do not publish information on a regular basis, but yet one would like to know whether there is a need for these Commissions. I would like to know if the Prime Minister can in fact in some measure give us some information on that point.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Chairman, I think it is fair to say that the Public Service Commissions deal with about sixty thousand people and would have some work to do. Those who have had some connection with small organisations know the number of questions that come up. That is not to say that there may not be some usefulness about security and about the number of times the Public Service Commissions have met in the last three years, the number of appointments they have made and things of that nature.

I do not think that one needs any large illumination in order to inform oneself how useful the Services Commissions are. What I would like to know from the Hon. Prime Minister when he comes to reply relates to the question of the appointment of a full time Chairman of the Public Service Commission. There has been a lot of arguments for a full time Chairman, and a lot of arguments against it, although I have never been persuaded by the arguments against it. The Civil Service has grown so large that it is very necessary that the Civil Service Commission should be staffed in such a way that the Chairman can be full time. He knows what is happening and he knows the general policy from the very ground floor.

It seems to me that part of the problem of the Civil Service today is that the Civil Service was compelled when I was at the University to appoint some of the worst people of my generation. We are paying the price now. To some extent they joined the Civil Service because it was the only place they could go to, and Civil Service salaries were not sufficiently attractive to secure the best talent around at the time; but there were several countries where members of Civil Service Commissions were coming to the University to get to know better the persons there and trying to persuade them to come back. That is part of the activity that a full time Chairman should be involved in – trying to recruit some of the best people into the bureaucracy. I support the idea that the Civil Service has grown big enough to have a full time Chairman. I would like to get from the Minister the present thinking on this particular aspect.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: There are a number of points to be replied to. Let me deal with the one referred to by most hon. members referring to the Commissions. The Public Service Commission meets about once per month for about an hour. The Judicial and Legal Service Commission meets once every two months, not for very long periods. The Civil Service Commission meets every monday except for bank holidays. The question of a full time Chairman is coming into consideration. This is clearly a constitutional matter and will have to be done by a full Constitutional amendment passed by two-thirds majority; and I hope that any recommendations made by the Constitutional Committee will be supported by both sides of the House.

There have been a certain number of recommendations made, for example, the taking away of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission has been questioned. It has been pointed out that there are more doctors in the Public Service of this island than lawyers, and that they do not have a Commission to represent them meeting every few months.
3.25 p.m.

Hon. members will take note that the power to make more significant appointments that used to be made by that Commission, that is the appointment of Judges, was removed in 1974. That is a matter which I know is going to engage the attention of the Constitutional Commission. Speaking for myself, and this is purely a personal view and I hope I would not be thought going out of bounds in expressing it – I myself see the need for

a Public Service Commission and I can also see the need for a Police Service Commission. I am doubtful whether there should be any further proliferation of Commissions, but in all of this I wish to ear the opinions of others who have been in it for a longer time than me, people who are more intimately concerned with it, and in due course the Government's attitude or whether the Government as such will take an attitude at all, will be governed by a process of consultation upon which we are now engaged through the Constitutional Commission that is sitting.

On the question of consultation between the Public Service Commission and the National Union of Public Workers, the National Union of Public Workers has access to the Chief Personnel Officer who is the public servant carrying out the functions of the Executive Officer of the Public Service Commission. It used to receive copies of the Public Service Commission agenda; it no longer gets them, but that is determined not in any way at ministerial level. Indeed I was really hardly aware of it. It had been at some time drawn to my attention, but I had forgotten it. It was determined by the Commission itself, but this does not prevent the Union from having discussions with the Commission from time to time according to my information. I cannot make the Public Service Commission hear anybody. I believe I would have difficulty making it hear a Minister. In fact I would like to think it would have more difficulty hearing a Minister than hearing the Union, but I am advised and instructed that there is nothing to prevent the NUPW from writing to the Public Service Commission whenever it wants on matters of importance to public officers.

On the question of amalgamating not so much the Commissions but amalgamating the personnel administration departments of Government, I suppose in the first week I had been in office I questioned the necessity for three officers at Permanent Secretary level, three departments running the Public Service, that is, personnel, establishments and training, and I think that is one if not one-half Permanent Secretaries too many. *(A Voice:* Is Sam Headley the half?) I do not know why the other hon. member would seek to criticise the training officer. I have nothing but praise for his work at training. I am most pleased and intend to say so when we reach the appropriate Head. I am very satisfied with his work and I think it very unfair for hon. members on the opposite side to be making asides from their places critical and suggesting that the Chief Training Officer is only half a Permanent Secretary. I want to say that in saying there are too many Permanent Secretaries or there may be too many Permanent Secretaries dealing with overlapping subjects is not in any way criticising any of them.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, my point has nothing to do with the level of the Head of any division nor am I suggesting that the division had too many Permanent Secretaries. That would be a detail which would have to be worked out after the amalgamation. The point I was making is that functionally there should be amalgamation. I did not really know that we had a half of a Permanent Secretary in the Service until the Hon. Prime Minister suggested there is. I was talking about the functions.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Nor do I consider there are any half Permanent Secretaries in the Service. I chose a form of words to indicate that the work is too much for one man but it may not really be enough for two, and certainly I do not think it is enough for three. I think the hon. member will find that any amalgamation of the functions of the Department will necessarily involve the removal of some of the divisional Heads. I do not think it is meaningful within the context of the Service to think you can amalgamate departments and do not reduce the room at top. If you have three rooms, I think one would have to knock the walls in between. Hon. members opposite are very restless over this Head and I can hardly hear myself talking.

On the question of Personnel Officers not being trained, I again find this a very difficult matter to accept. There are two or three courses annually for the training of personnel. We have personnel abroad now being trained in the United Kingdom and as far as I know this is a matter to which very careful attention is given. I am also very pleased to see in the recent middle management course organised by the Chief Training Officer that he gave particular attention to instructing and informing the middle managers on the course in handling people and dealing with people although they are not obviously personnel officers, but it shows me that the knowledge, anxiety and interest in spreading personnel training in human management throughout the service does not only extend to the people whose particular duty it is. I can only say that attention is being paid in training personnel officers and we cannot accept the argument that they are not properly trained.

Now I do not think there was anything else of importance under this Head.

I will come to the hon. member for St. Lucy. I cannot really deal with his criticisms but he said that there was interference in the work of public officers. The hon. member must read a letter saying that such and such a public officer was not allowed to do his duty, or given improper directions, or asked to do things he was not supposed to do, or that such and such a public officer was treated disadvantageously in the matter of promotion, leave, training or whatever. I do not believe that there is the same reaching down into the Public Service by Ministers as there was some years ago by other Ministers. I can only say that I am deeply and profoundly unconscious of interference in public officers' work. I can think of instances where I am sure it will be done better,

but I am always mindful, of a distinct area in law when you are dealing with whether a man is working as a servant or whether he is working as an independent contractor. I do not use the word "servant" in the popular sense, and I believe one of the definitions of "servant" is that you do not only tell him what to do, you tell him how to do it. I have never conceived it my duty because somebody far down the Public Service not only to write to me, but to give instructions, how to give the instruction, and I honestly just cannot grasp what the hon. member means when he says there is interference. I know that the Leader of the Opposition when he was Minister of Education wrote and told the School Meals Department, notwithstanding that certain people had been rejected by the Selection Board, that they should still be employed. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: What is wrong with that? You are doing it now.) That is what I would call interference.

3.35 p.m.

Yes, I was dealing with a Minute from the Chief Personnel Officer while listening to some of the non-speeches made from the other side on Second Reading. The Chief Personnel Officer had been asked by me to consider in the course of recommendations whether a certain person was suitable for a supervisory job and he replied that the person was not, and that was the end of the matter. I am not going to give him any instructions on this any more, that is the end of the matter. As far as I am concerned if that is interference you would have to call it interference, but I am aware that for example the hon. member for St. Michael South West is rewriting the dictionary, "redistribution" means giving to everybody, and interference demands that when you leave the public officers to get on with their duty, that is interference.

Now the hon. member for St. Lucy raised something which is really an establishments matter, but it was raised and the hon. member for St. Michael South West associated himself with these things. He said that the Government had introduced new rules for payment of acting allowances, that they had consulted the Unions but they had imposed it without the agreement of the Unions, and these remarks were endorsed by the hon. member for St. Michael South West. I think that I have a matter here which perhaps ought to go before the Commission and be examined by Mr. King and Mr. Phillips, because I have a letter here from the Barbados Workers' Union dated 3rd February, 1977 and addressed to the Chief Establishments Officer, which reads as follows:

"Dear Sir,

Reference M.P.6012 Vol. IV

Proposed amendments to the Rules governing the payment of Acting Allowances

In reply to your letter of 30th December, 1976, I am to inform you that the Barbados Workers' Union has noted the proposed amendments to the rules governing the payment of acting allowances. These amendments are in order.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) C. LeROY TROTMAN
for General Secretary."

Now, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for St. Lucy is an Assistant General Secretary of that organisation. Do you see how he came and misled the House? I am not making an accusation deliberately, that the Union did not agree to it, do you see how he would mislead the House if this had not been read out? Do you understand now what people mean when they speak of mischief and malice? It would have been better for the hon. member for St. Michael South West if he did not associate himself with the untruths mouthed by the hon. member for St. Lucy.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member will give way, I did not associate myself with any untruths, I associated myself with a principle as outlined by my colleague for the members of the Civil Service, that they were now required to act for two months, and I think that if the Prime Minister feels that he must be particularly vitriolic today he can at least choose his facts carefully.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am glad I have again given the hon. member the opportunity to explain what he said. Do we have to pay any more attention to this? Do we have to listen to what an hon. member who has come in here and who has said that the Unions did not agree to something when there is on file a letter from this organisation agreeing to it? People get expelled from Parliaments for less than that.

Dr. CADDLE: If the hon. member will give way, he has only read one letter. We were concerned with the reaction of the Unions and the Barbados Workers' Union is not the only Union in Barbados. Can we have the reaction of the other Unions? *(Aside)*

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Is there a Mr. Goddard in here? Is there a Mr. Goddard in this House? I am dealing with the hon. member for St. Lucy, who is Mr. Goddard? As far as I am concerned, I have heard

the hon. member for St. Lucy make a certain accusation, the accusation has been proved to be false, he has spoken as a workers' representative and I have shown that there is another workers' representative who approved the acting allowances, and that is the end of that. He did not say one word about the Barbados Workers' Union saying yes and other Unions saying no, he said the workers' representatives said no.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Hon. Prime Minister is misleading the House. He said the Unions agreed, let him bring the record and let us see what the hon. member has said.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, what do you have to do to get sense into the head of the hon. member?

Mr. TAITT : All you have to do to get sense into my head is to tell the truth.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, somebody gets up and says that the Unions did not agree and I read out a letter saying that the Barbados Workers' Union agreed. Does that not make the original statement a lie?

Dr. CADDLE: We have made a statement over here about the Unions and in part he has refuted a statement by citing a quotation from one Union. Let us go a step further and hear what all the Unions had to say on this matter.

3.45 p.m.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Do you think there is any hon. member in here who, having heard the hon. member for St. Lucy, thought possible that the Barbados Workers' Union had agreed to it? No matter how much we shout and talk about Goddard, is there anybody who believes after the speech by the hon. member for St. Lucy that the Barbados Workers' Union had agreed to it? And he is trying to say that I am telling untruths. But as I had to say, this seems to be 1984 where what is truth is lies and war is peace. We are faced with a legion of dictionary rewriters, not one or two. The hon. member for St. Lucy said the unions have not agreed and I have shown that the Barbados Workers' Union which he was in a position to know did agree. What does he know about other unions? This is just mischief, mischief. This is the kind of Opposition and criticism we have to face in this country. They are not only wrong, but when proved to be wrong they are wrong and strong; they are glorying in the morass of untruth and mischief into which they are trying to plunge us. The only person who has not got up to testify to his statement is the hon. member who made it, and his head is properly bowed in shame.

I beg to move that the sum of $272,065 stand part of Head 3(1).

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

The question that the sum of $272,065 under Head 3(1) – Services Commissions – stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 3 – PUBLIC SERVICE DIVISIONS – (2) – ESTABLISHMENTS

Head 3 – Public Service Divisions – (2) Establishments was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, there is a very small increase under this Head. Hon. members will have noted that up to now we have been dealing with small increases, nearly all accounted for by Personal Emoluments and National Insurance Contributions.

I beg to move that the sum of $1,756,828 under Head 3(2) stand part.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, in relation to Item 8 I see it provides for the rental of a Xerox copier and Sanitact units and I see a sum also provided in last year's Estimates for the same purpose. I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister how long this practice of renting these machines has been going on and how much money to date has been spent on this and what is the cost of procuring these machines and the advantage of renting as opposed to buying.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I also see under this Head Travelling Allowances and Leave Passages and I am wondering whether this is one of the bargaining points with the union in the coming negotiations. I think I have had the pleasure of hearing the Prime Minister express his views on this item in years gone by and I wonder whether in a few years we will see a reduction of this figure for Travelling Allowances and Leave Passages and I wonder whether in the new negotiations about to start these Items are likely to be part and parcel of the bargaining. I would like to know the Prime Minister's views about the continuation of leave passages of Civil Servants.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. ADAMS: My views on the desirability of leave passages have been expressed in here in many Estimates and I suppose it is one of the subjects that get raised every single time. Mr. Frank Walcott used to be a formidable contributor on this subject, also the former Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. There is an on-going debate on this, and as the Leader of the Opposition has noted, negotiations are continuing at this moment on the matter in general and on the question of wages, conditions of service etc. The National Union of Public Workers met with the Chief Establishments Officer

this week and I think the Barbados Workers' Union is having a meeting tomorrow. I believe in the circumstances hon. members would not expect me to go into details of what is going to be suggested, but in general the views expressed by the Barbados Labour Party when in Opposition have not substantially changed. Leave Passages are an anachronism and there must be some level of salary that must compensate and this is a matter that will continue to be given consideration.

As far as the rental of Xerox machines is concerned, I would have to take instructions on this, but as far as I know you cannot buy a Xerox machine. The system is that you rent machines and buy the paper. But as far as I am aware the Xerox Machines cannot be bought, but I would want to be up to date on this as I would not like to mislead the House deliberately or even accidentally. *(Asides)* It has now been confirmed to me that Xerox machines cannot be bought and that indeed there is an anti-trust suit going on in the United States for some time over this policy. The Sanitact machines have been used for some time and the same considerations apply. The amount of money is not great. The contract has gone up this year to $5,000 for the whole of Government Headquarters and I do not think this an unreasonable amount for what you get out of the service.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, as regards the point made by the hon. member about the rental of Xerox machines, I don't think we ought to be addicted to one particular type of copying machine. It is true that the Xerox is recognized as a good machine but the cost of duplicating material by Xerox is too high. Apart from renting the machines they make their money out of supplying the soft ware, that is the paper, etc.
3.55 p.m.

There are other types of machines that you can buy. I think he could possibly investigate other machines which in many respects are more sophisticated. As far as buying this type of stationery is concerned, it has been the tendency that buying is cheaper than the renting system.

The question that Head 3(2) as amended stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 3(3) – TRAINING

Head 3(3) – Training – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, in moving that Head 3(3) – Training in the sum of $556,419 stand part, I would just like to repeat what I said earlier. I think that we should be grateful to the Training Unit for the work which it has been doing with very little funds for the last two years. There has been an increase last year and an increase this year in the training of the Civil Service. We found the Training Fund in deficit and substantial monies being spent on training, and unfortunately this was one of the areas in which the axe had to fall at various stages; but I think that the Training Unit has been doing the best that it can with the funds at its disposal.

There is an amendment to the Note to Item 16 by which you delete the words "and 1 wall safe", and a new Note to Item 7 to read "Provides for the purchase of 1 wall safe". With those amendments I beg to move that Head 3(3) stand part.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I beg to second that.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I shall not be too long. I am very glad to hear the Prime Minister pay tribute to the Training Unit. He said that he was satisfied with the work being done. I have the Training Report from the 1st April 1976 to the 31st March, 1977, and on Page 11 I see under Finance and Planning that Dr. C. Blackman, Governor of the Central Bank went on a four weeks course in the U.K. I would like to know if this Training Fund is for Civil Servants, whether resort has got to be made to the Training Fund for a course of this nature. It seems to me that to send the Governor of the Central Bank on a course under this Head is not the thing to do. The Central Bank should be in a position to pay for it. I am saying that in my view, if you have a training fund for Civil Servants this should not be done.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that the Training Unit is not necessarily only for Civil Servants. I think that in a situation like that sending the Governor of the Central Bank is like sending someone to a conference when we come to an officer of that kind. The Training Fund Scheme or the Training Scheme Fund is not restricted to public officers. The fund deals with people who are not only members of the private sector, but who may not even have any intention of working with the Government. I think that the criteria is not working with the Government or in the private sector, but whether this training will be better for the economy of the country. I think however that any excursions – I do not mean it any derogatory sense – of a person of the level of the Governor of the Central Bank should be from Central Bank funds. That is how I see it.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister said that there was a decrease under this Head from last year and he went on, with that smile of his, to say that the axe had to fall at various stages. Mr. Chairman earlier I attempted to make a small point. On the whole question of personnel in this country, it appeared to me that he did not understand or did not wish to understand the point I was making; but in the year 1978 to suggest that the amount of money which appears in this Head is in any way near what is required or what he anticipates is

required for our manpower training development cannot be serious thinking. Manpower training is something which a lot of people in this country do not seem to understand. I am sure that for many years there has not been a proper manpower survey made in Barbados mainly because people apparently do not recognise this need.
4.05 p.m.

It would seem that there is no change in the Government's attitude to man power development. Last year when the Estimates came here one dared to hope that there would have been a fresh attitude to this whole concept of manpower development, but this year the Prime Minister comes back with a decrease in the amount to be expended on training, and he seems almost not to care much. I believe it was before 1956 that any systematic attempt at training in the civil service was organised and between then and now generally speaking except for some steps taken during the last five years on the insistence of the then Minister responsible for training, training in Barbados has been of the on-the-job variety, and it has been traditional in nature and concept. It is true that a few persons have gone on "courses" overseas. Generally speaking the going on these courses has been more that the officers concerned took the trouble to find out where the "courses" were and tried to get a "course" than it has been the result of any systematic planning for the manpower needs of the country. If there is one area where we can successfully take the chance, wage restraint or no wage restraint, economic difficulties or no economic difficulties, in putting substantial investment, it is in human resources which we have at our disposal.

In the context of this entire country, we spend large quantities of money on education and the rationale for that substantial part of the appropriation going towards education is that it is desirable to develop our resources in terms of spending large sums of money in schools, and yet when we come to the concept of training within what is the most important sector of the economy, we have an attitude towards training which does not suggest any boldness, does not suggest any breadth of motivation or great thought as to what our needs are going to be in 1978–79, 1979–80 or in 1995. The planning for the development of our human resources for 1995 has to be embarked on now. I have been of the view, Mr. Chairman, that institutions like BIMAP, the University are institutions which could be made use of by Governments. I know that there was an attempt under the UNDP in the last Government who brought a UNDP technical team down to Barbados in connection with the establishment of a Civil Service College. I have reason to feel that there were some senior officers who did not agree with the concept of a Civil Service College. That is their professional right not to agree; but I have been disappointed notwithstanding the fact that I am aware that UNDP cut the resources available under technical assistance, that the Government of the day has not found it desirable to have, for want of a better word, a Civil Service College or institution that will make career development something more than a course for two weeks at the training unit, and then another seven years will go by before these persons get to see a class room or you pay attention to development in the field of training in manpower development.

Mr. Chairman, career development and executive training should form part of the Government's policy in the same way that it would form part of the policies in the private sector. Indeed more training is required in the Governmental sector perhaps than in the private sector. In a sense if you are trained in the private sector it soon comes to the fore and you do not last very long. An untrained person at executive level in the public sector can in fact cause the best laid plans of the Government to go wrong merely because in the implementation of a particular project or indeed in the execution of a particular policy the persons holding what I choose to call that executive responsibility are not sufficiently trained or aware of all of the ramifications of the particular project.

I do not believe I have to speak for a long time to make the point that the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance ought to take another look at the amount of resources which are being put at the disposal of training and career development in the country. Training and career development ought not to be seen merely as Head 3 (1) or Head 3 (2) or whatever it is; it ought to be a firm bold policy for the total change and development and as part, if you will, of the total education system in the country.

Mr. Chairman, no doubt the Prime Minister is going to get up and indicate to all at large how empty is the speech of the hon. member for St. Michael South West. Each time a speech is made in here on a subject in which the Prime Minister himself does not have easy grasp, his way of dealing with it is to announce that the person who made it either is empty.. (Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Only you!) ... or he draws a veil. He was trained of course at Oxford, but the only place I have ever seen him described as an economist is in the manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party. The only place in the entire world I have ever seen him described as an economist is in the manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party. I am not saying he is not an economist because if they say he is, he must be. It is part of the training I am discussing. For what it is worth I put it very seriously to him that he should develop a policy, if he has not done it in these Estimates, I think from next year. He can consult with persons who have been increasingly coming to the fore on the front bench, the hon. member for Christ Church East, he can consult with the hon. member for St. Michael West who I believe genuinely with those two members on that side would be in a position to make

some input towards a proper training policy in the country. To merely get up here facetiously and otherwise suggest he has utmost confidence in the Chief Training Officer is not to make a statement or to give any indication of what the thinking is of the Government on the manpower development of this country over the next twenty-five years. I would hope that the Government would soon be in a position, if they are not now able, to give us some pointers as to what their thinking is for the next few years in this very vital and serious area of manpower training and career development.
4.15 p.m.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman the hon. member for St. Michael South West in his speech has been appealing for light to the Prime Minister, and I would relieve him this time by pointing out the wrong base on which he advanced his argument. He would have us believe that the amount of training in the public service is determined by the quantum of money spent. I would have thought that the hon. member was astute enough to realise that there is more and more home-made training, there is much more training in Barbados than there used to be. If he were observant he would see that the expansion of training the civil servants in Barbados has been going on gradually in the last two years, if he took a look at the Estimates instead of talking so much under every single Item he would see that there are other areas in the Estimates where the training vote has gone up, and the civil servants and we in Government have been finding that a lot of the training courses that civil servants have been taking overseas are irrelevant to the needs of Barbados, and we are trying to put together the type of training, the type of course content that is necessary to satisfy the needs of Barbados and its aspirations, and to hear in this Chamber the rather facile argument that because you are not spending more money you are not training enough in doing discredit to all of us in here.

There are other areas of training. The Ministry of Education has got the biggest vote for training, but he makes no illusion to that, he does not talk about civil servants going off to the University of the West Indies at Mona to do courses in public administration, he does not talk about the developing courses at BIMAP, he does not talk about the plethora of seminars and conferences being organised by several Ministries in Government in Barbados. He is not talking about the increased vote for training at the Industrial Development Corporation, he does not understand that the Ministry of Education and IDC are working hand in hand to give further training in the areas of urgent national demand, and until I got up mainly to sheild the hon. member from the warth of the Prime Minister, I really do not think he deserved it, because it is time that he starts specialising in a few Heads and stop trying to be an arrogant know-all on every single topic that comes up for debate in this Chamber, and it is quite clear that in this particular contribution he is entirely at sea.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to dignify the nonsense which the Minister of Education has just uttered in here with a response, I have never in all my life heard anybody get up in any Chamber and talk so childishly about a matter of such serious import as the Minister has just done. Talking about he is shielding someone from the wrath of the Prime Minister like if he is shielding someone from the wrath of God, if that is their attitude to the Prime Minister that is their business, but the fact is he obviously did not understand the point we were making anyhow, because he talks about training within the IDC and the Ministry of Education. He talks about people going off to areas such as public administration at Mona, he talked about plethora, and I really would invite the Minister of Education to listen to the Spelling Bee competition and get his dictionary and he would see that plethora would mean a great deal, a number, and he could not point to any document in this country, he cannot show us any document put out at any time which can substantiate the nonsense which he was talking. He failed because he did not wish to appreciate the finer aspects of the points which were made, he did not wish to. We can appreciate that subtlety sometimes escapes the Minister.

I do not wish the Minister to give me gratuitous advice on how I am to behave in this or in any other House, the fact is that this business of the amount of money which is voted for training – and he then goes on and says that if you look through the rest of the Estimates you will find that areas of training have increased confirms the point that there is need in this country for a manpower development survey, and if in fact you had training organised along proper lines you would be able to see the total amount of money being spent for training in the country, not having to run through the Estimates and discover that there is a little piece here and a little bit there, and I made the point that we were talking about traditional training in Barbados and then he gets up and refers to areas of training which fall into the category of traditional training. I sometimes feel that it would be better if some of them who sit on the other side would go outside and sit down and have a quiet drink than to get up and try when they cannot deal with a particular argument to deal with the persons who made the argument.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, a lot can be said about training but I will just mention a few points. The first one is about wastage in training. If you look around the civil service you will note over a number of years right up to 1978 there has been the practice that if a person has been sent overseas and trained in a particular area or skill, they return to Barbados and are not put in a position where they can utilise that skill, they are usually

put somewhere else to function where that training is lost, and I would like to know to what extent one can really look forward to an improvement in the civil service especially where efficiency is required with this type of practice. It not only is an open waste in relation to what has been done and the needs to be achieved, but certainly it leads to frustration with the individual who has gone overseas, trained, benefited and qualified and then comes back here and finds that he goes into a position where all that training cannot be utilised and he is asked maybe to function in an entirely different field.

The other point is this. In training of civil servants part of it has to be related to dealing with the public at large, and there are a lot of complaints over and over again by members of the public about the way in which they are dealt with by some civil servants when they have to go to the civil servants for a service, and it is all right to be talking in terms of professional skills or special needs as related to the development programme of Barbados, but definitely where the public is concerned there is a large area where training of civil servants can be useful, and I would like to know from the Hon. Prime Minister to what extent he is aware of this complaint which goes back frequently from members of the public when they have to go to various departments and meet with different people while seeking a service. I do not want to cite any particular example because I have reason to believe that every member in here has been made aware of this type of treatment to members of the public. People come and complain to you sometimes about simple matters of applying for a pension. They go to a civil servant and the civil servant could not care less, he is not particularly interested in directing the person where to go and it is left there. A lot of frustration and irritation results and it does add up in the long run to a sort of disenchantment, a general dissatisfaction by the people to the people in the civil service.

Another factor we have to look at, very often there is too long a delay in dealing with some of the requests of the public at large, and when you go into these matters you find that if the person had been trained, especially in dealing with other people, they might have been able to approach the matter a lot more civilly and much more to the comfort and pleasure of the person seeking this service, and while a lot is being said and a lot of emphasis is being put on skills and professions that the civil service needs to discharge its responsibilities to the Government, I would like to put in a plea that in relation to dealing with the public proper training of the civil servants should be given a high priorty in that particular area, and I hope that in the training programme that is going on whether at the Training Division or at the Civil Service College a lot of emphasis will be put on this because it is the public they have to deal with and it is the public that seeks this service, and and it is the public who will have to make some assessment of how they are treated and whether they are getting the type of service which very often the politicians say they should get, but many people in the public will tell you they do not get it and when they go to the civil servants they are frustrated. 4.25 p.m.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, I feel that we should realize that training forms an invaluable part of any public servant or anyone discharging public responsibility, and in dealing with this particular Head, and particularly training in the public service, one has got to think in terms of the relative training which one gets and see how it can be related to the Barbados Civil Servant as such. It has been a matter of concern to me over the past years when I find people going overseas to obtain training and then returning to Barbados and being unable to relate that training to the Barbadian situation. It is all right for one to feel that one has obtained training but the obtaining of training is not as important as the way one is able to relate that training to a particular situation. So we have found in the past where people have been trained outside of Barbados and have returned to the country being unable to relate that sort of training to the local situation. What I have found in the Estimates this year is a reduction in the cost of training and I can see that there has been an attempt to localize training. I feel this is a step in the right direction because we have got in Barbados people competent enough to give this sort of training and gone are the days when one could feel that in order to be competent and efficient one should go outside of Barbados to obtain such training. I am sure such training locally will continue to improve and that those who benefit from the training will be able to understand their role and responsibility as far as public duties are concerned. My ears have been very close to some senior public servants and what I have heard is that there are some public servants who do not understand the true implications of public responsibility and administration and I feel that such on the spot training can go a long way in letting all classes of public servants understand their role in relation to their Ministry and the Government as a whole.

I am not satisfied that in the past those who have benefited from training have been allowed to implement such training, and I do hope that the training programme in future will be directed at getting people to understand that they must apply the knowledge which they have gained in such a way as to benefit other public servants or the department in which they find themselves and that they be given broad training in the way in which Government operates and not any narrow sector of one particular department, because I feel that sometimes public servants fail to understand certain situations, their full responsibilities and their particular functions and duties, because they have not been able to see how other departments operate and how over-all Government policy

operates. I do hope that the training which is now afforded them will go a long way in increasing their knowledge of the working of Government as a whole. I must say that from reports I have received, people who have benefited during the last couple of months are quite satisfied and I personally am satisfied that the Training Division is doing a wonderful job. I am not one who likes to shower praises on people who do not deserve it but I must say I am satisfied that the type of training and direction in which training has been growing in the last couple of months, is the type of training to benefit the country as a whole, and I hope that as time progresses we will find it possible to eliminate completely the expense incurred for overseas training and that we will find people who have benefited in the past from overseas training to engage in the actual training of some of the junior public servants. One thing I have realised since coming into office is that there are public servants who go from year to year, month to month on particular training courses, and when they return to Barbados the training they have got is not employed or used to the fullest. They are trained in a particular direction but when they come back they are put in a totally different department, so I find the money spent in that direction has been wasted. I feel that if someone is going to be trained he should be trained with a view to returning to the department concerned and dispensing some of that knowledge for the benefit of the department. That is what we must look at, not merely the matter of getting training whether inside or outside of Barbados; the person who receives such training should return to the department and serve so that juniors in the department might be able to benefit from this training. We must look at this.

The vote has been reduced but I hope in the future we will have those people well equipped and trained and I hope that in the times ahead when we are looking at manpower, people who are trained will realize that it is part of their responsibility to make themselves available to give of that service and pass on to the juniors in the public service some of the knowledge which they have gained.

As I said, I want to make this contribution on the question of training and I want to congratulate the Training Division for having broadened the ambit of training not only for particular departments but in a number of other areas not formerly encompassed in such training courses, and I do hope this will go a long way towards the general benefit of the whole country.

4.35 p.m.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to make a few observations of this particular Head; Head 3(3) – Training. The first point I would like to make has come from a little advice from the member for St. Michael South East. He is sitting in on the front bench today. Frequently now he has been a long stop for the Government. When the Minister is out, he sits on the front bench. We can see that he enters into his assignments with gusto and enthusiasm. He is full of enthusiasm, even if at all times with not so much sanity. On this occasion he went outside of the limits when he said that he would like to see the day when there would be no overseas training for the Civil Servants of this country. I would like to make it clear that I hope that the wiser heads of the front bench would not be persuaded by this argument.

I think that it would be a sad day for this small country. I think that training overseas lends a certain broadening of the outlook, and a certain expansion not only in general terms, but in method and approach to the particular discipline. I think that there are members over there who can attest to the fact that such training overseas should continue. While I think that there could be a reduction in the amount spent on training overseas, I think that the member, if he is seeking to attain a permanent seat on the Government bench must learn not to speak in such extremes. He was a most outstanding member of the back bench, and that is why he is placed on the front bench. I admire him, but I do not think that he has had any training overseas.

Mr. BRADSHAW: I did have overseas training. As a former Minister of Education, he should have known that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is not a point of order.

Mr. SANDIFORD: If the hon. member has had overseas training it obviously has not rubbed off. I would like myself to take this opportunity to extend a word of praise for the public service who head the Training Division as indeed all divisions of Establishments and the public servants in charge of the Service Commissions. I think that a warning has been issued, sort of, on the floor of this House that it is not beyond the bounds of possibility to effect some amalgamation, some restructuring of these services which may include the Training Division, the Establishments Division and the Service Commissions. I would just like to issue a word of caution. I am certain that those points would not escape the Government, but at any time of amalgamation or restructuring, I would sincerely hope and I would like to register my position on this, that there should be no diminution in the emoluments or the terms and conditions of service of those persons who head these Divisions. Already we have seen one senior officer who gave something like almost 26 years of public service to this country dismissed without any pension or gratuity. Indeed he served this Parliament as its Clerk. I believe that he was sent home after some 26 years of public service without pension or gratuity. I am just making a point. I am certain that the Government will not over look it. If there is any amalgamation.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I would suggest the question of Mr. Boyce is not relevant to Training, and more than that it is a reflection on a vote of the House. He was sent home for dishonesty.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member will withdraw those remarks.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, if that is your ruling, I withdraw. I will not press it. I was making the point that in any amalgamation or restructuring that may be considered, I sincerely hope that the status and conditions of service of those persons who have rendered outstanding service to this country would not in any way be diminished.

The next point I wish to make relates to the question of Training and the question of the allocation of the persons trained to posts after they have completed their training. This is a very sore problem. It is one which has been with the Government for some time, and I have no doubt that it is one which will continue to present problems. As long as we have the present system whereby the services of outstanding persons cannot be obtained in a particular department, and promotion may be outside of that particular department, we will have the problem of people being trained, but transferred out of the particular department for which they were trained. I think that the popular view is that in such cases where they are persons who have been trained, to give their expertise for a number of years in that particular department, that some kind of means of registering the seniority of that person should be devised so as to secure their services in that particular department rather than having a person transferred to some other area simply because there are no promotion possibilities in that department. I would not like to press the point now, but I believe that I would like to throw it out for consideration.

4.45 p.m.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, to deal with first things first. The hon. members for St. Michael South Central and St. John talked about the Governor of the Central Bank and his training course which I do not remember approving, so I take it that it was approved under the hon. member for St. John, but I would not like to be dogmatic about it because I do not think it matters, but I think both hon. members have forgotten that one of the briefs of the training division is to process offers of assistance for training from international and other agencies, and Dr. Blackman was not trained out of the funds of the Government of Barbados. He was trained on a course sponsored by British Technical Assistance, and they did not only need to look at Dr. Blackman; they should have looked at Mr. Ronald Taylor who was the Director of the Museum and obviously not a public servant who went abroad for a year to do museum studies, again under the sponsorship of British Technical Assistance; but in any case as the hon. member for St. John correctly pointed out, the training division does not deal with public officers only; it deals with a range of citizens who may be sent abroad to get a variety of skills or indeed even trained locally, although the training unit as far as I know confines its activities to public officers in terms of local courses. Maybe there have been occasions where some not public officers have continued. I do not think it is altogether beyond the Government's grasp and concept of training that person who are not immediately in the Public Service should receive it. I recall myself having to make this clear on one occasion when there was a seminar in the management of public enterprises. This was one in Jamaica. I cannot put my hands on it at the moment but it was proposed that public officers alone be sent, and I had to insist that the manager of the Housing Authority, who was then not a public officer was a person obviously that would benefit from the subject matter of the course, had to go to Jamaica as one of the trainees, and I think that even this report will reveal that other members and employees of statutory Corporations have benefited from these courses sometimes. That particular one was a Commonwealth Secretariat for technical cooperation course, a regional seminar on the role of management of public enterprises. I really would have thought that if you did not send somebody from a public enterprise it would be abdicating duties. Obviously it is the type of course that officials of corporations should be exposed to; but Dr. Blackman's course was a British Overseas Technical Assistance Course.

Now some very vehement words were spoken by the hon. member for St. Michael South West on this subject. The hon. member is really quite unquenchable and the same pattern occurs every time; fluency, force, volubility, emphasis, style and no content. He emphasised at length what is obviously going to be his role in these Estimates, to make a long sincere fluent speech about nothing at all. He emphasised some points about reducing the amount and you need more training and so on, and the Government has no policy and really when the Minister of Education got up and gave an accurate and comprehensive answer, I thought that would have been the end of the matter, but we then had to have the Minister of Education's answer attacked. I really do not want to attack the speeches of the hon. member because you cannot attack him without getting personal, I have said so earlier, but the only attack that you can mount on his speeches is that he does not know what he is talking about. He seems to show some fundamental lack of capacity to know what he is talking about. I have never said a man is a fool if he does not know something, I always say a man has to be a fool if he does not know that he does not know something. The facts are really very simple.

As far as training is concerned, we have extended a number of persons exposed to it by trying to localise the training. In 1976–77 just before we came into office, we extended training courses to 167 people. In 1977–78 we are extending it to 375 people, more than twice as many

and we are achieving this with a very small decrease in the training vote and saving foreign exchange at the same time. We have reduced the number of persons receiving training overseas from 134 to 79, so we are in fact training an extra 50 people in this current financial year, 454 in all, as opposed to 400, and many of these are receiving training courses which perhaps they would not have enjoyed if they had to wait to go overseas. That is why I was giving praise to the Chief Training Officer, because within the framework of a slightly contracting overall vote he is establishing new initiatives and building up new courses for local training, courses in new areas, and I think that doubling the number of local trainees.....I said 50 more but it is 150 more people, I beg the House's pardon. We are training 454 in 1977–78, we trained 301 in 1976–77, and I think this is something that anybody will say that while the Government had taken a step in taking the initiative of which Barbadians should be proud, instead we have to have the *bona fides* of the Minister of Education attacked and we have to have the acting Minister of Caribbean Affairs attacked on this matter. Why the controversy? Are we not all interested in training civil servants? We have not entirely destroyed overseas training. The words of the hon. member for St. Michael South will be hearkened to, that I will represent one point of view and the words of the hon. member for St. Michael South East will also be hearkened to, they represent another point of view; but we have extended the training of public officers without extending the amount of funds that we are using and I do not believe that we are reducing training standards by cutting down on unnecessary overseas courses.

I would draw the attention of hon. members to a speech made in the last session, the only speech of any substance made in five years by the then hon. member for Christ Church South Central, the only speech that I can ever recall him making that anybody would have had to pay attention to, and it was about training. It was nothing to do with his portfolio. He knew training and how you went about training from the inside, and I am not endorsing his views, I am merely repeating them. I am not familiar with them, but he said in the old days, and he was speaking indeed of the old days – this speech was made in 1972 – he was speaking of the old days of 1971, that training was carried on in terms of favouritism and that the most worthy people were not sent abroad. He said in 1972 about past days; the hon. member made the speech in 1972. *(Asides)* I cannot think what note the Reporters would make of this. If I could see what is exciting the merriment of hon. members opposite, I would join them, but the hon. member was speaking of periods of time, as I understood it, immediately prior to 1972. He was speaking of his period in the public service.
4.55 p.m.

If I could see what is exciting the merriment of hon. members opposite I would join them, but the hon. member was speaking of periods of time, as I understood it, immediately prior to 1972. He was speaking of his periods in the public service, because he was a public officer up to as far as I know August, 1971, and he said that overseas courses used to be the means used by Permanent Secretaries of rewarding their favourites within the department, that if you wanted to go on an overseas course you had to make good friends with the P.S., and if you used to give trouble and did not do exactly what you were told, or questioned things, then other people were promoted and got overseas courses over your head. He made very serious and drastic charges against the system of sending for training overseas. I am repeating his remarks, I say it again, I do not know how far they are justified, I would not feel that I would be doing any thing particularly useful to go back into the training practices of Ministers and Permanent Secretaries before 1971, or even indeed before 1976, because they do not particularly impinge as far as I can see on the economic affairs of the Government today, and I am satisfied that the affairs of the Government today have a new breath of life and that a series of courses is being devised to improve in-service training for public servants. I am satisfied of how things are going now, so I do not have to pursue things that are entirely spent where Ministers used to give their favourites the preference, or P.S's. used to recommend their favourites and so on for training courses, but I do think they have a sound bearing, what bearing they have on the person is that perhaps overseas training was emphasised to the exclusion of local training, that we had a long hangover in which it was thought that all training should be overseas, and training to be good could only be acquired overseas, and I think that it is time that it is fully recognised that the problems of the service arise as much from local affairs and can be solved by local methods as by overseas methods.

I do not know that any number of people sent overseas would cause young public officers to be more polite to people, as the hon. member for St. Michael North Central is suggesting. What has to be done is a course, and there are courses available in Barbados, you do not have to go as high as a Dale Carnegie course.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member will give way, I am not suggesting that you have to send people overseas and train them to be polite to Barbadians at home, because that is not my contention, my contention is that you have to do something about that because to the public that is very important. When they go to these civil servants for a service they expect to be treated politely and to be helped. I never made the point that you have to send them overseas, in fact I would agree with you that they have to be trained locally, but they have to be trained by people who are aware of this problem.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I did not mean to impute what I was saying to the hon. member, not at all, what I was trying to say is that the solution to the problem – and I think it is a problem – outlined by the hon. member is better local training. There are secretarial colleges that offer receptionists' courses, the Hotel School teaches hotel receptionists how to be pleasant and so on, but I do not think that enough attention is given to helping young girls fresh from school perhaps. They have their certificates but they are unfamiliar with the world, and they are thrown right in to deal with members of the public who sometimes may become a little aggressive, so even if they do not come aggressively and if only ignorantly, young members of the public service without much experience of life cannot always handle these situations in the best possible way. I think we need that sort of course. I do not blame the public officers for impoliteness, I know of occasions where they are impolite, but I do not say it is general impoliteness, a lot of it is simply not knowing, a lot of it may be actual social fear. Boys and girls fresh from school are not yet entirely familiar with the outside world of work and so on, and they cannot always relate to members of the public, and hon. members will be aware that a member of the public comes in and is unpleasant and curses and that sort of thing, and that will upset a girl for the whole day. She would not know what she is doing for the rest of the day, she may be at a counter receiving land tax payments, and somebody comes in and abuses her and, poor soul, she will be confused and cannot speak politely for the rest of the day. It is the handling of this situation that I think needs some amelioration, and there would be a lot better relations between the public service and the public if this was done.

I think, undoubtedly, there are many delays in Government, there are too many delays in some areas, letters take a long time to be acknowledged, a long time to be answered, people's troubles take a very long time to be dealt with. I myself think that one of the greatest irritants in Government is the requirement obviously on grounds of avoiding putting money into too many people's hands, of requiring that before you get certain types of licences, permits and so on, you have to go to the Accountant General, pay the money and go back with the receipt. Now, I know it is a nuisance to people that want work permits to go down to the Accountant General, pay the money and then come back up to Bay Street, especially if they hear of the necessity for the first time at Bay Street. They go to Bay Street, get the forms, are sent down to the Accountant General, and then they have to come back up, and this happens in a number of departments, that money is received centrally but the departments are themselves centralised. I know this is a nuisance and investigation of a problem that was raised in here some time ago, namely, the problem of the tourist seeking to get an extension.

Apparently, the real difficulty with those people that come here on a 21 day vacation is that they then want to stay for two months, and when they go to the police they make a case, then the police send them to the Accountant General to pay $20 and come back, they come back with the receipt and have to make the case all over again, and they feel that the payment of the $20 ensures that the case will be heard, but they are only paying $20 for an application. It is perfectly possible for them to pay the $20 and then be turned down. You can understand that that will make for generally bad feeling, and that is as I say an area of irritation comparable in many ways – I do not know if there are any hon. members who have ever had to shop in the Soviet Union, but you will find that those who give out the goods do not take cash. You go and you select what you want, so many pounds of whatever you want, and the girl gives you a ticket and you have to queue up and go and pay, and then you have to queue up and come back to get the goods, so it takes in one shop three queues to buy something, and anybody who has ever been to the Soviet Union will notice how busy the grocery stores always are, always full of people queueing, but in Barbados it is worse in some ways, because you have to leave one place and go to another to pay and then come back.

These are all areas of irritation which create difficulties and which it is hoped a combination of Organisation and Methods and the Training Unit can easily handle in the future.

I beg to move that the sum of $556,419 under Head 3(3) – Training – as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

5.05 p.m.

HEAD 4 – CABINET – (1) CABINET OFFICE

Head 4 – Cabinet – (1) Cabinet Office – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, there is an amendment to this Head. In moving the amendment I would like to say what occasions it, since hon. members might like to know. We are seeking to amend the voted sum under Item 13 to increase it by $30,000. There is a lawsuit in which the Government is engaged and Government wishes to be prepared for the worst and this is the Head under which the Government pays damages. This is an Item that is very variable. Sometimes you get a year without any thing being spent and then another year it is multiplied five or ten times. There are a number of consequential amendments all relating to possible increases.

I beg to move that the Head be amended to increase Item 13 by $30,000 with consequential increases all round.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw the attention of the House to Item 12, "Conferences and Delegations", where we see a substantial increase of $100,000 over the sum voted the previous year, which was $650,000. I would like to enquire from the hon. Prime Minister the reason for this substantial increase and I would like him to tell us what are the new allowances for a Minister, the number of conferences attended by Ministers during the past year, and how will we be able to justify this big increase bearing in mind the type of criticism levelled at the previous Government during the Estimates. I would like to impress upon him that it has not missed our attention or that of the public at large when we observe that there is now a substantial increase in travelling, and when you have to relate this to the strictures being made about the economy at this stage, we would be expecting a man like the Hon. Prime Minister who is so concerned about the state of the economy to be effecting some savings in this area because it is difficult to justify this large increase bearing in mind the type of criticism we have heard from time to time about the Democratic Labour Party Ministers. And I would like to repeat some of the things said: "Lots of things which Ministers go overseas for can be accomplished by writing a letter or sending a telex, or by not attending them at all because a lot of them have no bearing on Barbados at all." I have to wonder if this increase on this Item is not a way to placate some of the members of Cabinet who are dissatisfied with the quantum of salary they are now receiving. Some of them have expressed great dissatisfaction on the floor of this House concerning the amount of money they receive as salary, because in their previous occupation outside they were able to accumulate a lot more than they are now receiving. When we were making these arguments they were dismissed as trivial and of no substance, and they promised repeatedly that when they took over Government they would trim this heavily. Far from trimming it we now see an increase under this Item, and the public will be looking very seriously at this Item. And I would like to know what benefits are accruing to the country as a whole from all of this travelling we have witnessed over the past year. Sometimes some of you have disappeared for as much as six weeks and when you return we can see no benefit at all to the country. What is the justification for this? Is it possible that some of you are using this exercise to visit relatives in North America and other places? There is no way to convince the public that what we are saying is not true because there are a lot of hints from the public why so many of you have to go to New York, Tampa and other places. If you are concerned with effecting savings as you say, this is an area that can be trimmed. Far from increasing it, it should have been decreased by $100,000. There is no point trying to convince us that you are going to exercise the greatest scrutiny to see that the vote is not over spent. I believe that a man of the quality and integrity of the Hon. Prime Minister should go as far as seeking to reduce this Item right now and I beg to move at this particular stage a reduction of this Item by one dollar.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am not aware, Mr. Chairman, that the required twenty four hours' notice for such a motion been given. Does the hon. member want us to postpone the Head and discuss it after twenty-four hours? I do not mind.

Dr. CADDLE: If the Hon. Prime Minister will give way I accept the contention of twenty-four hours, and rather than postpone the Resolution I am willing to continue discussion of the Item.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I take it you have withdrawn the motion.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I would be failing in my duty if after being a Minister of the former Government for ten years and listening year after year to accusations about joy rides, raiding the Treasury, getting something..... *(Asides)* From your party, there was a conference in here.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: How can he ask me to find out when he knows that we have had in this House on several occasions to pass around information on every single conference for them to see that civil servants went away more than Ministers. When we were in power you indicated to the people of this country that the Democratic Labour Party used to fly all over the world, travelling so much and getting a bunch of money for staying in posh hotels.

5.15 p.m.

You remember telling us so too. You have a better memory then the Prime Minister. You remember telling us that it was "sweets". The present Government promised the people that they were going to cut down on Parliamentary Secretaries. You are going to cut down Government. You are going to cut out joy rides; but lo and behold today the 15th of March, 1978, I have before me a Resolution by that Government, telling me that you have increased this item by $100,000. Therefore the question by the hon. member for St. Michael North Central is very important. Is it a result of an increase in Subsistence? Is it a result of more travel by Ministers? Is it a result of travelling first class instead of economy? You have to admit that we travelled "economy" even though some of us did not agree with it.

I want to know now what is your policy. Tell me this. If the public of Barbados who took the Democratic

Labour Party to task on this very item after you all have spoken on it budget after budget, and then to sit back and say that this expenditure is justified, that you are the "Great Combination" and you can fly around the world? You cannot really get out of this. I mean after all you say that the people have short memories. So if they have short memories you will get out; but the people of this country will remember the criticisms year in, year out. I remember the Minister of Finance then having to come in like a school boy and passing around every single conference. If it was a supplementary, they called for it again; and we had to pass around how many people went, where they went, how they went etc. But I know. The boot is on the other foot.

You do not have to answer to me. You have to answer to the people. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I will wait and see. They promised the people to reduce; and yet you find increases. That is why I have advised them already – tear up their Manifesto and play it by ear as they are doing now. That is all that they are doing, playing it purely by ear. Therefore, I say again – Hospitality. Some big bellied Ministers in the D.L.P. That has gone up by $9,000 too. You see? We used to eat a lot of food. Entertain our friends. Government Hospitality has also gone up by another $1,000. I have heard that there are some fellows in the Cabinet who can eat good too. I hear that they have some appetities in the Cabinet worth money. Naturally, if a Cabinet meeting lasts long, you cannot expect the Cabinet Ministers to get ulcers; but you all did not come into the House and face realities when we were in power. I want to know from the Prime Minister how is this hospitality vote spent. We had certain conditions laid down that you could not carry a friend to the Hilton and draw on this. You had to exceed a certain amount before the Cabinet Secretary would approve payment from the Government Hospitality vote. I want to know what are the conditions, and what functions justify ministers getting money from this Hospitality vote.

They have increased Ministers' Travelling now by $100,000, Feeding and Entertainment under Government Hospitality by $9,000; and I want an explanation. If the Public is satisfied with it, that is their business; but I am glad to see that on this subject you have had to swallow everything that you told the public about us, and you are now coming in asking for $100,000 more.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I am not stopping hon. members from speaking. I am not replying now. I am speaking. First of all it is a pity that the hon. member for St. Michael North Central did not give notice of the reduction. It is not my duty to tell anyone how to conduct their business in Parliament; but hon. members cannot exepct the full answer unless we have notice of what you are going to raise. We cannot bring every Government file in here; so hon. members will have to wait. *(Asides)* Do not shout. What is this thing about shouting down? Hon. members will have to wait for 20 minutes or half an hour while the file is brought. If we had notice of it we would have the Government Hospitality file here and the Conference file here. *(Asides)* Please do not interrupt.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am not asking that the debate be postponed. If hon. members have particular items on which they want the debate to proceed because they disagree with a vote, I actually appealed to hon. members to do the proper thing and send in a notice. In the box underneath the seat of the Leader of the Opposition should still be, unless it has been cleared out by the cleaners, there was over 1,000 amendment forms in there, notices to reduce Head so and so, Item so and so by such and such. If they have been moved, well I suppose it is a year and a half and they have gone; but we had thousands of them printed and hon. members will recall that we used to send them in back in 1973–74 and they were there also during the life of the last Parliament. So if you want details of all the conferences, you will just have to wait half and hour; but I can just tell you this, that today the number of conferences attended is 166. Only 45 out of them were attended by Ministers. Of them 130 were attended by Civil Servants. Some times there was overlapping because the Minister and the Civil Servants went to both.

So that the number of conferences that Ministers go to is less than a third of the whole. *(Asides).* All this shouting out about Ministers travelling and Ministers spending all this money. It is only when we give you the facts that we can hear that everybody knew all the facts already, and are trying to find some way to avoid it. If you asked a question, what is the point quarrelling when you get the answer?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: He has just asked for half a hour to get the facts. Now he has given the facts?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The present meals allowance for Ministers is $30 in CARICOM countries, $35 outside. That is U.S. The subsistence allowance is $20 in CARICOM countries and $25 outside. Those are the daily allowances. They are very ungenerous. It is not only Ministers that get them. It is Permanent Secretaries that get them also. We still travel economy class. In fact we have felt pressure on the vote; but I would point out to hon. members that the actual expenditure on Conferences in our first year of office was $525,115. The expenditure on Conferences the last year that the Democratic Labour Party was in office was $640,342 – $115,000 more.

The Hospitality vote again – I do not know what more we can say on the Hospitality vote – but the actual expenditure – think of these figures – the actual expenditure under the Barbados Labour Party Government, for all that they say that we have a lot of big bellied Ministers that like to eat a lot at Cabinet, we spent $33,000. The last year of the Democratic Labour Party – I do not know how big the bellies of the Ministers were – you spent $71,000 from that vote. So you all must have twice as big bellies as us. That is all that I can say; or your ulcers need twice as much attention as ours.

5.25 p.m.

But you spent $71,000, we spent $33,000. We find there is more pressure on the vote. Hon. members have to take out people sometimes at their own expense because there is no money left in the vote, and therefore we are asking for a small increase in hospitality. I think the matter of the conference deserves more extensive attention because I am worried about the vote. I do not hide it. In fact I think it is as well to expose now so that the public may know. The Cabinet has turned down, I think, five of the last seven applications. I think it is either four out of six or five out of seven. The Cabinet has turned down five out of the last seven applications which have come before us for attendance at conferences. We have trimmed down conferences which the Government of Barbados has been attending for thirty years. We have taken off days, making Ministers fly direct to Luxemburg. I do not know that the Minister of Labour wants to hear me say anything about taking bus, because this is still forthcoming? I do not think the hon. member for St. Lucy would want to hear me say that either, but we are doing everything we can and I have no doubt that the economy in Cabinet Office which is going to be enforced during the forthcoming year will fall on this item, the item of conferences. We are doing away with the luxuries, and I will ask all hon. members, Mr. Chairman, to remember that it is not every time you see a Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary go away that he is going away at the expense of the Government. I have heard it shouted out about Senator Trotman taking the taxpayers' money to go to Hamburg. Not one penny of the taxpayers' money was spent to go to Hamburg by Senator Trotman. Senator Trotman was sent away at the expense of the organisation to which he and I belong, no taxpayers' money. (A VOICE: Which one is that?) That is our private business. I see things in the papers. It is not a secret organisation. It is an organisation to which Senator Trotman and I belong and the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for St. John once belonged.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I do not know what organisation you are talking about, because I would help you. If you tell me what it is, I will tell you if I belonged to it or not.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I know the organisation, but in those days we were not supported by the mercantile community and so no member of the organisation which was the Barbados Labour Party, not even the illustrious forebearer of the hon. member had any subvention to travel at the expense of the mercantile community. None of us travelled anywhere. As a matter of fact we did not even have a campaign fund; your campaign fund was your own pocket.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: If we have a mercantile community in Barbados that will support the General Secretary of the Barbados Labour Party's visit to Socialist International, I will have to say that we have some businessmen whose political ideologies have hitherto been unsuspect in this country.

As I was saying, it is not everytime you see ...*(Asides)* Who in Barbados does not know that Bernstein and the Syrians used to give them money? Everybody knows that. You do not have to plug on that. It is not every time you see a Minister abroad that he is abroad at the expense of Government either, and it is not even every time that you see a Minister abroad and staying in a big suite in a hotel that he is at the expense of the Government either. *(Asides)* The hon. member for St. Michael South West is saying do you mean you are taking bribes now. I took a bribe to stay in a hotel suite. Do you know who bribed me? My wife works with a hotel and she has privileges at a hotel in New York and she invited me to New York once to stay in a very nice hotel, and I had a very pleasant week-end. What nonsense about taking bribes! Do you see what we have to put up with, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us get ahead.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I just mention these as preliminary matters. The file will come and hon. members can have an opportunity of discussing whether we have been on any wasting time conferences or not. Hon. members will have an opportunity of saying, does the party that saved $100,000 on conferences in the last year qualify as a wild spending thrower-away of money?

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister just now gave some indication about the daily rates which are paid to Ministers and public officers when they go overseas to conferences. I wonder if he could indicate whether these are new rates or old rates. I think this is what we are getting at.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: These are the new rates but the old rates were in three tiers, and I have sent for a complete list of the old rates. The only movable rates are the subsistence and meals allowance, but I have sent for them.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman, I am somewhat amazed at the amount of discussion that has gone on about this travelling overseas. I gather that one of the reasons why the present Opposition is needling the Government is because when the position was in reverse the then Opposition needled the Government. In my opinion it was childish at that time in the then Opposition to needled the Government and it is more childish now for those who should know better having been in that position to now needle the Government. In a small country like ours which has to deal so extensively internationally where, if it is sugar, we have to sell it overseas, and if it is tourism we have to encourage tourists to come here, for us to spend so much time on this matter amazes me. For instance the Leader of the Opposition referred to the fact that there is a $100,000 increase. The increase in hotel rates overseas is more than 15%, so the $100,000 would not allow anybody to travel anymore; that would be absorbed by the inflation in the hotels overseas. No doubt the former Prime Minister would tell you that. He recently came from overseas where the hotel rates are very expensive. If you go to Europe now, to order corn flakes costs you 2.5 marks, so when I hear hon. members spending so much time on a matter like this, I would invite them to move on and get down to more serious business.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for St. Michael North Central in querying the amount in this vote made the remark about Ministers travelling to New York and Miami to look for their families. I have family in New York, but I have not been to New York last year at all or this year up to now. One thing I do not understand is that when you have nothing to say, you tell lies, and if you do not understand you should not talk foolishness.

Now I went to the southern United States earlier this year. I think the Prime Minister went to Tampa last year, not at the Government's expense. I think he was invited long with the hon. member for Christ Church South Central and myself by the State Department to take part in a conference. The Prime Minister opened the first conference, a Caribbean Conference on trade, development and investment, and the hon. member for Christ Church South Central and I were invited to take part in the second conference. It was paid for totally by the organisers of the State Department, and I believe it cost the Government of Barbados something like $127 which I got. from which you had to pay for your breakfast on the day before the conference began and for meals on the day you left.
5.35 p.m.

As a result it cost the Barbados Government $120 where you went to a conference. You met business people, you met people from the State Department where you made connections beneficial to Barbados. Arising out of the conference we have been able to negotiate agricultural contracts.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, before the hon. member sits down I would like the hon. member to answer my question. Perhaps I can put the hon. member at his ease before he answers this question. I think it is highly improper for any Government employee, Government Minister or anybody else, Member of Parliament, to have their breakfast paid by the State Department of the United States, and therefore this vote should properly have paid for the meals and the subsistence of the hon. member, so he cannot say he did not have any money at all for it.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Look, you see, I do not know if to call this dishonesty now. He does not understand what I said. I had $120; I am not going to be like him, but you know what raised the question, Mr. Chairman? Every one of them out there have told us outside that they had disagreed with the travelling allowance, maintenance and the subsistence which he gave them, and they all said that he came down and brought an order that they should travel tourist, economy, and he never travelled tourist yet, but they do not want to tell him now, they want us to tell him because they told me that every time he was travelling he would telephone the airlines, "the Prime Minister of Barbados is travelling" and they would update him to first class, but if they are afraid to tell him so, I am not. If this is what they want to say I will say it for them, because they are still labouring like slaves or something under the shadow of a man and are afraid to tell him so.

They come in here talking about Ministers on this side travelling, but Ministers on this side have travelled and paid for travelling out of their own pockets. The Leader of the Opposition should know better. He asked a question and he was told earlier that the Minister of Communications and Works went to Britain and paid back money into the Government's funds, so what is he talking about? He came in here a few years ago and told us that he was travelling in Paris and he had to ride on the Metro with bags, and his own colleagues said he was lying. What foolishness is he talking? He has fooled them for the longest time. They all said they were dissatisfied with the salaries he gave them, they were dissatisfied with the travelling arrangements, and not one up to now has the guts to stand up and tell him so, because when I asked them how could they come down and vote for salaries which they did not agree with, they said, 'you know, he is a prima donna, whatever he does you have to go along with.' They still have to go along with him up to today. I wish I could work the magic that you worked on them, because you really have every one of them foolish. I hope he

understands what they are still trying to do; do not get up and talk about somebody visiting their family. Where? I do not understand what the hon. member is talking about.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I wish to speak a bit on this particular measure and not only to look at the general question of how much money is spent, although I will deal with that in due course.

Let me begin by saying that is necessary for Barbados to attend certain conferences, particularly those that will have an impact on the economic life of this country. There are also certain political conferences that the country has to attend because of necessity it is a member of certain international organisations. From those it cannot escape, it is the consequence of being an independent country. Let me state, for instance, that in relation to the International Labour Organisation, of necessity the country has to be represented at that meeting. When the Organisation of American States meets in General Assembly we have to attend, if there is a meeting of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers it will be expected that there will be some representation, if there is a meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its annual meeting it is expected that we will attend. When the World Health Organisation meets, at least its annual conference, the Minister should be there. The same goes for, of course, other important conferences.

Let us get this straight, because I really want to get down to deal with the nastiness in some type of approaches to questions. I really want to deal with it in its entirety in this debate. It is a fact that there are still some important conferences that Barbados has never attended even up to now, and I speak particularly about the conferences dealing with commodities and trade, UNCTAD, the negotiations where because of the lack of money we cannot expand our diplomatic services as we would want in areas of Europe – and yesterday the member for Christ Church East spoke of this point – and where we cannot afford to have representation even sometimes at the official level. Indeed, in the sugar negotiations which went on in Geneva there were times that we had to rely on the good offices of Mr. Anthony Murray, and indeed he cut himself right down to the bone and did not ask for any remuneration. We have had at times to send one officer, in fact, only last week we had to decline an officer from the High Commission of UNESCO in order to argue for more employment opportunities for Barbadians, and we did this because of the economic circumstances of the country and because we are conscious of the fact that we have to be tight with money.

On the other hand, if the country must maximise its opportunities in foreign affairs it will have to recognise that in the area of representation money must be spent provided it is not spent extravagantly. I agree that there has grown up in some Ministries the idea of the trip diplomacy. My experience is that this is not with Ministers. Some of the conferences that we turn down in Cabinet are conferences that probably have very little value to the country as a whole, and indeed if we list the number of applications that come before the Cabinet and have been declined, I think hon. members on the other side will be surprised, but I am absolutely shocked to hear even the suggestion that anybody on this side is going to use a Conferences and Delegations vote in order to feather their own beds.

Let me give you my experience on this vote and on the other one dealing with hospitality. I have had to entertain in my role as Minister of Foreign Affairs non-resident diplomats here, and it has cost me my own money much in excess of what they pay to me for two or three months as an allowance as a member of Parliament. This is a fact. We never sought to have that back. On many occasions even when going to the United Nations in extending hospitality we have used our money; I have, certainly. The Minister of Education went to Africa and found himself several hundred dollars out of pocket and never got a refund for it, because he found the money given to him was enough to cover his hotel and probably meals, but if he has to reciprocate with Ministers of Education – and sometimes in caucusing it is necessary – he found he could not do this.
5.45 p.m.

I myself went to a conference in Trinidad in place of the Prime Minister, concerning the Caribbean Development Bank. I was told that we would need to have a suite because we were to discuss various things and there was no room outside to hold meetings. This is what I was told by two officers who had preceded me to the conference. When I saw the bill, it was twice or three times the amount that was given to me from the conference vote. I made up the difference.

I had another experience when I was travelling in Montreal and found myself put up by an officer of the High Commission at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel in Montreal where the former General Manager of our Hilton Hotel stayed. When I read the bill behind the door for staying one night I was horrified because I knew I could not meet it. It was something like Can.$303 for the night. I said to my Permanent Secretary that I believe the officer had gone crazy. Luckily for us we knew the General Manager and told him to send on the bill to Barbados, and after representation I got two explanations, (a) that was the way the High Commissioner before we took over used to travel in Canada and the officer assumed that we would want similar accommodation; (b) he said that anyhow, in view of my representation to the Manager, they would charge a reduced amount. When I am travelling I don't

want any Queen's Suite or President's Suite, so when they are talking they must examine the facts. They must recognise that if I sent three people to a Law of the Sea Conference in Geneva the cost would be $36,000 and I would not be attending; the team would be led by the Solicitor General. To attend a United Nation's Conference with supplementary staff attending and carrying officials from here would cost about $50,000. There was the important Commonwealth Law Ministers Conference in Winnipeg last year. We sent two officials; a Minister did not attend. I think when the Prime Minister gets the details of the list he will show hon. members. If they believe that we have gone in here for any joy-riding they have picked on the wrong chap. If I want to take my wife or children on a trip I would not have to rely on the good graces of the people of Barbados to do so. And I find this cheap political talk unworthy of this Honourable House. If they believe somebody has come in here to supplement their income by going on conferences and delegations they have to think again. A lot of us have suffered a loss of income in coming here to serve the public, and I find it strange that the other side should get up and talk a lot of nonsense such as this.

Let me deal with the question of merchants. Since the hon. member has come back from Yale, I thought he had come back refreshed, but he still seems tired in mind. He bases all his assumptions in language he thinks can fool people. Ask him to deny that just before he came out as Prime Minister he had a pledging conference at Culloden Farm. Ask him if the merchants were not asked how much they were giving to the party. Ask him to explain how they bought the DLP Headquarters in George Street. And when you are talking about merchants, you should tell how much money Mr. Bernstein gave you. Tell them what Abed gave you. Tell them the collections you had from the various people in Broad Street. Talk about the mercantile community? You have always been a supporter of the mercantile class.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I do not know why the hon. member is getting so irritated. If he gives me a comprehensive list of his contributions I will go to the executive of my party and get for him an equally comprehensive list. Or he can go to the High Court and take out a writ to have me produce it. We have nothing to hide but he gets in here throwing out names and making statements. Ask me in a proper way and let us make an exchange.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: When it comes to the truth, you have no monopoly on that; but I have seen the pictures and I have the list of DLP members, if you want to know – Bernstein, Abed, Gerry Bull, Sir Lionel Luckhoo, Kyffin Simpson – completely in the arms of the mercantile class. No officer of this party went to Germany on the basis of subscriptions by the mercantile class. The time when you could frighten any person in this country is past. I am not irritated; I can deal with Barrows: I have dealt with them already. *(Asides)* If the hon. member can make me cry I would be amazed; he cannot even make me laugh for he is no longer funny.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Sir, I just rise to clarify one or two points on this matter. The Hon. Attorney General has more or less anticipated me in connection with the reply I would have made to the hon. member for St. John with respect to the matter of merchants. I would like to add that in the Barbados Labour Party we do not have a travel agency and therefore we could not have accommodated any travel agencies because we never had such a service at our disposal. The hon. member would know what I am talking about.

I was rather amazed by the speech made by the hon. member for St. Michael North Central. He always speaks with a degree of sanity and level-headedness, but he did not measure up to what I expected on this occasion.

As regards the cost of travel, from my experience in the Government I am satisfied that no joy-riding had been taking place in this administration. The hon. member during his period at MCW did not have the good fortune to travel abroad to the extent of two of his predecessors. As a matter of fact, I do not think he wanted to travel at all because it would conflict with his other interests while he was serving as a member of the Government. But the hon. Leader of the Opposition during his period as Minister of Communications attended a United Postal Union conference in Luzanne and spent six weeks at that conference. I would like him to tell me how many weeks he was paid for out there at the conference.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of explanation, Sir. I never wrote any vouchers and If I went for four weeks I got paid for four weeks. If you have documents to show I was paid for six weeks, bring them to the House, but do not make insinuations, for this is a matter of record.
5.55 p.m.

I can also tell you that for doing absolutely nothing in Tokyo, a former Minister of your party went to Tokyo and spent three weeks; and the going was so good, that he quarrelled with his Permanent Secretary and said "you robbed me out of an additional three weeks." I refer to Neville Boxill. I have never heard such a complaint made of any of the Ministers in here. Very often we are told that delegations can only go for such and such a time. The time proposed is too long; and nobody has ever sought to have a trip abroad in order to supplement their income. It is not befitting members of Parliament to indulge in such behviour.

The member for St. Michael North Central has been saying for a long time – and I admire his course – that

members of Parliament sell themselves short. I accepted what he said then, and adopted it with my own ideas. Unfortunately I had to be careful for the future, in adopting what he says; because he seems to advocate a policy today because it is convenient to, but tomorrow he will advocate another policy because it seems to suit the occasion tomorrow. This is not the type of thing that the public is going to accept, and tolerate from us. We have got to be consistent, at least for a short time; and the last time I heard him say this in this Parliament could not be longer than six months ago. I have seen no evidence so far of any attempt being made by any person in this Government to use the Delegations or Conference vote as a means of supplementing their income. It is unkind, ungracious, undignified and totally unworthy of a Parliament of this nature.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I would like to speak in slightly different terms on this Head, dealing with Conferences and Delegations; but I would like to make it clear from the start that travelling is an important part of Government's business. It is essential for any modern Government, particularly a Government such as Barbados, whose economy is so much dependent on other economies, both for our exports and imports, visible and invisible, travelling is necessary. The Democratic Labour Party when in Government travelled. The Barbados Labour Party now in Government is travelling. The point I want to make is that it is pointless for either side to get and accuse the other one of doing excessive travelling because travelling is necessary. I do not think that there can be argument about this; but where the debate has gone off – and where I am glad that the member for St. Andrew spoke as he did – he called for consistency, and he claimed that there was something wrong in members on this side, and dishonest in calling for the type of information and making the comments that they did.

I would agree that to attack Travelling, the basis and principle of travelling is wrong, and I am not going to do it. I believe that the members over there have to travel. They are some travelling more than others. I do not know if the member for St. Michael North East – I do not think that he has got anything out of this Conference and Delegations vote yet. I do not think so.

Mr. SISNETT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of elucidation, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order. Yesterday he reserved his right to speak. Is he using that reservation today?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. SISNETT: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, according to the laws of evolution we are descended from either birds or monkeys; but I see no feathers on the Leader of the Opposition. *(Laughter)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. I must have order in this Committee. I repeat. We must have order in this Chamber. Now the hon. member for St. Michael South. Order on the Government benches please.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Yes, Mr. Chairman, if I may get back to this particular point, the information that has been asked for in relation to travelling relates to the percentage increase in the vote. It has been increased – a substantial increase – and one would have thought from the speeches made over there – it is almost 20 per cent, a substantial increase. We asked what is the reason for this substantial increase, and I believe that as an Opposition we are entitled to ask it. We have also asked, what are the rates? Are these new rates? And we have asked what are the old rates? I believe that as representatives of a substantial portion of people in this country we are entitled to ask that question. I do not think that anything is wrong with that, and I do not think that any Opposition should be accused of being base or low or wicked, or that any such epithet should be used simply because we asked for that type of information.

I started out by saying that I have nothing against the principle of travelling. It is necessary. The point I wish to make is that when in 1975 this Head came up for debate, I ask you what were the questions that were asked on that particular occasion?
6.05 p.m.

What were the questions asked on that occasion? The Democratic Labour Party was in power and the Barbados Labour Party was in Opposition. I take the point made by the hon. member for St. Andrew, the Minister of Communications and Works, but I would just like to give a little flavour to the type of question and the type of comments that were made on that occasion. These are the House of Assembly Debates for 16th March, 1976. Mr. Adams is speaking. I am quoting from the debates because one has got to be very careful.

"Mr. ADAMS: Now Ministers have attended 54 meetings. Many members of the public and perhaps members of the House do not appreciate what is my very firmly held opinion, namely, that attendance at conferences forms a substantial supplement to Ministers' incomes and the incomes have not been raised since 1972, and I would like some figures to be given to show what daily tax free allowances have been drawn by Ministers in respect of their attendances at these conferences....."

The hon. member for St. Michael North Central gets up and asks for some information. This forms a

substantial supplement to Ministers' income. That is what was said by the Opposition. On that occasion one Minister was accused, the Attorney General, of indulging in a hobby attending the law of the sea conference, and since that, I think I did hear that we will be attending the law of the sea conference. These are the matters that we have raised. "The conference and delegations vote is going up by almost 20 percent in this one year alone." This was said by that party over there when in Opposition and simply because now we come and ask the reason for this – it is going up by 20% – now this Opposition is a bad Opposition, it is a wicked Opposition because.....

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, would the hon. member read the speech made by the Minister who replied as well as by the hon. member for St. Michael West then in the manner in which the Opposition's questions were treated? Let him complete the debate.

Mr. SANDIFORD: If the Minister wishes to read that, he can read it; but I would like my position on this to be quite clear. I believe that travelling is necessary; it was necessary when the Democratic Labour Party was in Government, it is necessary now the Barbados Labour Party is in Government. When the Barbados Labour Party was in Opposition they lost no opportunity at all to indicate that the then Government was somehow or another supplementing their incomes by this vote, and today information is requested and now we become a wicked Opposition for asking for that particular information. I do not have anything more to say on this particular matter, but I think so long as these issues become political footballs, issues which are necessary in the interest of good and progressive Government in this country, the more dissention we are going to have in this country and the more problems we are going to have in this Parliament. There is no case now of coming and saying you were bad, we were better than you, because whenever that stand is taken I will go back to the record and remind you, and I know that type of reminder will bring shocks to some new members over there including my friend, the hon. member for Christ Church North Central.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I will be very brief. The hon. member for St. Michael North East suggested he did not see any feathers on me. Of course I do not have any and therefore inferentially I am descended from a monkey. I should like to tell him that I thank Almighty God that my evolutionary process is two centuries in advance of his.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, on two points of order, firstly the hon. member is not speaking to the Chair, and secondly he is speaking on no item under this Head in relation to his evolutionary process and as to whether he is feathered stock or human being.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: When the hon. member for St. Michael North East got up and said so, why didn't the Attorney General, if he wants to be fair, impartial, honest and faithful, tell you that the hon. member was not speaking on any item? All I am saying is that I thank God that my evolutionary process is 2,000 years in advance of the hon. member for St. Michael North East.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, before you put the motion to the vote, I should like to react to a couple of things. It is a bit amazing to hear the Hon. Prime Minister saying that he should have been given notice if we wanted to discuss a certain Head, but I find it hard to accept, and I would say that that would have to be taken with a bit of salt and sugar to be swallowed, because a person with his agility of mind would have expected that when a Head such as this came up for discussion at the House today, he should have expected the Opposition to see this and come prepared to answer any questions the Opposition puts on this. The argument that we did not give notice and therefore we cannot give the answers and that we will have to wait is not a good one, because I would like to remind him of an earlier occasion when we were discussing matters relative to the school meal workers, they came with all the files prepared to give the answers because they anticipated that we would be raising the question on school meals. What is happening now? Is he losing his shine or is his grip slipping?

When it comes to the hon. member for St. Andrew, I would like to tell him that what he said today reminds me of Goebels, a man who was the greatest exponent of the two principles, one for himself and one for the public, and when he is going to get up here and try to make his insinuations about me, I would like him to be reminded so that he would know what the hon. member for St. Thomas and some of his supporters got in here and said about us when we were running the Government, and before you set about to make your insinuations about people on this side when they have to get up and rehearse some of the same comments that you all made when you were on this side, I well invite you to go and get acquainted with what they are saying, because all you are trying to do is to be sanctimonious and to be cantankerous about it too. *(Asides)* It is not a question of fraud; it is a question of the double standards, it is a question of conceit and Barbadians will have to start looking at the type of people they have put to run the affairs of this country, people who are indulging in double standards, people who can be characterised as having split personalities.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Control yourself. Please, let us have some order in here.

Dr. CADDLE: Don't tell me anything, man. I get fed up with the type of politics not only by them but by

you too. *(Asides)* It is not a question of being hurt. You are nothing more than a fascist. That is what you are.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will you please take your seat? Let hon. members behave themselves. Order in this Chamber, please.
6.15 p.m.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The hon. member firstly accused the hon. member for St. Andrew of being Goebels, and he secondly shouted three times.....

Dr. CADDLE: I would not like to object to that, because I did not say that, I did not accuse him of anything, I said he reminds me.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: But specifically he pointed his finger at me and shouted out three times "you are a fascist."

Dr. CADDLE: Yes, I said so, and I am going to repeat it on my feet. Is there something unparliamentary about that?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Fascism is associated with Hitler, Mussolini, the destruction of the Jews, and I submit that it is an unparliamentary expression to the extent that it imputes to me racial hatred, hatred of the working class, and a wish to plunge the world into war, and so on, and I ask that he withdraw it.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, they are offering $5.00 a head for monkeys and he called me a monkey, and he now objects to being called a Fascist? The Minister offered $5.00 a head for monkeys.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: In response to a point of order made by the Hon. Prime Minister in respect of the language used by the hon. member for St. Michael North Central, it is my ruling that the reference to "Goebels" and "Fascist", I find it objectionable and I will ask the hon. member to withdraw those words. *(Pause).* I will ask the hon. member for St. Michael North Central to withdraw.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I am not withdrawing the remarks.

Dr. CADDLE walked out of the Chamber.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member will have to withdraw from the Chamber.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, with all due respect.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you going to comment on my ruling?

Mr. TAITT: No Sir, I am speaking on a point of order for some clarification. I presume I can ask on a point of order for some clarification, with the greatest respect, Mr. Chairman. I did not hear your ruling, it seemed to me that you said for the remainder of the sitting. It seems to me that if that is what you had said you would intend for the hon. member not to participate in the Estimates for the remainder of the five days, because the sitting is a continuous sitting for five days. Do you mean today's sitting?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Today's sitting.

Mr. TAITT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, Sir, let us get this clear. We get elucidations but I have never heard.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: My ruling is, and I will further explain it, that today's sitting means the end of the Estimates; understand that clearly. This is a continuous sitting. That is my ruling.

Members of the Opposition walked out of the Chamber.
6.25 p.m.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, replying under that Head I have the work sheets of the conferences, and I beg to move that the sum of $1,095,649 under Head 4(1) – Cabinet Office – stand part of the Schedule.

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

The question that the sum of $1,095,649 under Head 4(1) – Cabinet Office – stand part of the Schedule – was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 4(2) PRINTING DEPARTMENT

Head 4(2) – Printing Department – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Note to Item 9 be amended by adding the words "also provides for the purchase of a photocopying machine, perforating machine, hand-numbering machine and cutting machine knife".

Mr. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

The question that the sum of $636,130 under Head 4(2) – Printing Department – as amended – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 5 – PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE–
(1) DIRECTION AND POLICY FORMULATION

Head 5 – Prime Minister's Office – (1) – Direction and Policy Formulation – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 5(1) be amended as follows:

That a note be provided for Item 7 "To meet the cost of Government advertisements."

That a note be provided to Item 9 "To defray cost of such independence celebrations as may be approved".

That the present note providing for maintenance of the Central Emergency Relief Organization be numbered 10, and that the word "of" between the word "Emergency" and "Relief" be removed.

That Item 11 be renamed "Prime Minister's Residence" and not "Culloden Farm". You have to delete "Culloden Farm" from the Details of Expenditure Column and put in "Prime Minister's residence"; and that the Note to Item 11 be deleted and the new wording "includes provision for the maintenance of Culloden Farm" be substituted.

The question that the sum of $294,988 under Head 5 Prime Minister's Office (1) – Direction and Policy Formulation – as amended stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.
6.35 p.m.

HEAD 5(2) – GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICE

Head 5(2) Government Information Service – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, in moving that this Head in the sum of $119,438 stand part, there is an amendment. Apparently the whole of Note 9 should be deleted. The new Note 10 should read: "Provides for the purchase of still camera and accessories, Leroy lettering set, Quartz lights, constant voltage transformer for Gates Console, stop watch, photocopying machine and Ferrograph tape recorder.

I beg to move that Head 5(2) be so amended.

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

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

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 5(2) as amended in the sum of $119,438 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 5(3) – ELECTORAL OFFICE

Head 5(3) – Electoral Office – in the sum of $269,120 was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 5(3) in the sum of $269,120 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 6 – DEFENCE AND SECURITY DIVISION

Head 6 (1) – Direction and Policy Formulation – in the sum of $849,884 was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman. I beg to move that Head 6(1) – Direction and Policy Formulation – in the sum of $849,884 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 6(2) – BARBADOS DEFENCE FORCE

Head 6(2) – Barbados Defence Force – in the sum of $2,612,632 was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $2,612,632 under Head 6(2) stand part. I think that I should go on record as saying that although this sum is substantial, and hon. members have offered some queries about the matter, I will draw to the attention of hon. members – those who are present and those who are not – that the Defence Force will give some employment to persons who presumably take the jobs, and those who are appointed as members of the Regiment and the Coast Guard. So, it is not entirely an idle expenditure.

I would also like to reassure the hon. member for St. Michael North Central, even if he does object to withdrawing the accusation that I am a Fascist, that despite the fact that he chooses to insult hon. members on this side, I would still like to say that it is most unlikely that we will ever be investing vast sums in defence equipment. The countries in which this happens are countries that buy tanks, jet aeroplanes and try to

set up large navies. It is most unlikely that we will ever employ an armoured vehicle of war in this country. The hon. member can set his mind at rest on that score. We will buy a small number of weapons, I think out of Capital, but the main part of the expenditure under this Head will go to paying the soldiers when they are in barracks; and I will also give hon. members this assurance – I have told the Permanent Secretary that he must impose, not only a 10 per cent cut, but a more than 10 per cent cut in this particular area, because clearly we have to make economies and this is a prime area on which the axe of economy can fall.

I beg to move that the Head stand part.

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

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

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Head 106 – Defence and Security – in the sum of $408,000 was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, there is a misprint here. The words 1977–78 in the Column Estimates 1977–78 should be deleted and 1978–79 substituted therefor.

I beg to move that Head 106 as amended stand part.

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

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

HEAD 2 – PARLIAMENT

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that postponed Head 2 – Parliament – in the sum of $492,031 be now taken.

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

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

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 2 – Parliament – in the sum of $492,031 stand part.

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

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

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Head 104 (New) – Cabinet – in the sum of $45,000 was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, this new Head under Capital for the Cabinet has been circulated, Sir, a proposed amended new Head for the Cabinet Office. It relates to a vote for continuing the construction work of mezzanine work in Parliament. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the officers of Parliament, the Clerks of Parliament, the Minister of Communications and Works, the Architect, Mr. Barker and all those public officers who have given us such an excellent job with the construction of a mezzanine floor in Parliament at a very reasonable cost indeed. There are many criticisms made of the Minister of Communications and Works, but no one I think can complain of the expedition with which they have completed the first part of the reconstruction of Parliament, the attention which they have given – I believe they had to build something like 38 mahogany doors; they have had to do carpeting; they have had to do very delicate work with the stained glass windows involving letting in special flowers. They have had to create new wall surfaces, the central air conditioning system and I believe that they have done the whole job for something like $175,000, Sir, and as prices go we know that is very very cheap for the improvements which we have had.

I would just like to take this chance of saying that, in moving that the sum of $45,000 for Head 104 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 7 – AUDIT

Head 7 – Audit – in the sum of $135,625 was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 7 – Audit – in the sum of $135,625 stand part.

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

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

MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING

Head 8(1) – Direction and Policy Formulation in the sum of $1,479,646 was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the notes to this Head be amended. That the note to Item 16 providing for the expenses of the Duffus Commission, that that be renumbered "15" and the present note marked 15 providing for the purchase of chairs, desks, filing cabinet and so on, be renumbered 16.

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

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

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 8(1) as amended stand part.

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

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

HEAD 8(2) – TREASURY

Head 8(2) – Treasury – in the sum of $265,508 was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 8(2) stand part. No. I think we had better re-commit this. I move that the Head be recommitted.

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

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

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 8(2) stand part with the following amendment:–

In the note to Item 14 add "Also provides for the purchase of 2 15-drawer deck cabinets"

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

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

6.45 p.m.

HEAD 8 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING (2) TREASURY

Head 8 – Ministry of Finance and Planning (2) Treasury – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $265,508 under Head 8 – Ministry of Finance and Planning (2) Treasury – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 8 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING (3) DATA PROCESSING

Head 8 – Ministry of Finance and Planning (3) Data Processing – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $444,136 under Head 8 Ministry of Finance and Planning (3) Data Processing – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 8 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING (4) CENTRAL PURCHASING

Head 8 – Ministry of Finance and Planning (4) Central Purchasing – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, in moving Head 8(4), I think all hon. members would wish to hear that we are trying to transform the Central Purchasing Department into effectively a central supply department, and for this purpose we will be seeking to build office and perhaps warehousing facilities in the region of the new harbour extension. The Government is planning – I only say planning because I can see there are many difficulties in this direction – to put its own gasolene station at the corner of President Kennedy Drive and the new Fontabelle expansion. We are considerably held up in this effort by the obstructionist behaviour of one occupier of a warehouse on the new road. I think the public ought to know that we have offered the gentleman every facility. All that we have said is that we will have to take off the front of the warehouse to accommodate the expansion of the highway and we would let him use the back which is the warehousing part for as long as he needed while all the works down there are carried out. In the front of that warehouse all he has is the offices and so on and we have offered him alternative accommodation in one of the other houses down there for his offices. We have offered to move him into the alternative accommodation so that the MCW can get down the front of the warehouse and build the road right through to Fontabelle, a vital part of the Government's plan for industrial expansion, because we intend to make the whole area from Fontabelle right through to Spring Garden a warehouse and factory area. There are people pressing on us for warehouses, the Minister of

Communications and I have been down there on one occasion with our staff, and on another occasion with the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister looking at the possibilities of the development, talking with people who want spots of land to put down warehouses, to put down a rum plant and so on, and we are being held up by the refusal of certain people to accept the conditions of the Land Acquisition Act, and our patience really is running out. We want to get things moving. We want when the work at the harbour extension stops to be able to start work on the Central Purchasing complex, on the new road, on drainage for the people of Westbury Road who have drains running all around in two directions. There are two separate drains within 150 yards of each other. All of this we are trying to get on with. We have had representatives of the Inter-American Development Bank, at least they have been down three times in all, and they are telling us that we are not moving fast enough, but we are trying our best to give people some work, and have projects waiting to take up the work force, and waiting to create those very industrial opportunities that the hon. member for St. Michael South Central was talking about before he told the Minister of Communications and Works that he reminded him of Goebels and called me a fascist. We are trying to get on with these things, but we are facing this kind of conduct from the Democratic Labour Party and its adherents.

Anyway, Sir, we are doing our best and I beg to move that the sum of $1,300,516 under Head 8 – Ministry of Finance and Planning (4) Central Purchasing, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 8 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING (5) CUSTOMS

Head 8 – Ministry of Finance and Planning (5) Customs – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, under Customs there is a very slight misprint. In the Recurrent Expenditure the figure "329,679" should read "329,697" and I beg to move that it be amended in that way.

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

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

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $364,197 under Head 8 – Ministry of Finance and Planning (5) Customs, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 8 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING (6) INLAND REVENUE

Head 8 – Ministry of Finance and Planning (6) Inland Revenue – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $171,164 under Head 8 – Ministry of Finance and Planning (6) – Inland Revenue – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 8 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING (7) RATES AND TAXES

Head 8 – Ministry of Finance and Planning (7) Rates and Taxes – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $227,598 under Head 8 – Ministry of Finance and Planning (7) Rates and Taxes, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 8 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING (8) LAND VALUATION

Head 8 – Ministry of Finance and Planning (8) Land Valuation – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $217,076 under Head 8 – Ministry of Finance and Planning (8) Land Valuation, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 8 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING – STATISTICAL SERVICES

Head 8 – Ministry of Finance and Planning (8) Statistical Services – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I think under this Head, Statistical Services, I should tell the public that during the course of 1978–79 an important new survey is going to be carried out on household expenditure. This is for the purpose of establishing a new household budget base for the retail price index. The present retail price index was compiled in 1964–65 and came into force in October, 1965. Its condition is that an increase in the price of onions from 40 cents to 50 cents and the going up of the price of limes to 16 cents each and oranges to 45 cents each as they did during the month of February is enough to put the cost of living up even though the price of all other foods appears very broadly to have fallen. In other words, it is getting out of key with what people actually spend their money on, and the only way we can be sure that we are getting accurate figures for increases in the cost of living is by going to a number of families throughout Barbados and asking them over a two week period to keep a record of all the money they spend. You then go back to them later and see if their spending patterns change over the season.

The work for this has already been put in hand and the forms are ready. They were approved during the course of this week in my office and very soon announcements calling for cooperation of house-holders will be seen in the press.

Now this is going to have some effect on the publication of figures relating to unemployment because the same investigators will be carrying out the household budget survey as are presently engaged in carrying out the quarterly assessment of employment in Barbados. I had promised the House on an earlier occasion that beginning with the first quarter of 1978 the Government would be publishing the employment statistics corrected with the proper parameters so that the public would no longer have to speculate as to what the rate of unemployment was; they would be able to see the figures regularly and discuss them, and I regard this as a very important contribution to the possible standards of economic debate in this country. I think that when we can talk in the House about matters like unemployment on the basis of statistics, the gross domestic product on the basis of statistics, the retail price index on the basis of statistics, we may be able to drive out of the minds of hon. members some of the trivia and malicious episodes such as unfortunately characterise our debates from time to time.

6.55 p.m.

I think that when we can talk in the House about matters like unemployment on the basis of statistics, the Gross Domestic Product on the basis of statistics, the retail price index on the basis of statistics, we will be able to drive out of the minds of hon. members some of the trivia and malicious episodes such as unfortunately characterise our debates from time to tome. I hope there will be no need for anybody to be called a Goebels if you can read the facts down in black and white.

The fact of the household budget survey is going to mean that quarterly statistics of unemployment however cannot easily be collected, and what we are going to have to do is to collect half yearly statistics for the year 1978, because the household budget arrangements are being made into two successive blocks. They are going to be made the six months from April onwards and the six months from September onwards, so I anticipate that the unemployment statistics will be collected for the first quarter of the year, for the third quarter of the year and for the second quarter of 1979, so hon. members will only get two divisions this year instead of the expected three.

There is also another point which was made by the hon. member for St. John in his speech on the second reading about the necessity of having the budget later rather than earlier because the figures are incomplete. I would draw to the attention of hon. members that budgets are generally predicated on the activity of a calendar year. Generally you announce figures for the calendar year just passed on how the economy performed during 1977 rather than 1977–78. Under the old regime the Statistical Department was not pressed to produce figures even for the year past after five or six months, but I have made it abundantly clear that we expect from the Statistical Department up to date statistics of an economic sort, of a trade sort and of a vital sort in the sense of population statistics, so that the statistical service has been able in the last 15 months once it has understood what is really needed of it, and once the members have understood that we demand efficiency to produce accurate figures for trade, and I think relatively accurate figures for quarterly population end of period, and also of revision of employment statistics.

We have had one or two little unfortunate circumstances with the tourist statistics during the middle of 1977, but the backlog of this is being cleared up. We have got the unemployment statistics to a sufficiently refined stage where it is possible for us to look and say that the peak of unemployment reached in the last quarter of 1975 of 22%, Mr. Chairman, has been reduced to a level of between 15 and 16%. It did indeed fall to 13% at one stage during our regime, but it is levelling off higher than that and we are getting a

better picture of the age structure of unemployment, and the problem with which we really have to deal. All of this is very important and it depends on an up to date active and working statistical service.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $71,720 under Head 8(9) – Statistical Services – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

HEAD 108 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: In the Analysis of Expenditure, Sir, it is necessary to make certain amendments; $500,000 needs to be added to the figure of $3,791,859. That should read $4,291,859, and the total figure should read $8,200,513. It does not tally with the amount sought to be voted.

I beg to move that the sum of $8,200,513 under Capital Expenditure – Head 108 – Ministry of Finance and Planning – as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I would just draw to hon. members' attention before I formally move the Head that it is expected that during the year substantial work will be done on the Flour Mill and at the bulk storage facility down at the Harbour. We are receiving applications for the use of this facility, we are also considering the use of the lands to which I have already referred on the north east of the facility along the proposed new highway, and hon. members may also be interested to know that at Inland Revenue we will be buying a computer. The number of income tax payers, Sir, is only in the region of 60,000, although there are around 90,000 jobs in Barbados. In the course of a year indeed perhaps 91 or 92 thousand jobs will be filled, for the number of people who are going to work in the course of a year is 91 or 92 thousand, but only 60,000 of them are income tax payers, people who make returns to Inland Revenue.

At present the retrieval system is very poor, somebody has to go and look for a file, Sir, and it is hoped to computerise all the income tax accounts during the forthcoming year. Well, it is hoped to buy the computer to make a start at computerising the income tax accounts. I do not like screwing the last penny out of people, Sir, but it is something that I emphasise that if everybody paid some, those of us who pay now perhaps might pay a little less. You have to charge more when some are avoiding; if everybody bore his share of payment of income tax we might not have to be having a top rate of 70% and to have the burden of substantial rates go on so early in the scale, and that is our purpose in trying to streamline the accounts. This year I think there was particular strain because I think they were well over 30,000 refunds paid this year. Some refunds were paid by reason of the last Government giving a credit to dividend holders, receivers of dividends – that is the rich people's credit – some were made as a result of this Government giving a credit of $60 to individual taxpayers with a gross income of less than $500 monthly and a very great number were given to people who were building houses or otherwise embarking on activities that could attract tax relief and who were also subjected to P.A.Y.E. during the year.
7.05 p.m.

No less than $9 million was returned to payers of income tax this year as compared with $5 million last year, and that is why the collections fell over the first ten months from $55 million to $54 million, not $45 million as reported in the Press. It is because we had to make the extra returns and this places a great burden on the backs of the revenue officers. We hope the computer will improve collections and the payment of refunds to taxpayers. I beg to move that the sum of $7,399,173 under Head 108 – Ministry of Finance and Planning – stand part of the Schedule.

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

The question that the sum of $7,399,173 under Head 108 – Ministry of Finance and Planning – stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 20 – PENSIONS

Head 20 – Pensions – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. ADAMS: Head 20, Sir, has shown a decrease because the national insurance may be taking up some of the strain. Nevertheless, the payment of pensions continues to be very heavy on the Government. The total vote is $13¾ million.

I beg to move that the sum of $3,642,000 under Head 20 – Pensions – stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

The question that the sum of $3,642,000 under Head 20 – Pensions – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 21 – CHARGES OF DEBT

Head 21 – Charges of Debt – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Charges of Debt be amended as set out in the circulated amendments. There is no money to be voted on net charges of debt, but hon. members may care to know that the net increase in charges of debt has been reduced. The net increase would have been $8.88 million, but recalculation of some of the amounts – repayments and so on – will mean that the total increase in charges of debt will be only $5.8 million. The total expenditure will be reduced to $42 million.

I beg to move that the Head as amended stand part.

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

HEAD 22 – LOANS AND ADVANCES

Head 22 – Loans and Advances – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sir, I beg to move that the sum of $3,605,000 under Head 22 – Loans and Advances – stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 9 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & CONSUMER AFFAIRS – (1) – DIRECTION AND POLICY FORMULATION

Head 9 – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs (1) Direction and Policy Formulation – was called.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, under Head 9(1) I beg to move that in Note 16(a) the figure "58" against Rothamstead Experimental Station be deleted and the figure "48" be inserted; also that Note 17 be amended by adding the words "and one typewriter".

Mr. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

The question that the sum of $1,066,270 under Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs – (1) Direction and Policy Formulation – as amended, stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 9(2) – AGRICULTURAL FARMS AND STATIONS

Head 9(2) – Agricultural Farms and Stations – was called.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, under Head 9(2), I beg to move that certain of the Notes be amended as follows:

Under Item 3 delete the figure "2,880" under column "Other Expenditure" and insert the figure "10,080"; and insert the figure "7,200" under column "Increase".

Under "Total Personal Emoluments", delete the figure "330,028" under column "Other Expenditure" and insert the figure "337,228"; delete the figure "227,372" under column "Increase" and insert the figure "234,572".

Under "Total Recurrent" – delete the figure "403,822" under column "Other Expenditure" and insert the figure "411,022"; delete the figure "241,503" under column "Increase" and insert the figure "248,703".

Under "Total Expenditure" delete the figure "420,127" under column "Other Expenditure" and insert the figure "427,327"; delete the figure "254,069" under column "Increase" and insert the figure "261,269".

Under "Summary" delete the figure "505,751" against "Total Expenditure 1978–79" and insert the figure "512,951"; delete the figure "250,759" against "Net Increase" and insert the figure "257,959".

Under "Agricultural Farms and Stations" we can say the Ministry is now reorganizing the services provided to the station. We are going to consolidate the work being carried on and we hope to make a saving from this operation and provide more efficient services.

With these amendments, Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 9(2) as amended for the sum of $427,327 stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

The question that the sum of $427,327 under Head 9(2) Agricultural Farms and Stations – as amended – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

On the motion of Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, seconded by Mr. BRADSHAW, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the Sitting until 8 p.m.
7.15 p.m.

On the Resumption:

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

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

HEAD 9(3) – AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION

Head 9 (3) – Agricultural Extension in the sum of $793,097 was called.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the amendments as circulated be incorporated in this Head.

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

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

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Head as amended stand part.

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

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

HEAD 9(4) – AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Head 9(4) – Agricultural Research in the sum of $1,093,866 was called.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the amendments as circulated be incorporated in this Head.

Hon. DeL. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, in moving that Head 9(4) stand part, I would like to tell the Chamber that we have been looking at the expenses involved in agricultural research very seriously. What we are now attempting to do, Mr. Chairman, what will happen in the new financial year, is that we are going to incorporate research into a plan for growing new crops. As you know, the Government thrust is to increase beyond sugar agriculture. We want to increase our vegetable production, and I must say how happy I am that the farmers of Barbados have responded to the call to produce more food for local consumption. The situation as it stands today is that we have got cabbages in surplus; we have got beans in surplus and we have got carrots in surplus. We organise our agricultural research by such a method now that we are incorporating the farmers into our discussions. We are co-ordinating the work of the Ministry with the work of the farmers in the country so that we will not be carrying out research in specific crops when the farmers are growing something else. We intend to merge the research work into the growing of crops so that we save on expenses which were carried on previously so that crops were grown specifically for research particularly in the enthomological section, the plant quarantine section; but we will now do that work as part and parcel of the total development.

The stations have all been reactivated and the work will now be scattered throughout all the stations so that we can have results which are meaningful in the various climatic conditions that exist in Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, with that I beg to move that Head 9(4) in the sum of $1,093,866 stand part.

Hon. DeL. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 9(5) – MARKETS

Head 9(5) – Markets – in the sum of $326,909 was called.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 9(5) – Markets – in the sum of $326,909 stand part.

Hon. DeL. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I want to ask the Minister two questions. First of all, what is the Ministry's intention about the former market at Six Roads or the market area at Six Cross Roads in St. Philip? I want to know what positive plans, if any, the Government has? I have asked this question since 1976, again last year, and I am asking it again for the third and last time. I want something positive for the people of St. Philip. Secondly I want to inquire why the B.M.C. has not indicated to the general public whether they intends to have a depot in St. Philip. I hear about

depots, at Eden Lodge, in St. James, St. Peter and all over the place. I do not hear about any for St. Philip.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman, last year I mentioned the fact that the Cheapside Market, as you look at it from the road leading to the deep water harbour is very unsightly. I do not know what the entire plans are for that area; but while I am not an architect, I would certainly believe that anybody who went down there – some Service Club has done the other side of the road very beautifully – but that market is a disgrace to this country as it looks towards the main road to the area where the ships come in; and I do believe that Government could do something to beautify that market. It is any eyesore.

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, before I answer the hon. member for St. Philip North *(cheers)* I would like to bring the Government's attention to the Fairchild Street Market this time, and the Eagle Hall Market, because in these two facilities the Barbados Marketing Corporation has a depot; but it has been brought to our attention over at the B.M.C. that the maintenance of sanitary facilities at these markets is in a bad state. As a matter of fact, Sir, people consistently use the area to the back of the B.M.C. Fairchild Street depot as a urinal; and apart from the fact that it smells offensive, this certainly, in my estimation, poses a threat to health.

I see here under Maintenance of Property, Item 6, there is provision for repairs, maintenance and servicing of refrigeration plant etc. and I am wondering if there is any provision in the current Estimates for the updating of the sanitary facilities in these two locations. It is urgently required because there are large numbers of people using the sanitary facilities in these two locations; and even if conditions were up to standard, the fact that there are so many people using the facilities, it poses problems for the facilities. One can imagine what it would be like if the conditions are sub-standard and large volumes of people are still using the services.

With respect to the question of the hon. member for St. Philip North, the Barbados Marketing Corporation does not at this particular moment contemplate any further expansion of depot service for the simple reason that we have undertaken to control the volume of losses that we are experiencing at the present facilities; and until we have brought this problem under control, it would be foolhardy to go ahead and open additional facilities.
8.10 p.m.

Now we are conscious of the fact that people do require a service, but, Sir, as we will indicate perhaps in another place at another time, the Barbados Marketing Corporation is in a loss position and these depots are commercial extensions of the BMC, hence they get no Government subsidy and our aim is to make certain that every single depot is able to pay its own way, and unless we can get to that position I do not believe we can be reasonably expected to go ahead and expand the facilities.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, first of all let me answer about the Six Roads market. We have been looking at the cost of operating the abattoir in Bridgetown for a long time. The last Government passed a Public Health Bill which prevented the country butchers from carrying on their trade. Now we believe in giving everybody a share of the cake. There is a question of updating the abattoir at the BMC or extending the services of the abattoir to the country. We have set up in the Ministry of Agriculture a Committee to look into how feasible it would be to either refurbish the existing abattoir or set up three or four small abattoirs around the country. Six Roads has been identified as one of the sites that the Committee should recognise where a abattoir would be placed. As you know the Barbados Workers' Union is building a number of houses not far from Six Roads and therefore it would be necessary that we develop a market at Six Roads when the time arrives. We have not made plans for it in these Estimates because although we were hoping the Committee would give us the report, the Committee has not yet reported and it is useless voting sums of money which would lapse in these Estimates for them to be revoted next year. So Six Roads is definitely under consideration by the Ministry because you are going to have an industrial sector there and the area would be developed in due course.

We have looked at the Cheapside Market. The position is that people used the back of the Cheapside Market as a place for exhibiting cattle for sale and therefore it is quite insanitary at times. It would cost a considerable amount to put the whole area in order as has been recommended, and at a time of restraint like this we consider it would be futile to put concrete in that place. When the plans come in we will let the House know.

I therefore beg to move that the sum of $326,909 under Head 9 – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs (5) Markets – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to second that. Sir, the Minister of Agriculture did mention that there is a hive of activity going on at Mangrove where the Barbados Workers' Union is carrying out some building activity, and that some industrial activity will also be going on at Six Roads. As I understand it the Minister is saying that he is actually going to wait until they have

completed the building at Mangrove and the development of the industrial centre at Six Roads to determine exactly how they are going about the market and so on in that area. I wonder if the Minister in order to speed up these things would get in touch with the Barbados Workers' Union and find out from them how many houses they plan to build, the projected time they would take to build and he and his colleagues can determine what industrial action is going on there, so that he would be in a position to start the market rather than wait until the houses are built and the industrial activity ceases. I wonder if the Minister would take this into consideration.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am thankful to the hon. member for St. James for his suggestion. We have already looked at this. One of the things we have been looking at particularly in the rural areas is trying to get people involved in the distributive trade. We recognise in the Ministry of Agriculture that the hawker today is a vital part of the distributive operations in Barbados. We have looked at the market as I said, but we are waiting until we get the report from the Committee looking into the abattoir. As soon as we get that we will be able to reorganise the existing building at Six Roads. As a matter of fact we even looked at the development in Tweedside Road to take the hawkers off the side walk and put them in a proper market so that we can facilitate the consumers of this country. We are particularly worried that the prices of vegetables are probably the least that they have ever been over the past three of four years, but when the commodities reach Bridgetown the consumers are still paying very high for them. For example, a farmer told me last week that he was selling cabbage at 35 cents a pound in his yard, but they were reaching St. James at $1.80 per pound. If you can have localised markets where people are aware of farm prices, the consumer himself would regulate the prices of the distributive trade, and it is in this region that we are looking at these markets to see what facilities we have to put in. If we look at the Cheapside Market starting from last year we provided proper covers because we are improving the market. We know that hawkers go into the country and purchase products and bring them to town, and as soon as we get the abattoir which is most expensive to build and operate, we will put in a piece for a plant.

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, some time ago when I appeared on a television programme with the young people, they were asking the same sort of questions as the hon. member for St. Philip North, and at that time I mentioned a programme which we at the BMC are now examining. Now the programme is a franchise arrangement which the BMC would initiate, but instead of staffing and providing all the facilities necessary for the running of a distributive centre, we would want to attract some enterprising entrepeneur, perhaps a hawker who has had extensive experience in distributing and handling vegetables and produce particularly and we would set up a facility for him in a location that is identified as being in need of such a service, and that person, while he is self-employed, would be a franchise dealer with the Barbados Marketing Corporation. He would buy all the produce from us and sell it at the prices that the BMC attempts to maintain, and it is our prices that are generally lower than any place else in Barbados.
8.20 p.m.

This facility I feel would give us the opportunity to expand the distribution outlets and answer some of the questions that the Hon. Minister has just touched on, the question of distribution where cabbages can be produced at one source at 35 cents a pound and reach the market at a dollar and change per pound. We are trying to solve this kind of problem and it is fundamentally a distribution problem.

This franchise problem that I have just outlined in brief would help us to solve this and it would put opportunities in the hands of people. Instead of people looking to the Barbados Government for a salary it would give them the opportunity to use their initiative to become self employed and thus become employers. I believe that that programme would guarantee a fair measure of success for the distribution outlet because when people are running their own business they exercise a great deal more caution than if they are running a programme for the Government, because people tend sometimes to think that the Government is a bottomless pit so far as money is concerned and they do not pay as much attention to details as they should, but we feel that under this franchise, the programme for vegetable and produce distribution, people will become employed and will thus provide employment for others and solve the problem of distribution.

The question that the sum of $326,909 under Head 9(5) – Markets stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

HEAD 9(6) – LAND DEVELOPMENT AND SOIL CONSERVATION

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, there is an amendment which was not circulated. Under Note 9 the words "buildings and" should be inserted before the word "roads". With that amendment, I beg to move that the sum of $1,019,531 under Head 9(6) – Land Development and Soil Conservation – as amended stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

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

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

HEAD 9(7) – PLAND PROTECTION

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $332,108 under Head 9(7) – Plant Protection – stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I just wish to point out to the Government that the note to Item 10 has a spelling error. There is something wrong with the Government's printers or proof readers. I see here "Provision for the purchase of 1 Regrigerator". That would have to be amended and I suggest that the Hon. Minister moves the necessary amendment, otherwise you might hear that when the Opposition were the Government they used to make mistakes but now you do not expect mistakes from the present Government.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am very thankful to the hon. member who is sitting on the Opposition benches. I hope that that disease is not contagious because if he moves back over to this side he might tend to bring the disease back with him. I was once told back in 1971 that typographical errors are corrected at printing and there is nothing wrong according to the rules if it is a printing error. But to satisfy the member, I beg to move that the word "Regrigerator" be deleted and the word "refrigerator" be inserted.

With that amendment I beg to move that the sum of $332,108 under Head 9(7) – Plant Protection – stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

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

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

HEAD 9(8) – FISHERIES

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the amendments as circulated under Head 9(8) – Fisheries – be now incorporated.

Mr. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, in respect of Head 9(8) – Fisheries – the Government is extremely concerned over the operation of what are called coastal fishing boats in this country. Probably within the last six months we have had a number of fishing boats going astray and within the last couple of weeks we had as many as 29 fishing boats missing. In the Ministry we have looked at plans for training fishermen. Those plans include maintenance, fishing techniques, navigational skills, seamanship and life saving. One of the things that is worrying us is that fishermen constantly refuse to equip their boats with proper navigational equipment. We believe that fishermen in their own interest should become acquainted with the various navigational aids that are available and use them before putting to sea.
8.30 p.m.

Last month there was rough weather off Barbados and some twenty nine fishing boats were missing. The stories about what happened at that time are fantastic, with one fisherman saying "This way to Barbados" and another saying "No, that way." And there is one story told of a pleasure yacht that found a group heading in the wrong direction. One of the people on the yacht enquired if they had any navigational aids and one fisherman replied "yes" but he could not read them.

Last year at a Bajan contest at Marine House I made a statement about sea eggs. We never said at that time that we were going to ban sea eggs. But we carried out a fishing exercise in which two ships from Trinidad came to Barbados and accompanied seven boats to sea. There was no proper coordination because the fishermen themselves disobeyed orders. But there is no doubt about it that they made a lot of money during the fishing exercise. One boat in two days brought that fisherman $951. But they broke ranks and went in various directions. One boat went to Martinique and the crew came to the Ministry after they returned and said they liked the operation but you must organize training courses and we would recommend that you enforce attendance so that fishermen can be taught the use of navigational aids.

Barbados belongs to Caribbean Fisheries Institute based in Trinidad and we agreed for lecturers at the institute to come to Barbados and carry on lectures. But what has happened? All of the Caribbean countries that should have sent fishermen to the Institute have not found it possible to do so this year. This raises another point. Barbados is one of the countries that sends people to the Institute and we got a telephone

message at the Ministry not to send our candidates after we have picked them and they were due to leave, and this was because the institute did not have enough candidates with which to start the course. We have now been told that four other Governments cannot support the Institute this year. The latest information we received is that it would take $1 million to run the Institute for a year and that the contributions of two countries cannot do it. There are other countries in the region that would like to send candidates but have not got the money. The Government is therefore planning its own development at Oistin and we would like to train the fishermen in the area in the techniques of fishing. The plan of the Ministry is that the facilities should be set up and run by fishermen as a cooperative; the Government would provide the basic infrastructure and let the fishermen run the operation. We will try to organize this year as best we can some sort of training for fishermen. It is useless having fishermen go to sea and then not returning, for then you have to call out the coast guard and air rescue services because fishermen are lost through leaving the shore without basic navigational aids. Another story coming out is that one fisherman had a radio on board but did not know how to switch it on. So we are looking at the training of fishermen.

In the Speightstown area we are looking at an overall development – shifting the road way, removing the dangerous bend at the Speightstown pier, and the Speightstown fishing development will take place in the total development of the fishing context.

In the Bathsheba area we have already had three inspections of Tent Bay and we have had one or two ideas about what we can do at Tent Bay and are carrying on investigations for the development of Tent Bay.

I know the hon. member for St. Philip is worried about Skeete Bay and one of the things I would say here is that we have set up in the Ministry of Agriculture a Fisheries Development Committee. For this we are drawing on the University of the West Indies, on private marine biologists and on the fishermen themselves and we are hoping that the fishermen will attend the meetings. It is useless thinking that Government can sit down and think what is the best for fishermen. We are not the ones going to sea; it is the fishermen, and it is for them to tell us exactly what their needs are and for us to do it as best we can within the limits of our finances. That is as much as I can say at the moment and I will be willing to answer any questions to the best of my ability.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Chairman, fishing has a prominent place in my constituency and I too have been attracted to Head 9(8) Item 7, the Note to which reads: "Provides for recovery of fishing boats adrift; also provides for repatriation of crew". And much as I am grateful to the Minister for the remarks he has just made, I very much hope that I can stimulate him, as a result of my comments, into making a more comprehensive statement as to what his Ministry proposes to do for fishermen in general. I don't think it is quite good enough simply to identify the problem that fishermen do not have navigational skills, that many of them do not have compasses, that they go out there at great risk to themselves and that great risk is a massive investment of plant. I think that we have long identified the problem in this country and I thought that by now the Minister would have moved to the point where he would be saying today "we know what the problems are and here is a package of new measures to deal with the problems."

Now I want to know from the Minister how he proposes to correct this deficiency in the training, equipment, and the training of these fishermen in general. Does he propose to introduce legislation making it compulsory for them to carry these aids? Now I know it would be difficult to police this legislation, but legislation has a great educative value. The majority of people are law-abiding and will try to conform to laws passed so I wonder if the Minister can tell us whether he proposes to pass legislation making the equipping of boats with these facilities compulsory.

I want to make an additional point; fishing boats today are very expensive; the days of the cheap fishing boats have long since passed. Indeed it now takes in excess of $25,000 to have a well equipped fishing boat, and we are witnessing the situation in this country where the ownership of fishing boats is passing more and more out of the reaches of the resources of the small man. The big men in this country now – the merchant class, the planter class, the professional class – are going into fishing, but the man who earns his living out there fishing is not getting the opportunity to own a fishing boat; they have become too expensive. And one of the problems that face these fishermen is that in the past they have not been able to get any aid from the Barbados Development Bank.

8.40 p.m.

I believe that the Bank has recently been lending one or two, but part of the problem is that they have never regarded fishing boats as security on the basis of which they could back a loan. I hope that the new Insurance Corporation will look into this and allow them to use their boats as security. The point I wish to make further is that unless the Government comes up with some scheme, that is another reason why small fishermen will not be able to own boats in the future. I hope that the Minister will come to realise the need for

a new deal from the Government in order to help these fishermen.

They have not improved the sophistication of their boats over the last 50 years. I believe they will be prepared to spend 3 nights a week equipping themselves and that is not enough. I say with great respect that that only points in a very limited way at their problems. It is time for the Minister to tell us what he proposes to do by helping them to fill the gaps of which he has spoken.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, there is much in what the member for Christ Church said, I would prefer that the Government set up a scheme. There has been too much talk about the Ministry of Agriculture taking steps and planning and not sufficient action. To my mind I cannot take more than six months for the planning and implementation of a scheme, and CBC should have no difficulty in advertising at specified times that there will be seminars for fishermen to be held at St. Catherine's School over the next six months teaching fishermen something or the other. The schools seem to be made very little use of in the evenings. If that system fails, and we still have to occupy our minds with the safety of the fishermen, then we will need more manditory letters to get them to apply. Let it be understood, if you are going to make it manditory or compulsory, that these things cost money.

I would like to hear what plans the Government has for exempting these things from duty if they are dutiable. If it is a compulsory scheme, what contribution is the Government prepared to make by way of a grant? The fishermen at Skeete's Bay have a very simple request to make of the Government. For years they have been promising them, and we have got nothing. The facility there consists of virtually nothing but a concrete shed. Last year we were able to get a shower unit there. What is badly needed is a changing facility. I do not believe that it would cost the Government $10,000 to put down a changing facility and have a proper running water facility. This is part of the island where sea eggs are caught in great quantities. When fishermen come out of the sea they have to urinate just a little way of. It is not a healthy practice. I hope that in some area of the budget the Government will find it possible to give a little money to help us. I am making this appeal because it deals with a question that needs to be rectified.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to the two members for expressing their views about fishermen. There is, however, something which they do not understand. The Ministry has been operating in difficult conditions since this Government came into power. The Ministry was operating without a senior Fisheries Officer. That officer was ill for a long time, and he has now retired. We have been able to recruit a Marine Biologist, but he will not be able to take up his duties until the 1st April. That means that the Ministry is operating with one Fisheries Officer. As I have said, the senior officer went ill and has retired when the junior officer was away in Australia on a six months training course. That shows you the constraints we were working under.

I have drawn up basic plans for training fishermen in the care of their boats. Over and above that we were hoping that an officer from the Fisheries Institute in Trinidad could come and assist us with training. I think that he is a FAO Officer. We had our problems, but he has been withdrawn. We have even looked at a new type of fishing boat. Those plans are still there, but there is no one to assist us with them. When we have a new senior officer and a Marine Biologist we will be able to carry through most of the plans.

On the question of fishing boats being out of the hands of the people who do the fishing, we have looked at the rules under which the Barbados Development Bank was operating and the Government was worried about the question of loans to fishermen. Now that we have established a new institution, we have said that the boats can be used as security and that in the near future, loans will be made to people who own the boats themselves.

8.50 p.m.

The Ministry of Agriculture has also been recommending to the Barbados Development Bank persons whom they believe could best benefit from new boats, but as the hon. member for Christ Church East has said, the price of boats has gone extremely high. Quotations run from $70,000 to $120,000. We are also looking at the type of boat that can be constructed in Barbados in order to bring boat building back to Barbados for any new type boat we are looking for. The Ministry is looking at a larger type fishing boat. One must remember that the existing fishing boat in Barbados was the creation of the Barbados Labour Party. Nothing has been done in fishing since 1961 when the Barbados Labour Party went out of power. You cannot make plans overnight and get them off the drawing board; it takes a bit of coordination and if you have not got the technical advice, you must ask for technical aid. The Ministry is seeking to get the necessary technical aid to get fishing going again.

On the question of compulsory legislation, Mr. Chairman, it would have its supporters and it would have those who oppose compulsory legislation. We have been looking in the Ministry at the sum which has been granted for maintenance. We will be asking the Ministry of Finance to waive duty on fishing equipment wherever fishermen approach the Ministry and ask for that

because we believe that the cost of shipping equipment has now doubled. We have looked at nets, and we plan to approach ISL on the selling of nets and various parts to fishermen, because this has been a complaint, and we are trying our best to see how best we can help the fisherman to get back in full time because we look at fishing as a vital part of the economy that can be doubled, and therefore, Mr. Chairman, we are not sitting idly by. As soon as we get persons who can do the training, we will then be able to put the plans into operation.

I beg to move that the sum of $153,444 under Head 9 – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs (8) Fisheries – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, just before you put the question, the Hon. Minister said that since the Barbados Labour Party nothing has been done about fisheries in Barbados, but hon. members who normally sit on this side would disagree with him and remind him of the creation of International Seafoods which has landed our Government in an $11 million debt.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: I believe the hon. member should look at International Seafoods like you look at the Coast Guard. When hon. members on this side were sitting over there, I remember the hon. member for St. John saying he did not want any big foot or varicose vein people in the Coast Guard. When International Seafoods was coming back into operation, the hon. member for St. Peter who is now Speaker asked in a Resolution that International Seafoods be structured so as to include the ordinary fisherman, and we were told that they did not want fishermen in International Seafoods either, but what we are trying to do is to bring fishermen in line with the modern day boats which are owned by International Seafoods, and as you heard the Prime Minister say earlier, we are looking at the total fishing cooperative which would be able to advance fishing in the country.

The question that the sum of $153,444 under Head 9 – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs (8) Fisheries, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 9 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (9) LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

Head 9 – Ministry Of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs (9) Livestock Development – was called.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,033,294 under Head 9 – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs (9) Livestock Development – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 9 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (10) ANALYTICAL SERVICES

Head 9 – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs (10) Analytical Services – was called.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $75,159 under Head 9 – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs (10) Analytical Services – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 9 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (11) METEOROLOGY

Head 9 – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs (11) Meteorology – was called.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $108,041 under Head 9 – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs (11) Meteorology, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 9 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFARS (12) CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Head 9 – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs (12) Co-operative Development – was called.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say under this Head that the Cabinet has approved a new structure for the Co-operative Movement in Barbados. We believe that Co-operatives can play a rather meaningful part in the development of this country. Cabinet has approved a foundation and I can announce that some time next month, I believe it is either the 9th and 10th or 8th and 9th April we will be conducting a seminar for the leaders of all

Co-operatives in Barbados whereby an ILO/DANIDA expert who is based in Trinidad will be coming to Barbados, and they will be discussing the new legislation which will be necessary for the implementation of the Cabinet decision.

Co-operatives in Barbados have had a very rough time. You have had persons joining Co-operative Movements. The laws, as I see it, are rather inadequate. One of the problems, Mr. Chairman, is that the Co-operative Movement cannot hold an annual general meeting until the books are audited, but those who are responsible for submitting the books to be audited never submit the books to be audited and therefore you cannot have a meeting. Nine years may pass and the Co-operative Movement will fold up and those persons who have invested in the operation lose their money and this is disenchanting as far as Co-operatives are concerned. We believe that with a foundation so structured people will be able to make plans of the right sort and then co-operatives will flourish in Barbados. Another thing in the Co-operative Movement which I disagree with entirely is that you could not bring a matter before the Courts unless the Registrar initiates it, and actually he can only bring him up on the basis of awards, and this has been like an albatross around the neck of co-operatives in this country. We believe that a foundation can get over this. We have been looking at the legislation, we have had discussions with experts in Trinidad and this stage will be the stage where we will look at the legislation, and as I have said before, if we can get all the leaders of the co-operatives and credit unions participating in this exercise, we should come up with a set of laws that are satisfactory to everybody. I promise that before that, when the draft legislation is prepared, it will be circulated so that everybody will have a view so that we can look at any shortcomings. I said before that I do not believe that the Government has got all the intelligence in this country, and I believe they should make laws to satisfy the majority of people, and therefore when this is done we should have what I believe is a new Co-operative Movement which could be of benefit to everybody in Barbados.

I beg to move that the sum of $16,190 under Head 9 – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs (12) Co-operatives Development – stand part of the Schedule.

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

9.00 p.m.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, what I have not heard from the Minister – he has told us about the approval of a foundation by Cabinet for all co-ops – I have not heard to what extent this foundation is to be funded. I see something here that does not make a lot of sense to me.

Let us begin by conceding that the coperative movement presently and hitherto has had an unhappy history. I cannot see that statutory expenditure can be in the sum of $50,128 – I am not debating it, Sir – and annual expenditure apart from emoluments is only $16,190, so you are paying people $50,000 which is a lot of money, to spend a little. Unless I am to be told that Government is holding back on Other Expenditure this year with a view to regularising the co-op movement and put it on a proper foundation, but this surely is disproportionate to whatever activity you are expecting to get out of it, and unless this is so it really cannot be justified. I am over here now and I feel like even voting against it, but I have a special plea of great significance to make in respect of one particular cooperative, the Marley Vale Cooperative Society.

Some years ago in a different capacity. I had some connection with the Marley Vale Cooperative, I was on the other side with them in a legal matter, but the cooperative is in my constituency. They are trying to get out of the red, they are trying to refurbish their image, they are trying to provide a useful service for the people in the eastern part of St. Philip and I believe that they are making a good effort at great odds.

Now this cooperative owed the Government $8,816. They approached Government, or a bank I think it was, for $30,000. The loan was approved and the members assumed that $24,000 which they were given would have satisfied their needs, but the $30,000 included a sum for building a garage, buying a new plough and othe extra equipment. At present the tractor for example sleeps at Mr. George Hunte's house with a tarpaulin over it, which is not satisfactory at all. They need the plough, the plough from Plantrac costs $3,200 and they have planned and are holding a fair in May this year with a view to defraying some of their expenses. I have suggested to them that if they help themselves, or show that they want to help themselves, that Government would be interested in reviewing their case, because I believe it is the policy of the Government to assist once the person who is begging shows that he is doing something for himself also.

Now I am being told to come home, but I have a case to put for the Marley Vale Cooperative, and as was said on this side earlier today, you have to be fair to me, Sir, give me a chance, all I am asking for is a chance. Plantrac was asked to provide some credit for this plough and four members of the cooperative provided guarantees for $9,000 and Plantrac got a first mortgage, but the cooperative is still about $7,000 adrift and they are hoping that Government could find it possible to grant them a quarter of the $7,000, but they really need $7,000 and they are asking if Government could assist them.

The membership of the cooperative has changed. I know that for example Mr. George Hunte, who is the Secretary, has had to be paying various bills out of his own pocket. Some of the people who used to be officers have left the cooperative, or certainly are not functioning at the moment. I believe that in the officer body of the cooperative now that they have people of good repute. Mr. Jackman, who is well known to the Minister from Wiltshire, he is the President and Mr. Lisle Clarke is the Vice-President. *(Aside)* Nothing will deter me from exercising my right of speech in here, it is one of the privileges claimed for us by the Speaker when this Session opened.

I wish the Minister could look favourably at the case of the Marley Vale Cooperative Society and give them some assistance, and I would also wish to hear from the Minister about this disparity in 1978 between Statutory Expenditure and Other Expenditure.

Mr. SISNETT: Before the Minister sums up, Mr. Chairman, I would just like to ask one question concerning the use of Codrington House which was a plantation some time ago and it has been closed for some time. Last year it was used to hold a fair and some 50 acres of land there is lying idle. I would like to know what the Minister has in mind for Codrington House.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, in the first place the sums that are allocated for cooperatives deal strictly with salaries, travelling allowances, etc. Where cooperatives put up projects that are approved then one would see the vote under cooperatives increased. There have been no projects put up by the cooperative movement this year and therefore there is no necessity to increase the sums.

The question of the Marley Vale Cooperative is a rather difficult case, because the hon. member knows full well that if you take a certain step with the Marley Vale Cooperative what you are likely to open yourself to in several other cooperative movements in Barbados, and the Government has to be rather careful how it makes grants, otherwise it may be setting a peculiar precedent.

Codrington House has been allocated to a number of international agencies which are coming to Barbados shortly. The house will be used for the IADB project team in the Scotland District, the Ministry of Agriculture's new project, the Farm School for teaching etc., and we are cultivating the lands at Codrington. I am grateful to the hon. member for raising the question of Codrington lands. Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Agriculture has been trying to bring Codrington back into cultivation from the time we came into power, but we have suffered from serious praedial larceny not only at Codrington but on many other Government lands, and many farmers in Barbados are suffering from praedial larceny. I am saying here now, and I have no fear about it, I would like to let those who administer the law know that when farmers go out and plant their crops and the police risk their lives to apprehend people who take what they did not plant, I am expecting the courts to do justice. I am expecting a severe penalty to fall on the heads of those who walk about and organise bands and break canes and carry away crops and everything farmers plant in this country.
9.10 p.m.

I am more than shocked and amazed that within the last two or three months persons caught and taken before the court have been convicted. reprimanded and discharged and put on probation. And I am dissatisfied that those who should administer the law do not seem to play their full part in this exercise. Last week I went to Graeme Hall and a number of men were unlawfully digging potatoes from a field and refused to leave. When you call the police they say "Why should we risk our lives".

At Codrington three boys were arrested and taken to the Criminal Investigation Department and brought before the magistrate. By evening they were back out and laughing at us. I am more than amazed that magistrates in this country do not seem to understand the policy of Government and will not try to control praedial larceny. When such people are convicted it is for the magistrate to do their duty for the community at large.

I beg to move that the sum of $16,190 under Head 9(12) – Co-operative Development stand part of the Schedule.

The question that the sum of $16,190 under Head 9(12) – Co-operative Development – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 9(13) – AGRICULTURAL CREDIT BANK

Head 9(13) – Agricultural Credit Bank – was called.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, you will note that the amount under Head 9(13), Agricultural Credit Bank has been considerably reduced. There is no reduction in the lending activity to small farmers, that is, farmers having less than 25 acres, but a new financial institution will take over the activities of the Agricultural Credit Bank, and therefore the sum under this Head is a winding up operation of the Bank in its present form.

I beg to move Sir, that the sum of $44,640 under Head 9(13) – Agricultural Credit Bank – stand part of the Schedule.

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

The question that the sum of $44,640 under Head 9(13) – Agricultural Credit Bank – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 9(14) – PRICE CONTROL

Head 9(14) Price Control – was called.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, this Head gives me an opportunity to answer the hon. member for St. John who spoke about coming back from abroad and not being able to see anything on the shelves of the supermarkets; that you can now run not rats but circus animals in supermarkets. I am at a loss at the remarks of the hon. member for St. John for I don't know how in just a couple of days he is an authority on this situation. At one time his administration was choking the businessmen of this country because he said that the businessmen were ripping off the consumers. But the merchants showed that under their administration 400 shopkeepers had gone out of business. Now he comes back and say that we are running the merchants out of business. I do not understand this at all.

People talk about scarcity in shops. In our Manifesto we said we would move from a percentage mark-up to a monetary mark-up, and only yesterday we granted an adjustment or slight increases to nearly some 23 items on supermarkets shelves. When we took up office sardines were sold in Barbados by only one company, with small vans running around the country. We adjusted the price of sardines so that they could be sold in all the country districts. Our policy is to remove as many things as possible from price control.

The hon. member said that soap and detergents are no longer luxury goods. You do not control luxury goods, you control essentials. What we have done is to remove the foolish things they had under price control, such as Epsom Salts, castor oil, and such like. We have decontrolled baby foods because we feel that competition will take care of that. But one cannot get up over night and with one stroke of a pen decontrol everything. We have been looking at a whole package of activities and are trying to help everybody.

Mr. Chairman, before moving that this Head stand part I would just move that the word "cut" be deleted from the second line of Note 7.

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

The question that the sum of $199,286 under Head 9(14) – Price Control – as amended, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 9(15) – PUBLIC UTILITIES

Head 9(15) – Public Utilities – was called.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, in moving that this Head stand part I would just mention that although this sum is voted it is recoverable because, as explained in Note 2, the expenses represent a recoverable advance.

I beg to move that the sum of $75,164 under Head 9(15) – Public Utilities – stand part of the Schedule.

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

The question that the sum of $75,164 under Head 9(15) – Public Utilities – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without divison.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, it is now 9.20 p.m., and I beg to move that you report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and Mr. SPEAKER took the Chair, and reported accordingly.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the sitting be now suspended until 2.30 p.m. tomorrow. In moving the suspension I would like also to draw to the attention of the House the unfortunate incident which took place today. We are acting as a responsible Government. We have been getting along without naming anyone.

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot tolerate any such discussion.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: It being suspension time, I thought that I could refer to it. I hope that my colleagues will be here by 2.15 p.m. tomorrow.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to second the motion for suspension.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly at 9.22 p.m.

9.22 p.m.

On the resumption

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed. When the Sitting was suspended yesterday the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it now reverts.

HEAD 9(16) BARBADOS MARKETING CORPORATION

Head 9(16) – Barbados Marketing Corporation was called.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $610,000 under Head 9(16) – Barbados Marketing Corporation – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to rehash or ask about the Barbados Marketing Corporation but there are a few questions I would like to ask. I gather that this present Government has changed the site for the Barbados Marketing Corporation. I would not say that political consideration was responsible but will assume that the change of venue is due to Government's choice of what they may consider sound advice. I would like to know when the Government intends to start construction of the new Corporation, where it is to be built, the approximate cost, the sources of financing and when did negotiations commence for the financing of the new Corporation. I would also like to know what are Government's plans for the existing Corporation building apart from the fact that it is closed, as I pass there during the day and see it closed. I would like to know what are the plans for the existing facilities at the moment. I have been reading and seeing the Chairman of the Barbados Marketing Corporation not castigating farmers but at the same time trying to find an excuse for the failure of the Corporation to export okras of which he made such a hullabaloo of how many thousands of pounds of okras were to be exported to the USA from time to time. I would like to know what went wrong with this plan of this big lecturer at BIMAP who seems to have all the answers, economic and otherwise, for this country.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the Leader of the Opposition cannot use this forum to attack the personality of any person in here. Who is the big economic lecturer at BIMAP? He is supposed to be dealing with the Barbados Marketing Corporation.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I really cannot understand this. Yesterday you made fun of somebody lecturing at Yale. Do you mean what is good for you is bad for the Opposition? Yesterday when you were trying to laugh at the hon. member for St. John who is an accredited lecturer at Yale for the time being, I did not hear anybody objecting.

But to get back to what I was saying. The Chairman of the Barbados Marketing Corporation who is the hon. member for St. Michael West, said he was bringing good news. I want to know the good news about the okras that never reached the United States, which you promised under the expansion of your export trade would have been going at so many thousand pounds per week. The public wants to know what went wrong, whether the BMC is to blame or the Ministry, or the farmers, and I would like to know what alternative plans – like the strategist he is – he has for not losing that market which he says the Government is trying to capture in the interest of the development of agriculture.

And I want to say this now – I have been told that to get a job at the BMC you have to be from St. Michael South West, and when I hear them say there is no discrimination in employment in Barbados I am satisfied that the appointment of persons to the Barbados Marketing Corporation are persons selected by the Chairman of the BMC and that there is not the free choice for Barbadians getting an opportunity to work there. That is the same thing for which you accused the Democratic Labour Party. You used to say that the former member for St. Andrew did that, and the public were looking forward to your Government bringing to the employment practices of this country a new way of life and a new thinking. And I say without fear of contradiction that the Chairman of the Board of the Barbados Marketing Corporation.....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, is the hon. member saying that Mr. Frank Richards, the General Manager of the Barbados Marketing Corporation, is from St. Michael West? To the best of my knowledge he was living in the United States of America. I am taking him up on the point that to get a job at the BMC you must come from St. Michael South West.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Richards is not from St. Michael South West but the Chairman is, and I am saying categorically that it is the Chairman, whether he influences Mr. Richards or not, who is responsible for the employment of persons at the BMC. So don't go around pretending I am holier than you.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. If the hon. member is going to cast these aspersions he must give details of them, otherwise we must take them as coming from a person totally irresponsible.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member may characterise me as he likes, for he has got his views on me and I have got my views on him. I am making this accusation because it can be attested by people who have been dismissed that the present Government is carrying on the same employment practices you condemned in the Democratic Labour Party, so don't pretend you are any holier than thou.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am saying at this point there is a Miss Sandra Gibbons living in Harts Gap and working at the BMC, who is not from St. Michael West. I can make these statements. You are to call the persons from St. Michael West. This is cheap politics, that is all.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I never heard of one swallow making a summer and I am not aware that there is only one employee at the BMC. I want to report this because I know it for a fact, whether you like it or not, whether you deny it or not. If by chance a person not from St. Michael West gets employment, I am glad to hear it. I have no intention of giving you names, especially the Deputy Prime Minister who seems to specialize in knowing the political.....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, Sir. I am saying that Mr. Roger Sealey from Parkinson Field is not from St. Michael West. I challenge you to call any persons from St. Michael West; I have called three, you call one.

Mr. SISNETT: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I would like to confirm that the Financial Controller is a member of the Democratic Labour Party from the constituency of St. John. It is unfair for the hon. Leader of the Opposition to come in here and cast aspersons on these people.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I would also like to inform the hon. member that the engineer Mr. Archer comes from Gregg Farm in the parish of St. Andrew. I challenge the hon. member to call the names of the people he knows about, otherwise he stands condemned as irresponsible.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I find it remarkably interesting that the members of the Government can state where a person comes from and his political affiliation.
2.45 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will hon. members be quiet, please.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: We will be calm and quiet, and we will deal with them from over here. They say that we have made a study of the people. That may be true. We have made a study of them so as to make sure that they are proper workers and not some of the thieves that they had in there. That is what we can say.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: That is why something is happening in this country which the public must understand. For the first time I heard in my life that Mr. Lewis was a DLP was from the Deputy Prime Minister. When you can get a Government telling you the political affiliations, the ...

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order.

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

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: They talk about the Government knowing political affiliations. It was very easy to find out, because some of the people there, have declared their political allegiance, and they have been wearing their sweaters from the last election boldly around the BMC; but what is wrong with them is that Mr. Walker has gone, Mr. Knight has gone and Mr. Brathwaite has gone and the corporation is doing better so you know who has gone.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have had enough of this discussion about political affiliations on a matter relating to the MBC. Will the hon. member please continue.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking on the employment practices of the BMC. If the employment practices are based on political affiliations or wherever they come from, am I out of order? That is why the Government is replying and suggesting ...

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition said that to get a job you must come from St. Michael West where the Chairman of the Board is the present representative. What he is saying is that you must come from the constituency of the member for St. Michael West. We have made it abundantly clear. We called names of people who did not live in this constituency, and now he is talking political cheapness that we made a study of people.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: My life is an open book. You do not make a study of an open book. You make a study of clandestine and other secretive societies. I think that the Chairman of the BMC himself said in this House once, in this very session, that when it comes to managerial appointments he will not be interfering; but when it comes to ordinary appointments he will see that people from St. Michael West get the jobs. If he denies that now, I do not think that he could go to church on Saturday.

Mr. JOHNSON: On a point of order. If the hon. member wants to quote me, I will ask him to quote me accurately. I said that the Democratic Labour Party during its time in office employed Dems overwhelmingly, and that if I have to pay one person from one side and one person from the next side, do not expect me to overlook the fact that there is a Barbados Labour Party person seeking employment. I said that I would look at

the BLP person first every time if he is qualified, because there has to be a reversal of the employment practices in this country.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: If you had one and one, the member said. Suppose you had two, three and four, you will not pick five, and the job that you are picking them for is not specialised work. There are thousands of people who want work in Barbados. He has played into my hands by openly admitting that in employment practices at the BMC you will give ...

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order. The hon. member seems to have a short memory. He seems to forget that in this very House in relation to the same BMC, Mr. Joy Edwards said in clear and certain terms that any time that there is a job down there he does not mind the qualifications. He said that the man who will get the job is the man with the DLP passport. So what is he talking about?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, if there was an imbalance under the DLP, are you saying that you are only following the DLP now? *(ASIDE:* What is wrong with that?)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. Does any other member wish to speak?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I would like to say something, sir. I do not agree with what has been going on so far. Discussion of these Estimates have been characterised by extremes of responsibility, wisdom and sincerity on one hand, and by bad behaviour, irresponsibility and at times, I have to say, malice on the other. The hon. member for St. John set an example that anyone of us could follow in here of a wise and balanced approach to the problems of Barbados, and indeed to the problems of the Opposition. The hon. member for St. Michael South very ably supported him. On this side hon. members, I am not ashamed to say, made good speeches and wise and sound contributions to the debate.

It would be very unfortunate if in making charges dealing with the BMC that only persons in the constituency of the Chairman of the BMC could get appointed, and that is controverted, that you get speeches as if it was some kind of Sixth Form debating society about knowing people and knowing what their political affiliations are. One presumes that he who makes a charge that only persons living in St. Michael West would know what he is talking about; that he would have gone into it if this charge is to have any substance. The person who made this charge has proved utterly incapable of supporting it, and has to take refuge by saying that hon. members on this side know all about it.

We make it our business to know the details of Government. We make it our business to be masters of what we do, and unfortunately we have to make it our business to be alert and on our toes to refute the falsehoods, wild statements and irresponsibilities that are constantly poured on our heads by the Other Side. We had an example in here, and I do not want it to be repeated today. I am glad that hon. members have come to their senses and have returned to do the people's business. We could have passed every Head last night and put an end to the Estimates. *(Asides).*

I must say this, that there are Rules in Parliament relating to members who are not speaking. I intend to draw to Your Honour's attention that on every occasion when the voice of the member for St. Michael South West when he is not speaking is heard, and the voice of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, to ask Your Honour to consider your position under the Rules. We had a lot of shouting down and attempted shouting down yesterday. There are 17 of us and we can shout louder than the remaining others of them; but we do not want to use the weapon of shouting because Your Honour has the weapon of the Rules in Your Honour's hands.

2.55 p.m.

The hon. member for St. Michael South West is sitting in his seat interjecting. I do not know if Your Honour can hear him, but there is a rule to deal with it. We are not prepared to sit down on this side and reduce Parliament to a shouting House. We are not prepared to sit down in this House and accept false and irresponsible charges. We had an example with the hon. member for St. Lucy yesterday; when he was refuted I was shouted down for pointing out that the hon. member opposite was not telling the truth. We are not going to be prepared to put up with an attitude which will drag Parliament down any futher than those hon. members who cannot behave themselves have already reduced it in the public's eye. We believe not only in the supremacy of Parliament, but in its dignity, and we are not going to put up on this side with any more efforts to destroy the dignity of the Parliament in Barbados.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Prime Minister mentioned the hon. member for St. Michael South West in his remarks on the question.....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, if the hon. member would give way; as I understand it, Mr. Chairman, there is a Resolution before this Committee. I am not aware of what the hon. member has risen on. I am just drawing this to your attention.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is speaking on Head 9(16) Barbados Marketing Corporation.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, there has got to be some sense of balance in this Honourable House. The sense of fairplay has not left all of us. When the hon. member for St. Thomas.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member please address himself to the subject?

Mr. TAITT: Yes, Sir. In order for what I have to say to make sense, I am making a preamble in the context of what the hon. member for St. Thomas said. Mr. Chairman, I find it totally unbelievable and unacceptable and I reject the hon. member for St. Thomas.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That has nothing to do with the BMC.

Mr. TAITT: It has.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will you speak on the subject, Head 9(16) Barbados Marketing Corporation?

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for St. Thomas made remarks and alluded to me in the context of this item. In response to those remarks I am trying to make my position clear. I have never in this Chamber invited any person who is not a member of this Chamber to sit in the seat of the Speaker. The hon. member for St. Thomas should be the last person to talk about bringing down the dignity of this House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is being irrelevant.

Mr. TAITT: I am not being irrelevant, Sir. I am speaking of the facts in relation to this. He cannot come in here and talk about dignity.

Mr. CHAIRMAN rose.

Mr. TAITT: I never put Eric Sealy in there.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, when you tell an hon. member that he is being irrelevant and he says he is not being irrelevant, I respectfully submit to you, because perhaps you would not take the point for yourself, that you must ask him to withdraw his contradiction of your ruling. If you say he is irrelevant and he says and his words were "I am not being irrelevant", that must be withdrawn in my respectful submission. He is challenging your authority.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for St. Michael South West will please withdraw the remarks intimating that the Chairman's ruling was not in order.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I withdraw the remarks as drawn to your attention by the hon. member for St. Thomas. If the hon. member for St. Thomas is the custodian and the director.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member please speak to the subject?

Mr. TAITT: I am trying to, Sir. Mr. Chairman, I have nothing more to say.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the Leader of the Opposition asked about the imbalance of employment at the BMC. I cannot understand exactly what he wants, and I suggest that you put the question.

The question that the sum of $610,000 under Head 9 – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs (16) Barbados Marketing Corporation stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 109 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Head 109 – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs – was called.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $6,108,973 under Head 109 – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs, as amended by the circulated amendments, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, we walked out of the House last night. We came back in here today and if the Minister of Agriculture is going to be that discourteous and not answer questions, we are only wasting our time. I asked him about the BMC, about where it is going to be, how it is going to be financed, when it is going to be started, and he has treated me with discourtesy. I have better things to do. If that is going to be the attitude of the Government, then the Opposition need not come in here if the Minister is not going to answer questions.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order, if the hon. member will call them out slowly, I will answer them under Capital Expenditure, where, if he was following the Estimates, he would understand that the sum is included on page 43. Why don't you read your Estimates correctly? If you call them slowly under page 43 where they rightly belong, I will answer them.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I see page 43 and I can read as well as and better than the Minister. If he were going to deal with the questions under page 43, he could say that he was referring his answers to

deal with them under Capital, but how am I to know he is not being discourteous when I ask a question and he sits down and moves the Head? I am no clairvoyant or any seer. I may be wise but not a seer.

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, we have listened to all kinds of wild accusations in this Chamber this afternoon with respect to the operations at the Barbados Marketing Corporation. I believe that we have to answer them because I would not want it to be left as the prevailing opinion that the Barbados Marketing Corporation is some sinister institution calculated to deny Barbadians an equal opportunity to find jobs. I happen not to be myself involved in the business of employment at the BMC, because when I was asked to assume the Chairmanship of the Corporation, I went and found an institution adrift and rudderless. There was no personnel office but there is now a personnel office with a Personnel Manager who has absolute responsibility for the employment practices of the Corporation, who does the interviewing and passes upon the qualifications of persons to assume jobs at the Corporation.

If I wanted to, I could spend the next three or four minutes naming names to refute the allegations of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central. It is unfair, it is wicked, it is villifying for anybody to come in here and say, without having any information, that the Barbados Marketing Corporation's policy of employment is restricted to the geographical location circumscribed by the constituency that I happen to represent; but I expect that kind of outburst from hon. members on that side. Suffice it to say that we have in the BMC people who, if it were our intention to discriminate according to political affiliation, would not now be there and we named some.
3.05 p.m.

Suffice it to say, Sir, that we have in the BMC people who if it were our intention to discriminate against according to political affiliation would not now be there, and we named some, people who when we went to the BMC knew that they used to walk around and flout the fact, parading all about that their political affiliations were not necessarily in sympathy with this present Government. The hon. member for St. George South would know that we had in our employ a young man who used to take off time to go and canvass for the Democratic Labour Party, but who nonetheless under this Government was promoted to a position of high responsibility within the Corporation. I knew of his political affiliation he was a junior grade clerk and he was upgraded to a very high and responsible position within the Corporation during the time that I was there. Now if we were the kinds of persons that they say we are that man would not even be at the Corporation, let alone being on the top line of the Corporation.

I said, and I will repeat, that there is need in this country to undo what the Democratic Labour Party systematically did in every facet of this country's employment practice. All the people who held responsible positions, and even not so responsible positions, were recruited on the basis of their political affiliation, and I heard the hon. member for St. Michael South Central say that were it not for the fact that he staffed the School Meals with a waffle of Dems he would not have won by the twenty votes he won by. I heard him say that in this Chamber, and he gets up openly and says 'I don't care, I did it, and if I didn't do it I now would not be in here.'

I want you, Sir, to let us examine the Barbados Marketing Corporation as it now is. In 1973, which is our reference point, the Barbados Marketing Corporation had sales of $6,858,000; it had a net trading loss of $727,000. In 1974 sales of $7,800,000 with a net trading loss of $1,072,130. In 1975 $9 million with losses of $1,353,000. If you are following the numbers, Sir, you will note that they are increasing every year. In 1976 which was the bumper year for inefficiency and waste the Corporation, sales soared to $10,783,000 with a net trading loss of $1,931,000. In 1977 to date, sales $7,199,000 with a net trading loss of $347,758. These, Sir, are the statistics which we present for the purposeful evaluation of members in this Chamber. We want them to recognise that Government does not come by favouritism and by providing employment for people who are not qualified for the posts in which they are put.

The Barbados Marketing Corporation has been plagued with losses. In 1976, the year that I just referenced, the Barbados Government injected $3,357,000 into the Corporation out of the taxpayers' money and that was the biggest single loss that they had. That $3,357,000 disappeared like wind and when we went to the BMC in November 1976 the supermarket was not able to buy any stock because they didn't have any money, although they had just been given $3,357,000.

Sir, I believe that we must recognise that there are some special problems still existing at the BMC. We have a rather recalcitrant staff in some instances. People who have been there from a long time ago and who tell you openly that they were sent – well, they used to say it openly, now they are whispering it – the hon. member for St. Michael South West sent them there and nobody can do them anything. That used to be the kind of talk that you got. I don't need to go over the fact, Sir, that there used to be a man there called Bascombe sent there by the hon. member for St. Michael South West, who used to engage in the practice of ringing off losses through the supermarket when things were good, or bad as the case might be, and he

would tell the Manager that he can't send him home because the hon. member for St. Michael South West had sent him there. A man came to my house and told me that these were the frustrations that he had to encounter, and it is not surprising therefore that a Corporation like that would have had that kind of problem that it encountered for all those years.

We in 1976–77, from November 1, 1976 on, received grants from the Government – we didn't get the money in our hands – we were given $1,250,000 which went exclusively to pay off debts accumulated under the old administration. We didn't get our fingers on that money at all, it went straight to the bank. Right now there are accounts outstanding at the BMC totalling approximately $1.5 million accrued during the years that the Democratic Labour Party was in power, and which we have to try to pay back under this administration. We have told you that we had a net trading loss so far this year of $347,000. What we need to tell you further is that we took seven hundred odd thousand dollars and paid off creditors. Again, these were accounts that accumulated during the time of the past administration. We were able to do all this and significantly expand or improve our balance sheet position by adding sizeable capital assets. We bought motor vehicles for the use of the Corporation, we have refurbished the shrimp plant, the roof, we have refurbished our cold storage, we paid for the cold storage equipment, $120,000 that they ordered and which we had to pay for, all of this on less resources than they had and we still have a Corporation that is going along from strength to strength.
3.15 p.m.

All this and less resources than they had and we still have a Corporation that is coming along from strength to strength. The Prime Minister has said that since we are doing so well on so little we should continue to do so. We would like to pay off these trading debts that we have and we are still appealling to the Government to let us clear the debts although they have nothing to do with this present administration; but they should be cleared so that the Corporation can get on with its business.

Now the hon. member for St. Michael South Central said that I made a lot of hullabaloo about okras and he wants to know what is happening. We have a contract for 50,000 pounds of okras per week to the United States. I don't hide it, but we have found that we have not been able to honour that agreement. But what the hon. member must realize is this: This is the first time that the Barbados Marketing Corporation ever negotiated a contract with that particular market. We have made two shipments to date, and would like to tell the hon. member – although it will not comfort him – that the gentleman concerned came from Miami and said that the Barbados okra is in his estimation the finest okra he has seen.

Marketing is a difficult discipline; it does not happen overnight. From 1973 to 1976 they had every occasion where they could have brought the BMC to a point where it could have been doing valuable trade and earning foreign exchange for this country. But all that went on was stealing and all sorts of wickedness. They would bring in the Mack truck and carry away whole carcasses of pigs; they would carry produce in and drive it back out; all these things used to go on. They were not interested in using the Barbados Marketing Corporation in the way it should have been used. You cannot expect in the first year, regardless of what the agreement says, that we would be able to supply the okras in the quantity required. The gentleman concerned said that we could use this period as a learning experience and when we were certain of our production capabilities we would go on to the next year. So what we have failed to accomplish, the lessons we have learned would stand us in good stead and we would be able to export okras in sizable quantities next year. It is the same story with yams. We are shipping large quantities of yams to the United Kingdom. As a matter of fact, several shipments have gone already and there are others to follow. We negotiated with the farmers of Barbados to produce yams and we must commend them because they have produced good quality yams acceptable to the British market and we have been shipping and getting good response. But like everything else this takes time. The Democratic Labour Party lost fifteen years and they cannot expect us in fifteen months to accomplish what eluded them for all that time. I may add we have been able to do it in fifteen months what they could not do in fifteen years, and that augurs well for the future.

Now, Sir, the hon. member asked about the BMC's new facilities. I would like to inform this Chamber that the Barbados Marketing Corporation is actively engaged in the programme of building a new facility at the Pine in close proximity to the Pine Hill Dairy. Our anticipated date for completion is 1st November, 1980. As of this date, March 15, we have received all of the pre-qualification data and are in the process of evaluating this for the award of a contract. Invitations to tender will go out around 1st June, 1979 for the building supplies, etc., and we would expect that all of these things would be completed by 1980. We have the actual plan laid out in detail. I would like to report to this Chamber that we are very much on target and that we are likely to bring the project to completion slightly before the anticipated date of November, 1980. As for sources of finance, we have negotiated a loan with the British Government and the Caribbean Development Bank through the Inter-American Development Bank for US$2,123,500 of

which $1.5 million is from the US AID Fund. The Barbados Marketing Corporation is therefore actively engaged doing the job which it was asked to. It was initially set up in 1961, conceived by the Barbados Labour Party but mismanaged by the Democratic Labour Party. We are now in the process of doing with that institution what should have been done all along. I have always indicated that if the economy of this country is to grow significantly it must grow not only in the industrial sector such as garment manufacture etc., but also in the agricultural sector, and we have begun to show that we have products down here acceptable in the world market and if we can negotiate the kind of tariff arrangement with the United Kingdom which other countries get from preferential tariffs as far as trade is concerned, then we will be able to compete with the best of them.

Now, Sir, there is another consideration which we have to bear in mind. The BMC operates not only a wholesale division but also a series of retail outlets in this country. I will tell you, Sir, that we would have done a good deal better in terms of forward momentum if we did not have to contend with the problems we have had to contend with. I would like to point out that we have estimated that the cold storage division alone was losing $2,000 a day under the old regime. We have put in a new system now – and I reviewed it only this morning – and I am happy to be able to report that the situation has improved to the point where the cold storage division which a few months ago was in a gross loss position is doing much better now. You are a businessman, Mr. Chairman, and you understand what a gross loss is. Every single division of the Barbados Marketing Corporation was in a gross loss position, which means that if they bought something for $1 they sold it for less than $1. But clearly it was not the selling part that brought about that situation but the stealing part that allowed the BMC month after month to be in a gross loss position. We have been able to reverse that now and each division has a function to perform. I should say that the abattoir is not there as a profit centre. We do not expect the abattoir ever to be in a position to pay for itself because the throughput is simply not enough and the overheads are too great. We expect that the Government will treat the abattoir as a service and the Minister of Agriculture last night outlined his plans for decentralization of abattoir services, and we will be grateful for this when it comes into being because it will free us of the responsibility of expecting people to come all the way from St. Lucy to Bridgetown to kill a pig, and it will free us from the heavy concentration of staff involved. We will then be able to apportion staff to the various abattoir centres.
3.25 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, we have the Baymart which, as hon. members have already observed, is now under renovation. I want hon. members to recognise that we are doing all these things with the resources available to us, and that the past administration was not even able to maintain equipment and replace equipment. We found the cold storage equipment practically down when we went there; but we were able to refurbish it. All of these things I would like to bring to the attention of hon. members. We have the various depots, and we have arrangements whereby we can look at our accounts every month, and at a glance we can tell ourselves which department of the BMC is in a loss position. It allows us to take corrective action wherever it becomes necessary.

The Government at the time being is paying the BMC developmental money. We are paying calculated prices. We are buying cabbage at 36 cents a pound as a guaranteed price, and even if the market falls by 10 cents, the BMC is committed to paying the farmers 36 cents a pound. Obviously, as the retail price is below 36 cents we will sell at a loss; and this is a loss which we expect the Government to give us in terms of a Government subsidy.

As I have said, the Baymart division is under renovation. We are putting in cold storage facilities independent of the cold storage facilities across the street. We are putting in new counters, and we are adding some additional machines because we have discovered that whenever a weekend comes there is congestion at the Baymart and people tend to become frustrated. We are giving Barbadians a modern shopping facility which we expect to operate as any other commercial enterprise operates. We have put every single manager of the various divisions on notice that they must produce profits or perish. We are no longer going to stand for a man coming and telling us that the division that he runs incurred a loss of $1 million, and he does not know how it happened. We have given him the resources and he must produce results or suffer for the failure. I heard people on that side yesterday saying that people in Barbados are already too heavily taxed. These losses can only be financed out of the taxpayers money, and this Government is committed to making certain that the public will know that they will not have to subsidise an inefficient operation.

Now, there is another consideration which I would like to touch on before I sit, and that is the question of the maintenance of reasonable retail prices. The Barbados Marketing Corporation has retail outlets and is in agreement with the principle that merchants must make a profit; but this Government will not sit down and allow any commercial enterprise in Bridgetown to exploit the taxpayers of the country. Frequently we hear merchants saying that they had to buy something at a particular price, and we have to rely on the figures they produce, because if the man says that he paid $5

for it and his invoice proves it, then that is the price; but the BMC is in a position to query all the international sources of supply through the trading machines that we have abroad and the honorary counsuls that are operating in some delegations; and we can find out easily what prices the merchants pay for certain kinds of commodities.

I was dubbed in here as "Minister of Chicken Backs". I wear that label with honour. If the member for St. John used to pay more attention to what is going on, he would recognise that for years under the direction of the hon. member for St. Michael South West the people of Barbados were systematically overcharged for every particular commodity. The retail price of chicken backs was 77 cents a pound; but the Minister in his wisdom recognised that that price was not in the best interest of the consumers of Barbados, and he issued a ministerial order reducing the price from 77 cents to the present 48 cents a pound retail. We could sell $3 million worth of chicken backs comfortable in any one year; and if we allowed as many to come in as could be consumed, it would be $5 million in chicken backs with no problem at all.

When you systematically overcharge the consumer by approximately 75 or more per cent, one must think in terms of the problem that it poses to the poor people – the $16 a week old age pensioners who have to rely on the cheapest source of protein they can find. Chicken happens to be the cheapest sources of protein in this country today, and when an old age pensioner goes to the shop with 77 cents, he or she can buy chicken backs and still have something left to buy a pound of rice. That is what this Government stands for, and when I am derisively referred to as "Minister for Chicken Backs" I do not mind, because we are working in the interest of the consumers of this country, and this is something which hon. members on that side had a great deal of difficulty in doing when they were on this side. The hon. member for St. Michael North West used to go on T.V. and pontificate and preach and do all sorts of commercials; and yet he allowed goods to be sold at prices only beneficial to the merchants.

The Barbados Marketing Corporation through its wholesale retail division will not allow these prices to get out of line. If hon. members watch T.V. at night, they will see a consumer report which put prices side by side so that you can see what the BMC is charging and what others charge next door. I would like to invite hon. members of this Chamber to recognise that the BMC is not the institution that it used to be. We have a clean and living institution dedicated to the improvement of prices and to a good retail situation; and I am going to ask, sir, that all of us lend our efforts to this general cause of making certain in this particular department all the things that we have been asked to do by the voters of Barbados.

3.35 p.m.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, having heard the previous speakers, there is one point that I want to mention here today and it is this; when you are making all these arrangements and contracts, you must take into consideration the rainfall. In some areas in this Island, as you are aware, Sir, rainfall is by far below average and therefore when you go and make a contract to supply this large quantity of vegetables, it calls for irrigation, and I must let you know that even certain farmers who have to depend on the waterworks for water to grow their crops have been told by the Waterworks Department to use care with the water. We in Barbados have to be very careful in trying to impress on others that we can move heaven and earth with certain crops by exporting things overseas. Vegetables cannot grow without water, and if you do not give the farmers a reasonable price they are not going to grow these vegetables.

I have been reading in the newspapers where potatoes have been ploughed back. It is true I cannot substantiate it, but I am saying that these are the fine points which must be taken into consideration. It is known the amount of labour which you have to put in to get these vegetables to grow and therefore I am only giving the Government a warning. I am only saying that you have to be very careful in trying to project an image that we can supply them. There is a time during the rainy season when these things can be done and that is when you get a glut. Well with the reorganisation of the BMC I do hope that we will get over these things and that when the glut is on, the BMC will be able to purchase vegetables from the farmers at the same price and not reduce the amount, because there was a time when we heard that carrots were all scattered on the streets; all these things have been going on. I can only appeal to the BMC and I dare say to the Minister of Agriculture to take into consideration the low rainfall in Barbados and that very few places have irrigation, and that we have been concerned about using the water in trying to make these various contracts for overseas.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I want to start out by seeking some information. Item 1 refers to "Contribution to Inter-American Institution of Agricultural Sciences and token provision for Caribbean Food Corporation". I would like some explanation as to why a contribution to th Inter-American Institution of Agricultural Sciences should come under an item "Equity Contributions" which sounds to me like some contribution to a commercial or semi-commercial undertaking. I believe equity is some kind of business operation; I may be wrong. I am not too familiar with

the Inter-American Institution of Agricultural Sciences, if it is a commercial corporation, an academic institution or some type of research body, but it does seem to me that if this falls into the category of some type of multi-lateral body for joint effort in terms of study, research and related matters, that the contribution to that particular body does seem a bit misplaced.

The second point I wish to make on that particular item is again to seek some information, and that relates to the Caribbean Food Corporation and why only a token provision is being supplied. There was quite a bit of discussion recently about which territories or which member countries which had agreed to subscribe to that particular corporation had paid up its contributions, and I would have thought that by now we would have been past the stage of making token provision for this particular corporation. I believe only recently I read that most countries had paid up some type of contribution to this particular body, but I would be glad if the Minister could throw some light on this particular matter. (A VOICE: You are on bad ground.) What is the bad ground? I am asking for information.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is too much cross talk.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Well please tell him not to cross. I expect you to do that, Mr. Chairman. Here it is I am civilly asking for information and the Minister should know better. He should know how to behave in this Chamber.
3.45 p.m.

Here it is I am civilly asking for information and the Minister who should know better, he must know how to behave in this Chamber, I'm simply asking for information.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please carry on.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I don't want to carry on in here, Mr. Chairman, do not invite me to carry on.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please continue with the debate.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Oh, please continue. I understand that, Mr. Chairman. I am just seeking some information on this from the Minister.

I would also like to get some information, because I'm not attacking the Minister and his policies on agriculture, I'm not doing that at all. As I understand it, he had enough attacks yesterday from his own side, from the Government member of the Opposition, the member for St. Philip North, to whom I believe he had some trouble trying to supply some answers, so I am not in that.

Mr. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. My view is that you can sit down anywhere in here, but my reason for sitting over there was that the air conditioning was a little bit harsh on my back last night, and having seen some empty cubicles there I decided to fill them and get a view of us from that side, but don't think, don't ever contemplate that I will cross in front there. I went around behind the Speaker's Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That's not a point of order, but an explanation probably.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would like from the Minister some information in respect of this farm school. I believe I saw a reference to it in Item 3(c) – Token provision for farm school, and I am wondering if he can give this Hon. Chamber some information as to exactly what he intends as far as a farm school is concerned, who will be the students at that institution, the duration of the courses, the types of programmes that might be available, and generally to take the House into his confidence in respect of this and how this particular school will fit into the other training opportunities which may be available in the educational institutions in this country or which may be projected, bearing in mind that there is a programme for training at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, bearing in mind that there is some training overseas, bearing in mind that there was a Division of Agriculture projected for the Barbados Community College, and bearing in mind that in the schools some training in agriculture which has just been given a further boost by the present Minister of Education, I would be gald if the Minister could fit this particular concept of the farm school into total agricultural training, as well as the agricultural system.

In terms of the production of fruit and vegetables, I believe the Minister is well aware that there are a number of small farmers who rely on the national water system for irrigation of their vegetable plots, and I would ask the Minister if he would consider in the interest of national development that some rebate in water rates be given to *bona fide* small producers of vegetables who rely on the national water system, to assist them in their production efforts. I believe it is not unknown that in industry some of the utilities may be available to businesses at a reduced rate, and I am wondering if the Minister in his undoubted interest in, and zeal for, agriculture would give this matter some consideration or give some reaction to it. I would like to use a phrase, inasmuch as this is the time for phrases, but my friend the member for St. Michael West – I keep saying Minister for Chicken Backs – used the

phrase "produce or perish" and his managers and sub-managers have now been served warning they must produce or perish. That is a good slogan. I believe those who labour in the academic vineyards must know that they must either publish or perish, at least certainly in the North American institutions with which the hon. member is familiar. It is a good slogan he applies to his managers, they must produce or perish, but I will be waiting. I have no quarrel with that, and when the time comes that same slogan will be applied to you, you will also have to produce or perish, and the Minister himself will have to produce or perish.

So far on his record in agriculture he seems to be perishing, because we are not seeing much production, a lot of plans and talk, but we know it takes a little time for the proposals and so on to be understood first of all, because you have to convince those around you that your proposals are right, so we will keep that slogan for you, "produce or perish", both for your Minister and yourself as far as agriculture is concerned, because there is no sector perhaps in this country which is more important for the development of this country than agriculture. It is vital, and we know that agriculture not only in Barbados but throughout the world is in difficulty. There are problems in agriculture and it is a mistake and a misapplication of information to convey the impression that it is in Barbados alone that the agricultural sector has been lagging behind the other sectors. I believe the task is a very difficult one, and when it was simplified in Opposition, now that you are confronted with the actual problems, you see the problems involved. We remember the words of Dean Swift – I believe it is in Gulliver's Travels – "he that can make one blade of grass grow where none grew before" and I have heard the member for St. Michael South Central on one occasion – it was not anything to do with chicken backs – refer to Heinz 57 varieties. "He that can make one blade of grass grow where none grew before," that is the man who did something constructive as far as the man in Swift's Gulliver's Travels is concerned.

3.55 p.m.

And we are waiting on the Minister of Agriculture to show what mettle he is made of, not only in words, because he has made some long speeches and some presumably authoritative speeches in this House from the time he entered this Chamber, and we are waiting on him to see the practical results. In spite of the many amendments made so far, I believe there are still some other amendments to be made to these notes, and I would enjoin the Minister to look carefully and ensure that the necessary amendments are made. The Minister is well supported and can make further corrections as necessary.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I would crave your indulgence for a few moments to make a contribution to this particular Head. I would like first to support the contentions made by my two previous colleagues relative to the situation regarding irrigation in this country. One can recall the speech by the Hon. Prime Minister when he was then in Opposition which he made for irrigation in this country and we recall a very interesting debate which took place in here in which he was one of the principlal contributors; and the former member for St. Andrew was another major contributor in this sphere, where there was talk about trapping the vast quantities of water which flow into the sea after heavy rain fall, and the call was made for some system which would enable this water to be trapped and used for irrigation purposes. I have had the opportunity to take a fleeting look at some systems over a period of time, and if one went back to 1975–76 one would see that provision was made for the extension of the irrigation system in Barbados. I looked through the Estimates which followed that particular financial year and noticed that gradually there was a reduction of the irrigation vote. The Head which appears now makes one reference to irrigation and that has to do with the provision of irrigation equipment, presumably for Sayers Court and Jerusalem. I think this is an area which we have to look at very carefully. One would expect the Government and the Minister of Agriculture who has spoken volumes on this topic would give us some guidance on this and shed some light on what can be done to develop this particular area, bearing in mind the point made by the hon. member for St. Philip South about providing a reliable water system for the farmers of this country. So we are looking forward to hear what the Minister has to say to this.

The second point I want to deal with is the Comfith project. I believe this project has been going on for some time now, and I think the Minister should give this Chamber some up-to-date information on this particular project and we look forward to hearing whether or not the project is lapsing or to any information which he has to give.

Thirdly, I want to refer to the question of rural development, to which the hon. Prime Minister referred when he made his opening remarks in introducing the Estimates on Tuesday. You would recall Mr. Chairman, that the Prime Minister spoke on this particular matter for a long time and talked about various rural projects which the Government was contemplating for St. George, St. Philip, St. James and St. Andrew. What bothers me is that for some time, since 1974 I believe, the Democratic Labour Party had specific projects for the purpose of rural development – the Spring Hall project in St. Lucy for example. The Minister of Agriculture speaking on this on numerous occasions disagreed with the size of the lands which the Democratic Labour Party had planned to include in this

project, and indicated that what he would like to see developed as far as a subdivision of that land is concerned, was a division into smaller lots which would be made available to a larger number of people, and he indicated that there was no proper way in which they could estimate what could be considered an economic area of land for a farmer to operate. Unfortunately the Prime Minister did not make any reference to what is his Government's intention relative to the Spring Hall project. I know that recently the Minister of Agriculture gave some indication of what he would like to see, and I would have thought that by now they would have formulated some kind of project for that area, and I am concerned as to whether or not this matter has been thrown into the waste paper basket and whether or not the Ministry of Agriculture under the guidance and direction of the Minister of Agriculture and at the instigation of the Prime Minister has decided to allow Spring Hall to continue producing sugar cane.
4.05 p.m.

I want to know what is the position as far as this is concerned, so that we would be, I think, better able to assess the truth or otherwise – the real intention of the Government in this particular area; because it is my firm belief that we have got to be serious about our country. One hears this pledge of seriousness from time to time, but in truth and in fact when one examines the performance, one sees that all that we have been getting for a long time now is all words and hot air, but no real performance.

We have heard a lot of references made about the development of sorghum, peanuts – not the former member for Christ Church South Central. I remember the Minister of Agriculture indicating that one of the projects we wanted to develop in the Spring Hall project was peanut farming, certainly not to the extent that the President of the U.S.A. has been able to develop it. I believe the Minister said over something like $1 million in peanuts a year; and when he recognised that a lot of this came from Trinidad, he felt that it was a good area that Barbados could get into, particularly with the kind of soil that we have at the two ends of Barbados – the most southerly part of Barbados in St. Philip and the most easterly part in St. Lucy. I recall that that was one of the areas that he wanted to develop at Spring Hall; so I really wonder what has become of all of the big plans that he had for that area because I have not heard any particular reference made to it, and I would hope that he will be able to give us this afternoon some enlightenment on that particular project.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, there are a couple of matters I would like to deal with under this Head in relation to the aspects of it which affect the Ministry of External Trade and of Aviation. I think that one of the significant things we must remember in our thirst to carry out the Government's stated policy of diversifying and increasing our exports that there are a number of constraints that one comes up against, and which have to be removed.

One of the constraints which we have identified in respect of the marketing of agricultural products abroad is not only the question of irregularity of production locally, but also the question of the availability of adequate transport at reasonable prices. So far the Export Promotion Agency and the Civil Aviation Division, as a result of certain information passed to us by the Ministry of Agriculture in Barbados and the Barbados Marketing Corporation we have been able to secure the reduction in the price per kilo for air freight. This reduction, however, in our opinion, useful as it is, has not gone far enough; and only approximately three weeks ago as a result of an analysis done in the Ministry of Civil Aviation we were able to do a comparative cost study of the rates which are chargeable from Barbados to the United Kingdom and the Continent of Europe with the rates which are charged to some other countries by similar airlines and we found that the Bombay-London run which is roughly in airline terms the same kind of mileage, the East African-London run and the Barbados-London run had different rates.

In Barbados the rates that were offered were roughly in the middle. Kenya was the lowest rate. With this information we have now set up a dialogue with the airlines to ensure that we can bring our rate nearer to the rate that is lowest, which is the Kenya rate. It appears also that in order to obtain the best possible freight rate some system off consolidation of shipment will have to take place to take advantage of the rates which are available for the thousand pounds, per kilo rate.

Now it is a fact also that in addition to the efforts of the Barbados Marketing Corporation in London and in New York that the Government has taken a policy decision after consultation between the Ministry of Agriculture, my Ministry and the Ministry of Finance and the B.M.C., that in respect of the London market, provided proper information systems are kept, licences will be awarded to approved exporters who export certain types of agricultural products; and in pursuit of that, some agricultural products have been exported by the private sector in this country. That is in addition to the efforts of the Barbados Marketing Corporation.

Another thing which I think we should draw to the attention of hon. members is that this has to be attacked on an individual vegetable basis because some vegetables cannot be shipped by sea and some can be. I

am also aware that for the first time for a long period of time, not only are yams being exported, but a trial was done of sweet potatoes to test the method of packaging in the United Kingdom. We accept and I believe that it has been proven that there is a market in the U.K. for West Indian sweet potatoes; and it has also been established that, based on the quality of the Barbadian sweet potato and the state in which they arrive in the U.K., that it will be possible to ship sweet potatoes packed in either saw dust or in bagasse. That is another matter that hon. members should be aware of.

We are conscious of the need for changing the traditional habits of people who are not export oriented. We are working on that problem. I believe that a substantial change has taken place in the mental attitude of producers in Barbados in respect to the possibility of the marketing of reasonable export trade investments. It is now no longer a question of whether there is a market abroad. I think that they are convinced now that there is such a market, and what we have to do now is to remove the bottlenecks that we are working with now.
4.15 p.m.

We are working on the question of packaging and the Hon. Minister will be able to give the House information on the question of what work they are doing in respect of the production. I also want to state that in my capacity as Minister of Industry I have been monitoring very closely the question of the agro-industries in Barbados. A part of the capacity study of industrial development in Barbados, a particular sub-division was created for statistical purposes of the food processing industry, and the result of the returns are now in the data-processing unit for the purpose of evaluation of the data. I am in a position to state, however, that even in the vexed question of processing of pig meat, it is a fact that last year in Barbados approximately $1.1 million in the calendar year was paid to farmers for raw materials for the processing of pork.

I also want to repeat something that I said in another place about my own views on processing in Barbados. I do not believe that with the vast majority of agricultural products it will ever be an economically successful venture unless the producers are integrated with the processing facilities. Now this is a good opportunity to make a couple of points clear to a few people in this country who seem to feel that only they can utilise the media to put forward their point of view. All of them had the opportunity as producers to have started their own plan. Capital is available in this country not only from the Barbados Development Bank in the initial stages, but nowadays from the Caribbean Development Bank, and there is money available for agricultural processing. The Government will not be blackmailed into a position because a few people think that they can manipulate the press into indulging in ventures which are not commercial. We cannot at this stage of the economy of Barbados with the state of the finances afford to indulge in wasteful exercises, and it has also got to be recognised that farmers themselves must have advice available to them as to what is available in the economic sphere of activity not only for producing but for processing. They had and still have a golden opportunity instead of looking to the Government to bail them out all the time to think constructively and participate in processing activities on their own.

If you go through the history of the most successful processing in this country, namely the sugar industry, it was the initiative taken by the farmers; so I do not see why as producers of other agricultural products they cannot take the same initiative, and the problem always is that there is money at easier rates of interest not only by the Barbados Development Bank but by the Caribbean Development Bank, and there are other sources of funds available for diversification and agricultural processing. The Government can encourage them, the Government can help them but we cannot make them do it.

The Loan Agreement is another point which the hon. member over there asked about. The hon. member for St. Michael South West omitted to mention this. The Loan Agreement for primary processing facilities was signed by me late last year when I was acting for the Minister of Finance with the Minister of Agriculture, being present and Mr. Demas, and hon. members must be aware because they had experience on the other side, that once you have to get money from a multi-national lending institution, there are certain procedures which must be complied with for disbursement, and one of these procedures is the question of pre-qualification data, because a number of people must be given an apportunity to be eligible, and as I understand it, that pre-condition of disbursement has now been complied with so that the next phase would be the picking and the particular consultant will then go into the design stage and you will have the building stage thereafter. So that is well on its way. I think, Sir, those were the couple of matters on which I wanted to draw the attention of hon. members of the House.

I do not know whether we are dealing with fishing. I did not hear the hon. member mention fishing, but since that intimately affects my own constituency, I will take the opportunity to just give a progress report on the Oistins Scheme. Most of the reports by the consultants who have been appointed have now been submitted and the Ministry of Finance and Planning will be in a position to make a decision on the

three alternative designs which have been submitted, so that you can go on to final design; but nobody is pushing that project harder than I am and it has got to start and be completed before 1981. It has got to happen and hon. members will know that when I say it will happen, it will happen, because fortunately for me I have gone through the exercise of starting and completing projects so any lame duck excuses I know how to deal with. That project obviously has to be completed, and what is more we must have something done in relation to Speightstown too. The Hon. Minister no doubt will reply to the other matter.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Before the Minister replies, there are just two other matters which I am wondering if the Minister would include in his reply. In the current Capital Estimates there is reference to a goat unit at Jerusalem, and I am wondering if the Minister would give us some up-to-date position in respect of the multiplication of goats at Jerusalem, and how that particular project is getting on.
4.25 p.m.

While he is at it, I have asked unsuccessfully on a previous occasion for some information on a seedlings project. I heard and read some details or some statement to the effect – I believe this must be more than six months now – about a project for the provision of seedlings through the Ministry of Agriculture, so that, I believe the justification and rationale then was, that if these seedlings were produced by the Ministry of Agriculture that farmers would be I believe three or four weeks ahead in terms of production schedules, but I have not come across anyone who has been able to purchase these seedlings from any of the properties or places owned by the Ministry of Agriculture to date, and maybe the Minister can give us some information on this.

I did make reference to some items where corrections might be necessary, and I see under Item 10 – I may be wrong, I admit I am not as familiar with this subject as the Minister, and I could never hope to be – the very last line, I see "Development fain" and I don't know what that means. (Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: It is Development farm). It is meant to be Development farm. It does offend my eye a little. I notice there was an amendment to Item 2 circulated and I believe that note has been amended to read "Senior Officer's house, Supervisor's house." That is perfectly all right. No further amendments on that. Thank you.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, under this Head there are a few matters I would like to ask the Minister to enlighten me on. Under Item 6 – Soil Conservation, I see that the Soil Conservation Scheme is included in this Item. What I don't like in this country is people being fooled, and I think for too long people in this country are not using their thinking caps, because I gather that the Italian Ambassador and Attache came down here and one of the items which apparently he discussed with the Ministries of Government was in connection with the Soil Conservation Scheme, and lo and behold I heard headlines in the news "money for Soil Conservation Scheme." That is misleading people. Here is an Ambassador presenting his credentials, you discuss with him areas in which you think a developed country could help, I don't know if he went to St. Andrew at all, but if he went there, one would know judging from what the Deputy Leader says that it takes years and months before money can come from one country to another, you have to send down your technical mission, you have got to send you engineers, you have got to send people really to see the costings, the soil tests and God knows what, and yet people can hear on the news as if it is a big announcement – to the unenlightened they might think they are getting money, but I am sure they will not get a penny by 1981 – and this is what I am talking about people being fooled. People must be told what the truth is, that you have discussed with the Italian Mission the possibility of doing something for St. Andrew and that in due course you will hope that after the studies and the necessary projections have been done, that there may be some assistance for this scheme, but listening to the news I thought the cheque had come. This is not fair to people.

I am not quarrelling with the Government for asking a country which has these soil erosion problems of considering it, but do not fool people that money is already almost in the pipeline when an Attache is only discussing a matter with a Government, and people are told and made to believe "we are going to stop one-seventh of the island going into the sea because the Italians like us so much" when they kidnapped the Prime Minister of Italy this morning. That is why I say people in this country do not think. If they were thinking I could not get twenty votes less than that fellow. But be that as it may, this is what I want, truth, and I think the Attorney General will support this, that you can report the news without giving the slant and making people believe you're doing so much that in the twinkling of an eye, at one meeting, you're going to get money for the Soil Conservation Scheme.

It is a problem and it will cost money, but it must be tackled, but I want truth in advertising, I want truth in news, I want truth for the people, so that when nothing happens for no reason, probably the Government cannot be blamed, people would not have seen this headline, they have probably long forgotten it, that this is what has happened. I commented on it the next morning and I think members on the Government benches will agree that that was not a fair reporting of the discussions with the Italian Commercial Attache and the Ambassador.

Now, Livestock Development. I would like to know from the Minister how that scheme is going. For a long time, and I am going to be blunt, Joy Edwards had cows, the cows died from tick fever – I am going to call names now – because I want to know who owes it money, how many cows over the years have come in, how is the scheme progressing, is the money being repaid, are we getting new cows this year? I want to know the entire position of the scheme, because I used to hear that Joy went up and chose the best bulls and sent them down. All right, Joy is not in here now, you are dealing with them now, I hear, but that is your business, but I want to know the entire position of the livestock scheme, who owes money, who is in default, who is paying, what is the position of the scheme, is the money being repaid, is the scheme being continued, would there have been a choice of any animals this year, who will be going up to choose the animals, and all relevant information on the scheme whereby Canada was enabling Barbados to develop a herd. I would like to know too, not only livestock in terms of cattle, I would like to know what are the Minister's projections and how is the dairy project working out. I see they say they are going in for new drinks and new development, and I would like to know what is the position with the Pine Hill Dairy.

I want you to give the House an honest and frank detailed account. You are dealing with public money, tell the truth, who owes it, what is the position, who is in arrears, what action you are taking to keep it going, who you did or did not put in court, who you intend to put in court and whose cows you intend to take back. How the cows died, whether from tick fever, over milking, or what.

The Agricultural Development Corporation. This has been an arm of Government, and when I heard the member for St. Michael West citing figures and citing how many losses they had I was really amused, because the DLP had the initial struggle of establishing and running both the BMC and the ADC, and whether it was right or wrong there was never enough money to start CBC, ADC or BMC on a proper commercial footing, and I think that the member for St. Michael West who knows about the establishment of businesses, will know whether the DLP was wrong. The failures and the early losses were not from malice or from any intention to rob or to rape the taxpayers, but because we had started enterprises without the proper financial support in proper terms. Once you start something wrong, then there is the possibility of a continuation until I am very relieved, because I am a taxpayer too, every time I talk in here I only work for 30 cents in the dollar.

4.35 p.m.

Every time I talk in here I only work for 30 cents in the dollar, so I am glad you are saving money and I am glad that you can bring the BMC to a point where it will serve the purpose of meeting the interests of the farmers and bringing in foreign exchange and extending markets and it will have my 100% support. What we will have to admit, despite all the criticisms you have made, is that neither CBC, BMC, or ADC were properly financed from the beginning. They were saddled with bank loans and overdrafts, and most of the money went in paying these things instead of towards running the business. And if you can bring CBC to a point where, as the Prime Minister now says, this is bringing in money – or BMC or ADC – you have my unqualified support in any of these enterprises which are going to reduce the burden which the taxpayers of this country have been bearing for a long time.

Now I understand there are some persons working at ADC who are over the age of 60. *(Asides)* I hear so, I don't have to name anybody, I am not in court. But I am telling you, and you know it is true, or if you don't you can enquire from your officers whether there are any persons in ADC at managerial level over the age of 60. If there are, I would like to know the reason why. The agricultural workers and the people down below must go at age 60 but you can have people at the managerial level above the age of 60. They may have special skills, I don't know *(Asides)*. I am only asking the reason; I don't want to knock the bread out of anybody's mouth, because the fellow who tries to do that to me will lose his life. I am only asking a simple question. If it is so, what is the reason why these people are there, because it would be a policy not consistent with the position the Government is taking.

I would not repeat the point that there is a member of the ADC who used public transport to send for this children, because I used to do that when I was at MCW. If I was at a meeting and had to pick my child up from school and the van was there I would send for my child; I was not going to let him sleep outside, so get that straight. I am not making any apology for that. I am doing business one side, haven't got a chauffeur and my child standing up waiting for somebody to come and slap him, I am not in that. But I want to know whether or not this obtains. There may be a good reason for it, but I have been instructed that this is being done at ADC, where Government vehicles are being constantly used – not occasionally as in my case – for picking up children from school. Occasionally is all right but constantly is a bit different.

Mr. Chairman, that is about all I would like the Minister to tell me – the position of the lifestock scheme – I do not want any answer on the soil conservation, I wish you luck; it is a serious problem and I hope the Italian Government will give some money. Not that the Government may be responsible for this, this might be

just some reporter in a wave of elation giving the impression that Italy is going to give money overnight. I think you have been in Government long enough to know that it takes some time and that various procedures have to be gone through before getting money on a bilateral basis or from a multi-lateral institution and therefore I do not expect any particular answer. That criticism is more or less directed to the Ministry of Information, the person having responsibility for CBC, that when we report the news it must be fair, even though the Opposition does not get a look-in on debates in the House and so on. We are not quarrelling with that, we have the whole Island and that is a different matter; but he must not mislead the people into believing that things are there when they are not.

So I want to know the position of the livestock station and whether or not there are persons over 60 employed and whether they possess any special skills. You needn't bother about the one about carrying children. As I said I had to do it when I was a Minister – if I am working for the Government as a Minister and my child is at school and has to get home, I do not see why I should pay a taxi – not that I couldn't afford it, but that is part of, call it what you will, running the Government, that you can be happy in your home because if you are not happy in your home you cannot bring to your Ministry a clear and settled mind, and when you are a Minister you have to have both if you are to give the taxpayers the best of which you are capable. But I want to know the livestock position mainly.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I must congratulate the hon. member for Christ Church South Central, the Deputy Prime Minister, for what I consider to be a restrained and interesting input and indeed quite different from the contribution made under this Head generally by some colleague on the other side. I have no doubt that the hon. member for St. Michael West feels he has to earn his spurs and therefore it is perfectly acceptable that he will make a number of statements calculated more towards the headlines than towards the instruction of the people of the country. There are many persons who expect that on an issue of the Barbados Marketing Corporation for example, or in the area of price control, once I rise to speak the sparks will begin to fly. It is not my intention to engage in criticisms for the sake of criticisms, but unfortunately a number of statements have been made from time to time whch seems to suggest that the Barbados Marketing Corporation and the Agricultural Development Corporation and similar institutions in this country are to continue to be a political football.

Mr. Chairman, I am not at all embarrassed or ashamed of the fact that in 1972 I was called upon to assume responsibility for the administration in the managerial sense of the Barbados Marketing Corporation. I shall not go into a long and detailed historical exercise, but I think that hon. members on both sides should begin to recognize that the Barbados Marketing Corporation, the Agricultural Development Corporation and other institutions were created for the general good of the total population.

I will start with the Barbados Marketing Corporation. There is no doubt that when with the best of intentions the Corporation was established, it was not established along the lines, which I myself would have recommended for its creation. I do not believe that hon. members on either side are about to quarrel with the concept off the Barbados Marketing Corporation, but a number of persons who were responsible for advising on the structure of that Corporation fell into the strange trap of assuming that the Barbados Marketing Corporation could pay for its capitalization out of expected profits.
4.45 p.m.

If I may say so, it was a unique economic theory which was proved subsequently to be ill advised, and indeed to be invalid. The result of that was that for a number of years – this is based on information that I was able to gather at the time when it became my responsibility – the B.M.C. had to run very fast to stay in the same spot. I have no apologies to make when I say that there was an element of malfeasance in the administration of the B.M.C. in its initial incorporation. I found that when I took it over. *(Cheers)*.

Mr. Chairman, I do not believe that the B.M.C. is a partisan matter. If you are interested in the development of the people of this country you have to see institutions functioning in the context of what they were established to do; and it is a well known fact that involved in the initial incorporation of the Barbados Marketing Corporation there were persons who had cause to be brought before the Courts; but it is not my intention to cast aspersions on these persons. My intention is to deal with the B.M.C. to the extent that I know of it.

There is no one in Barbados who can say that the B.M.C. has not been beneficial to the people of Barbados. There is no one who is honest who can get up and say that. One of the things that has now occurred in the present dispensation is that a number of the expenditures of the B.M.C. are going to be properly included as part of the total expenditure of normal governmental expenditure.

For too long there have been persons in the country who have tended, because they were not interested in seeing the B.M.C. succeed, continued to indicate that the B.M.C. was bound to fail for the sole reason that it was a governmental institution. Now this is a question of your philosophy of life or your political philosophy. If you believe that the Government should not participate in the

so-called private sector you will subscribe easily on that basis to that particular concept; but in fact although the accounts as they are produced might not indicate profitability in the B.M.C., if one takes into account the social factors one will be able to see throughout the history of the Barbados Marketing Corporation, despite some of the difficulties it has had, that there was a social profit in having the B.M.C. Indeed, if it was not so, I believe that the hon. gentlemen on that side would have scrapped it.

I do not believe that it is in the interest of this country that the B.M.C. should be used as a tool for political gain. Therefore, when I say that in 1972 an attempt was made to put the B.M.C. on a sound footing, I am not saying that to blow any trumpets, but merely to record a fact. The hon. member for St. Michael West is now Chairman of the B.M.C. and I want to say a few things about his approach in a few minutes.

The Minister now responsible for Agriculture finds himself as it used to be with the B.M.C., forming part of the total approach to agricultural development in this country. There are some persons who feel that that is how it should be, and there are some persons who feel that that is how it should not be. To me, Mr. Chairman, it is a question of style and belief; but I think that that is not important. What is important is, Mr. Chairman, that because the Barbados Marketing Corporation was established that a number of farmers in this country were able to make a profit out of farming.

There was a time, sir, when all manner of things, including proteins, were imported into this country. It is because there is Barbados Marketing Corporation that today Barbados is self-sufficient in a number of these same proteins; but we have had difficulties in the administration of the corporation. No Minister who is responsible for the corporation is involved in the day to day running of the corporation; and therefore I am not going to stand on this side and point my finger at the Minister and accuse him for what goes wrong or does not go wrong; for it is his business, and indeed the business of the people on the other side if they choose for political purposes to point their finger and say that when the members on this side had the responsibility that the Barbados Marketing Corporation did not function because of the Minister.

However, sir, there are certain policy decisions which have been made over the last 16 months or so which only time will tell were in the right direction or not. In some ways it is too early to be critical because frankly, Mr. Chairman, the people of this country, from all the reports I have heard, chose the people on the Other Side to bring in their style of Government to run the corporation in the way they feel it should be run.

I believe, sir, that the decision to make a member of this House Chairman of the Barbados Marketing Corporation was not the correct one, but I believe that it is too early for us to judge. A member of this House who is involved in the day to day administration of an institution such as the Barbados Marketing Corporation must necessarily feel that his decisions are perhaps open to more public scrutiny than the decisions that would have been made by some other Chairman; and as a result, Mr. Chairman, he must become indeed more sensitive to a number of decisions which are made in that context; but as I said, Mr. Chairman, we shall wait and we shall see.

The hon. member for St. Michael West as Chairman of the Barbados Marketing Corporation has made a number of statements, some of them reasoned, and one or two of them wild. That is the nature of the political game which is played in this House but I am not going to take him up on them specifically because we have a different place and a different time to deal with them; but I think that the member ought to recognise that when he makes predictions, when he makes promises, the results of which are based on the performance of other persons, he will find that he is not always in a position to see those predictions or those promises fulfilled.

When the Barbados Marketing Corporation attempted to get involved in the processing of chicken, the then Minister of Trade did not behave in a partisan manner and decided that merely because the instrument through which the processing would be done was connected in some way with somebody from the Other Side that it should not be.

4.55 p.m.

We recognise that at that time the only processing plant in this country capable of assisting in the fulfilment of the particular policy was that particular processing plant. I think that the information is now with us that processing of chicken in this country has been successful; but, Mr. Chairman, I deplore the attempt on the part of people on the other side to suggest that suddenly with the advent of their Party and their Government chicken processing is now par excellence in Barbados. I have no doubt that the Minister of Chicken Backs – the hon. member for St. Michael West who is now the authority on these matters – will want to get some praise for what is going on, but the new home of the Barbados Marketing Corporation's major activities, the wholesaling activities, was not something that came out of the breast of any hon. member over there. The creation of a new institution for the Barbados Marketing Corporation is something that followed in the normal planning for the Barbados Marketing Corporation development only last three or four years. Discussions with the Caribbean Development Bank for the processing of the loan for the new Barbados Marketing Corporation started long before the hon. members came to power.

Mr. Chairman, unfortunately time runs out when one is speaking in the context of the Committee, and rather than my getting up again, if you will bear with me as I wind up, I should like to make the point that I think it would be in the interest of the country and to the credit of the Government if when they are putting up information regarding projects such as the new Barbados Marketing Corporation project, they would give you credit to the fact regarding such a project. The Hon. Prime Minister on one occasion, I think it was last year, raised questions about the location of the Barbados Marketing Corporation in St. Thomas. Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Prime Minister made the point in truth and in fact. When the original site was considered, the files will show that I was never in favour of that particular site, but a Mr. Yankey, from the Caribbean Development Bank – I am not calling his name disparagingly – insisted as head of the Committee which included a number of high-powered Government personnel, that the location be in St. Thomas. It is therefore not propitious for members on the other side to suggest that we, the then Government, insisted on locating the project in St. Thomas. We raised questions about the present location. None of the members on this side could wish the Barbados Marketing Corporation other than well. We created it, we nursed it, we laid the foundation for it and if therefore they are able on an easy wicket.....

Mr. JOHNSON: On a point of order, the hon. member for St. Michael South West would like to get a piece of the action now that the BMC is beginning to turn round, but while we understand that, he should not mislead the House. The Barbados Marketing Corporation was the brainchild of the Barbados Labour Party and we started it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like to know if any other hon. member wants to speak. If so, the hon. member will have to give way. But he will have another opportunity.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I wondered why the thing started off so badly and the hon. member has now given me the real reason. I will come back on this.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, there are two points I wanted to raise. Looking at the amendments which were circulated some time ago to this particular Head, there are two items which have come to my attention that I would like to raise in the hope that the Hon. Minister of Agriculture would be able to shed some light on. On page 4 of the amendments dealing with the notes on Capital Expenditure, there is an amendment here at least to add (d) and (e) to Item 3 which has to do with the mechanical cultivation scheme. (d) makes token provision for the Home Economics Division. Presumably this is for the establishment of a Home Economics Division, and what I want to find out from the Hon. Minister is whether or not the Government does not see the clash between the establishment of this Division and the present House Craft Centre, and also with the Food Promotion and Experimental Food Processing section which already exists under the Ministry of Agriculture, I believe under the aegis of the Barbados Development Corporation. Further I would want to find out whether or not rather than proliferating these kinds of activities which to all intents and purposes are designed to serve the same particular goal, it would not be better to concentrate them so that they would be able to benefit from the coming together of what expertise exists in this particular area. I hope the Minister will be able to throw some light on the establishment of this particular division.

Furthermore, Mr. Chairman, the list of amendments also makes provision for (e) which has to do with the National Co-operative Federation. Quite apart from the fact that these two extensions come under the mechanical cultivation scheme, I really wonder if the Hon. Minister would like to look at this because it seems to me that there is some mixup here as far as the items are concerned rather than having 3(d) and (e) he might have to think in terms of putting another item, but I suppose he knows what is best in that regard. I want to find out something further.....

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order, if the hon. member would look, he would see the heading "Extension and Training".

Mr. GREAVES: I have noticed that, but if you look on page 42 it is headed "Extension and Training" and Item 3 is "Mechanical Cultivation Scheme." What I am saying is that the amendments add Item 3(d). Anyhow, that is a small point.
5.05 p.m.

That is a small point, the major point has to do, Mr. Chairman, with this National Co-operative Federation, and I wonder if the Minister would be able to throw some light on that particular Federation and what it is designed to serve, whether this is going to be the new thrust which the Minister and the Ministry of Agriculture with responsibility for Co-operatives will be embarking on in the field of co-operatives, because when one looks at the vote for Co-operatives which has been provided, the Minister and myself for years have been calling for an increase in the vote, and what we have noticed consistently over the years is that there has been a decrease in this particular vote, and whereas I do not want to go back on a Head that has been passed, I just want to refer to that particular point and I certainly would want to counsel the Minister and to impress upon the Minister that the development of co-operatives whether it is going to be under this National Co-operative Development, certainly co-operatives have a very important role to play in our whole developmental

process, and I would like to be enlightened on what is meant and certainly what is intended under this particular National Co-operative Federation.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, just two last points on the Barbados Marketing Corporation. Members on the other side might not be aware of this, but there are some persons working at the Barbados Marketing Corporation who perhaps do not understand the new management style or the new policy style, but I say, Mr. Chairman, in all seriousness that there are persons at the Barbados Marketing Corporation who might very well have been employed while being members of the Democratic Labour Party. There are some, however, who are not members of any political party, who have come to feel – whether they feel so correctly or otherwise – terrorised, they fear, based on the particular management style which they have seen where persons have been moved from top executive positions or apparent executive positions down into the yard. Those persons might very well have deserved such treatment, I do not know, Mr. Chairman, but other persons working at the Corporation as soon as they have come to feel that they are about to be transferred have gone into areas of terror.

Mr. Chairman, I will admit that there are some individuals who work at the Barbados Marketing Corporation who are personal friends of mine, and it is for that reason that I do not say a number of things about the Barbados Marketing Corporation which I would otherwise say, because those persons have come to feel that anything said about the BMC by me or someone like me will result in some kind of disciplinary action on their part.

Now, Sir, in two cases I have taken the trouble to point out to the persons that I believe the Chairman of the Barbados Marketing Corporation is an honourable man, and I have taken the trouble to point out to them that I do not believe that they would be "unfaired" at the Barbados Marketing Corporation merely for their suspected political beliefs, or known. I do not believe that anyone has to be ashamed to be a member of a political party in this country, it should never be so, Sir. If it was so in our time, and I do not know it to have been so, but if it was so, that was shameful. If it is so now it is even more shameful because the present Government has sworn to relieve the country of any such fear. I do not wish to dwell on that, Sir, but I think that if I should participate in this debate and not raise this particular question that I will not be fully and completely honest. I hope that the Minister or the Chairman will take the opportunity of these Estimates and this debate to give an unequivocal commitment at least to this Hon. House – and I am not saying this in any pejorative manner, Sir – give the assurance to those persons who support the Democratic Labour Party, who now work at the Barbados Marketing Corporation, that they have nothing to fear so long as they do their jobs well. I think that will be of some assistance in the total development of this country.

Now, Sir, I wish to ask the Minister of Agriculture a couple of questions regarding the ADC. I do not believe that a person who has held ministerial office can afford to come to the House of Assembly and ask questions merely to be mischievous. It is certainly not my intention, but I have reason to believe that the Corporation has recently, or in the last sixteen months or so, acquired additional land. There may very well be a good reason for it, but I should like the Minister to tell us first of all whether the Corporation acquired additional land, and if so, what the cost has been to the Government and for what reason. *(Asides)*. Mr. Chairman, the Asides from the Minister I believe are unworthy of the Minister. I am asking a question if for no other reason than for the Minister to give us the reasons. If he has good reasons he has them, because it has been said in this Hon. Chamber and elsewhere that the Agricultural Development Corporation had too much land. I am sure the Minister will come around to answering that question; maybe they did and maybe they didn't, but I am sure the Minister will come around to answering that question.

On the question of the Ministry of Agriculture itself, there was a time when the Minister sitting on this side of the House indicated that the deployment of staff in the Ministry of Agriculture was not sufficiently well thought out as to produce the most efficiency in the Department. I should like to enquire of the Minister what steps, if any, have been taken so far to redeploy the staff in the Ministry of Agriculture and what have been the results of such redeployment if in fact there has been any redeployment. I should like the Minister also to indicate what is the position with regard to the development of cotton in this country, because for some time now it has been suggested that one of the crops which Barbados would see some benefit from its revival was cotton. I would like the Minister to tell me what has happened in the area of cotton and to what extent the cotton development in Barbados has progressed. There was some talk for some time of the cotton seed being involved in the processing of feed in this country. I should like the Minister to indicate whether any progress has been made in this direction, whether the concept has been abandoned or whether it is still being considered in the Ministry.

5.15 p.m.

I have been instructed that there are some small farmers in the country who feel that they have not been able to avail themselves of some of the services of the Ministry of Agriculture. If the Minister will be patient I will tell him. The point is that a number of small farmers have not been able to get their land ploughed for reasons stated fairly often. I would like the Minister to indicate whether there has been any improvement in

this situation and whether he can give some indication of the Government's policy for the small farmer.

The hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for External Trade has just returned from discussions on the new arrangements for the African-Caribbean-Pacific countries and the EEC. I have no doubt that in due course we will get a report from the Minister or the Government, but I wonder whether he or the Minister responsible for Agriculture are in a position at this time to tell us how the EEC is going to assist Barbados agriculture. I say this because among the items listed for aid from the EEC under the last agreement was the general area of agriculture, and there were some specific approaches which I believe were in the making. I would like the Minister to give us a progress report and tell us the prospects for the future. There has been some talk of marginal sugar producers going out of production. I do not want to go into detailed questioning of that possibility nor do I want under this Head to raise the difficulties which the employment levy as applied to agricultural production will have on the total economy of the country but I would expect that the Ministry of Agriculture is making his own representation to the Ministry of Finance on this whole question of the application of the employment levy to agricultural production. I read in today's newspaper that farmers producing certain goods are now indicating that they will not be able to avail themselves of the privilege of getting certain manufacturing items duty free and I should like to hear from the Minister whether the report in the newspaper is accurate or what is the true position of this new policy which apparently will affect farmers, if in fact there is a new policy. I trust the Minister or somebody from the Government side will give us the rationale for this new policy. And I would hope that when the Budget is prepared the Minister for Agriculture would put some pressure on the Minister of Finance to put in his Budgetary proposals some provision for farmers in this country. It has been promised to them and it would seem that the employment levy should be dealt with in the Budgetary Proposals.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I just want to get a little information from the hon. Minister and I intend to speak on the Barbados National Standards Institution. Now, Sir, as one who has been mixing with the people for all my days, I am here to tell this hon. House that while we are planning to go metric by 1979 I want this hon. House to know that 80% or more of the people of this country do now know what it is all about. We are being compelled to go metric, and therefore I am wondering if the Minister would consider having night schools where various people can lecture and let the citizens of this country, especially those at the bottom of the ladder, hear and know something about it. I think, Sir, that it is going to bring about all kinds of confusion in this country with the working class people. I repeat we have no choice and it must come about, but I am warning the Minister that we have to take immediate steps to get the people of this country understanding about the change and what it is all about. If you go into the various supermarkets and see the number of people employed there, I doubt very much that 5% of them right now know anything about it. And I want to say this: A large number of conversion tables should be printed and given to the school children to take home to their parents so that they would be able to calculate the measurements and understand what it is all about. This issue is one of the biggest that this Island will face in several years and it is not as simple as we are trying to make it. You are going to get a situation where many of those who understand the new system will cheat others who do not understand it. Whom are they going to appeal to? The time has therefore come when we must have a comprehensive scheme and campaign to cover the whole Island and not wait until 1979 to force it on the people.

I repeat that we have no choice; we have to bring it about.

5.25 p.m.

We have to bring it about. Therefore, let us start in the early. You cannot only deal with the training of a few employees of the merchants. You have got to get to the grass roots people, the people at the bottom. It is going to cost the Government some money. You will have to train people, and these people will have to go to the various schools, night schools, and let the people understand what it is all about. I hope that the Minister has plans for spending some money. It means the training of staff. It means having these night schools to train various people, people who will understand, people who have an interest. I understand that there are some people who may never understand; but it has to come and therefore we have to start at once and try to train people and let people understand what it is all about. I want this Hon. House to know that I am giving a warning that if we do not plan it well, we are going to get confusion in the end and a lot of robbery will go on; and therefore I am appealing to the Minister and the Government to give this matter careful consideration. I would say that 80% of the people of this country do not know what it is all about.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, under Item 7, Barbados National Standards Institution, *(Asides)* Mr. Chairman, please protect me from the Acting Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No cross talk, please.

Mr. TAITT: I think, Sir, that we have to get some information on this in this Hon. House because the laboratory will be handed over. Mr. Chairman, proper standards in this country is something which both sides have agreed upon are necessary. It is now something like four years since the laboratory was conceived and implemented with assistance from the United Nations Development Programme. It has taken entirely too long – that is not a criticism of the Minister, because I do not believe, that the Minister, try as he might, can get blood out of a stone. I think that it is entirely too long since this project has been conceived and alleged to be implemented, and to my understanding it has not yet been handed over to the Standards Institution. I hope that he will be able soon to announce that the laboratory has been handed over.

Now, Sir, on the question of Markets, there is a public market at Eagle Hall. This market – let me give him credit very early – was conceived in the halcyon days of the Barbados Labour Party and the concept was a good concept. In recent months, however, that market has taken a dive and the standards of health, so that whenever you pass by Eagle Hall you do not have to go into the market to know that you are passing by the market. It is about time that something should be done about it. I do not see in the Estimates any provision for building a new market. It not only serves St. Michael South West, but it also serves St. Michael North East and St. Michael West; and I think we have a common interest in seeing the market improved. I think that even the Minister of Health has an interest in what is going on there.

At the corner of a gap that is called Watt Gap, it is so unhealthy, that it not only smells bad, it not only looks bad, but it is really bad; and you can pass there, Mr. Chairman, any time when fish are being sold next door to the area in which there is a settlement and I am saying, Sir, that it is undersirable for us in 1978. I would have hoped to see some indication in the capital appropriation that suggested that something would be done about this market. Mr. Chairman, I believe that the time has come – when we had the Government we implemented certain health standards. I believe that the Minister of Health has an allegiance to high health standards. When we come to talk about the Ministry over which she presides, I will expand on that; but, Sir, I do not believe that I have ever seen you in that market; but it is a very communal market and is of great benefit to the people who live in the area; but something has got to be done with it and I will recommend to the Government that they consider acquiring areas surrounding the market so that it can be expanded and improved upon.

Mr. SISNETT: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member would give way for a second I would like him to exp ain to the House how long did he know that this market was in such a state of desrepair.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member, as I understand it, wishes me to explain how long I have noticed this. It is from the time that the Barbados Labour Party came into power.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Am I to understand that the Hon. member, when he was a Minister did not even do his job properly so that he did not see the conditions of the market?

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, it is true that the Hon. Prime Minister when he was over here said that I was "Minister of Garbage;" but I was not Minister of Garbage", nor was I Minister of Health. If the hon. Attorney General who had just come in here hot and sweaty does not know what is going on....

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order. I would say that he has now become Minister of Garbage.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is not a point of order.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I have been in here for 12 years and I know my way around. I beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again. *(Asides).*

5.35 p.m.

The question that Mr. CHAIRMAN do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again, was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:–

AYES: Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS; Hon. H. B. St. JOHN; Hon. L. S. CRAIG; Hon. H. deB. FORDE; Hon. C. L. BOLDEN; Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE; Hon. L. R. TULL; Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER; Mr. WARD; Dr. CHELTENHAM; Mr. JOHNSON; Mr. SIMMONS; Mr. ALLEYNE; Mr. SISNETT and Mr. BRADSHAW – 15.

NOES: Hon. F. G. SMITH; Mr. TAITT; Mr. GREAVES and Mr. SANDIFORD – 4.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, contrary to the prevailing suggestion, this side does not wish to close any debate. The position is that, as you know, we started at 2.30 p.m. and it would be normal for any human being, having sat in the Chair for that long period of time, to desire to have a short break, and I think that there are others in here who have to have a short break, and accordingly I give the other side the assurance that they can talk from now for the last of the five days on agriculture. We know they do not want to get to some other Heads.

I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended for 20 minutes.

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

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, clearly no one on this side should have any objection if the Chairman or any other presiding officer finds it necessary, desirable or otherwise to get a break. We would have expected that in the normal way in a Parliament that someone would have come over here and said to us, as has been done from time immemorial, "gentlemen, the Chairman due either to his lack of capacity, discipline or otherwise, needs a break and we would like to take a small break". There has never been any difficulty with that. How come in the middle of an hon. member making a speech one of them who is not the acting leader.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do I understand the hon. member for St. Michael South West to be agreeing that this House should be suspended?

Mr. TAITT: I am not sure I am agreeing with it. I am speaking on the motion. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I implore you not to allow yourself to fall into any of the traps which are set by those professional trap setters. They are hon. trap setters.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, when you want to catch a weasel, you have to set a trap.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, it takes a weasel to catch a weasel. Seriously, Mr. Chairman, we would not quarrel with it; we just think that the style was bad, but then their style has not been one that commends itself to hon. gentlemen over here anyhow.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Speaking on the motion, I would like to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that it is perfectly within the right of the Leader of the House or whoever is deputising for him from time to time to move that the House be suspended. There is nothing at all wrong with that, but I would certainly take exception and I am speaking as a member of this House to the terms in which such a motion is made, in other words, that there is some punishment being meted out to the hon. and distinguished member who may be presiding over this Chamber. As I understand it.....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, I made the statement that punishment was being meted out to the Chairman because one of the members on the other side told me in the dining hall today that they were going to keep the Chairman in the Chair for the entire day, and it is a classic example from the nonsense they have been dealing with over there. I say this now on this point: we are generous and decent for the reason that we could have passed every Head in here last night when they walked out, but we did not treat them like they treated us. In 1966 before we got up the stairs the then Leader of the House, Mr. Cameron Tudor had some 17 Heads passed in ten minutes. We did not want to do that; we allowed our backbenchers to debate the Heads and let the public know what is going on, and gave them a chance to come back in here. We did not go on with that with you all, but outside the dining hall I heard one of you, I would not call that person's name, say "I am going to punish the Chairman today". They were on this Head from 2.30 p.m. until 5.45 p.m. talking absolute nonsense. Of course I must say of the hon. member for St. Michael South I do not know why he does not get in a Chair by himself and withdraw from the others. You can see decency, commonsense and sincerity in you. Even last night they shut you out; when the others walked out, you remained in here because you realised that you have a responsibility to your country. I do not know why you do not sit behind; you are not with them, you are a different breed.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Speaking on the motion for the Suspension, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have been in this Parliament and I cannot remember any time I was in this House when the Estimates being debated did not last five days when you were in Opposition, which meant that Mr. Russell Lowe sat there like the hon. member for St. George North. Was he punishing?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, would you compare Mr. Russell Lowe with the present hon. member? It is true they were both from St. George, but you cannot compare Mr. Lowe with the present Chairman.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am not comparing them in mentality, I am comparing them sitting in the Chair. Both had to sit there.

Hon. L. R. TULL rose.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Two hon. members cannot be on their feet at the same time.
5.45 p.m.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am not comparing them in mentality, I am comparing them sitting in the Chair, both of them had to sit there.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Two hon. members cannot be on their feet at the same time. *(Asides).* I will determine that.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Sit down man! On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the member for St. George South has never sat in the Chair as Chairman of Committees. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: Are you going to quarrel about that now? Is that a big point?) You can be

sure, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that if the hon. member for St. George South was sitting in the Chair the hon. member for St. Michael South Central would have been chased out long ago.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I know that, but I get chased out without you sitting in it, so it is all right. What I am saying is, I agree with the member for St. Michael South. We are entitled to deal with one Head all five days, two Heads, three Heads; we are not abusing the rules of the House. You may not agree with the agrument, but we are entitled for five days to debate the Estimates of Expenditure, and as you indicated to us, and I know, I have always felt sitting there hour after hour – it is all right for the Speaker, he can use the Deputy Speaker – I think the time may come when we may have to consider having a Deputy Chairman especially on an occasion such as this, but do not give the impression that we are punishing anybody. Are we not exercising our democratic rights in the House? Are we not doing what we are permitted to do.....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. I repeat the reason why I said "punishing" is simply because one of the members of the Opposition made mention of this to me today, and I can only conclude this could be your reason.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Last night we did not punish him. (Hon. L. S. CRAIG: You couldn't punish him last night). If your consciences bother you now that you didn't hurry through the Heads do not blame me. Mankind has a conscience, you know, whatever you do at some time is going to worry you. The evil flourish like a green bay tree, but the day of reckoning comes, so if you all feel that you had to give us a chance today, okay, we have come back, but do not give the public the impression that we are deliberately punishing the member. The rules permit five days of debate. When you were in the House our Chairman of Committees sat down there; if the time comes that he wants a break, and he must want a break either for nature, for refreshment, just indicate, and we would be the first to agree to half hour or five hours. It is not punishment, because the rules say that there shall be five days allotted, so whether it is Russell Lowe or whether it is the member for St. George North, do not blame us and give the impression that we are doing something that we are not entitled to. You are saying now, you are falling into the same thing, last night we could have done it but we didn't do it because we wanted to give you a chance to debate it, and once we are debating it he has to sit there. It is as simple as that.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I gave way on a point of order, I had not concluded what I was saying. I must thank the hon. member for St. James for the compliments he has been paying. (Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Because you are from St. James). Oh, you were just speaking to one of your constituents, you have to speak good about all of them. I would like to assure the hon. member that this Opposition is strong and united in a way that the Government is not. I would like to give that hon. member that assurance.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, Sir. I may agree with "united" but surely they are not strong.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I simply wish to make the point, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is within the right and privilege of the Government whenever they feel like to move the suspension of a sitting and they can do this, or should do this, if they feel that sufficient debating time has elapsed. There is absolutely no need at all to speak about the Opposition punishing the Chairman, because whenever their schedule and timetable has passed they can get up and move the motion, they have the numbers, but as I recall it both sides of the House have been speaking on this particular matter. Quite a number of members over there have been contributing to this debate, and if anybody is being punished – I do not know why the Chairman so readily admitted that he was being punished – because from the very quick way, the readiness with which he accepted that he was being punished, I think if anybody is being punished it is the member for St. Joseph, your Minister of Agriculture. That is where the lashes are going.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, speaking on the suspension, I am reminded of being told of how when Mr. B. L. Barrow, a former senior member for St. John, was Chairman of Committees, that one day he found himself in this position, I think the Marshal will recall, and the hon. members would not take him on at all, and eventually he said to the House, "Look, wunna know wuh yuh doin' wid muh? Yuh got muh stake out hey like a goat and yuh wun even gi' muh water," and the House then realised the need of some relief for the Chairman of Committees, and I think that what the hon. member for St. Michael South said is true, we will have at some time in the future to look towards relief arrangements in the absence of the hon. member for St. George North. In the fullness of time it may very well be that the House will fall into a tradition of appointing somebody to take the Chair without interruption of the debate. It really is, I think, just one of the drawbacks of a House of 24 people, that you cannot really afford four Presiding Officers, and in all the circumstances, Sir, I believe that the hon. member for Christ Church South Central, the Hon. Leader of the House, will now withdraw the motion calling for the suspension, Sir.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I understand that the occasion for moving the motion no longer arises. Accordingly, Sir, I ask the leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leave to withdraw the motion is granted.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

On the motion of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for St.Michael South West was on his feet.

Mr. TAITT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I must say I am very happy to see you in a refreshed state, relieved. (Mr. CHAIRMAN: I prefer "refreshed"). Had I any indication at all, Sir, I would not even have got up the second time.

I am almost finished now, Sir, I was making the point that so far as the market at Eagle Hall is concerned the time had come, I think, for an updating of the facilities.
5.55 p.m.

I don't believe that this ought to be treated in a partisan manner because I think hon. members on both sides have an interest in high standards of market facilities at Eagle Hall.

Mr. Chairman, Item 1 says: "Contribution to Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Science and Token Provision for the Caribbean Food Corporation". I recall, Sir, that in another debate the question as to whether Dr. Williams was correct that we had not paid our contribution to the Caribbean Food Corporation came up and I believe the Minister of External Trade indicated that Barbados had paid its initial contribution *(Asides)* I see, Sir, that certain Ministers are not paying attention; it would be a waste of time for me to ask questions if they are not going to be answered. Despite the remarks which I can hear coming from the Prime Minister *sotto voce*.....

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of elucidation, Sir, as regards my *sotto voce* remarks I would refer to the old phrase every fool has his sense.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I shall not comment on that because it did not even elicit a snigger.

I notice included here, Mr. Chairman, a token provision for the Caribbean Food Corporation, and I am a little concerned about this token provision when in fact we had indications that the initial payment had been made. It seems to me that if the initial payment had been made there would be no need for a token provision but provision for continued payment of our contribution, and I would like the Minister to advise us on this.

As regards the token provision for a farm school, it seems to me we should have some further information about this since I cannot recall any debate on a question of a farm school, and I would like to hear the Minister's plans for the establishment of this farm school, where it will be and what it will be. The Minister has outlined vast and comprehensive agricultural policies. Unfortunately, the implementations so far have fallen far short of the promises included in these pronouncements.

I also believe that the livestock development aspect of our agriculture policy requires some word from the Minister, especially as it relates to the black belly sheep programme. You will recall, Mr. Chairman, that last year both sides agreed that there was need for a specific project on the black belly sheep and the Hon. Minister indicated that a plan had been worked out for black belly sheep. I would like to hear from the Minister how the plan is working, what has been the result, the number of black belly sheep we now have in Barbados and more specifically the nature, size and value of the exports of black belly sheep from this country during the last year. And given the fact that I have read in the newspapers that Grenada, Tobago, Mexico and a number of other countries are becoming involved in black belly sheep, I would like to know what steps the Government is taking to protect our fledgling industry of developing black belly sheep. I am sure the Minister will be in a position to tell us this.

While on the question of the production of food, I have heard many statements made about a turkey project. I do not know who is stuffing whom, and I do not know if anybody is playing turkey, but there has been a lot of talk about a turkey project and I wonder whether the Minister can tell us (a) whether there is such a thing as a turkey project; (b) whether the Government is involved in and to what extent; and (c) if the Government is not involved, can the Minister tell us what ate the plans for the development of turkey meat in the country.

Recently there has been an announcement about a shortage of chicken – I am not speaking of chicken backs – and part of the reason given is that there is some problem about the costs. I touched on it earlier on the question of the re-imposition of tariffs on certain medicines and other raw materials for the production of chickens, and I wonder whether the Minister could shed some light on this. But at the moment in Barbados there seems to be a shortage of chicken.

Now, Sir, as I recall it, some time ago the Minister of Agriculture produced a draft of standards

for the production of feeds, and the Ministry of Agriculture together with the Barbados National Standards Institute were supposed to work on the production of a comprehensive set of standards which will become legislation, so that the quality of feed produced in this country would be standardized. I wonder if the Minister is in a position to tell us (a) what has become of that legislation, (b) whether it is the intention of the Government to bring it to fruition; and (c) if there is in fact a shortage of chicken in the country, what steps are being taken to alleviate that shortage.

I think, Mr. Chairman, I have asked all the questions I wanted on the capital side of the Estimates of expenditure, except for one thing. Under Item 12 it says: "Government Laboratory – $900,000." Under Item 2 on page 42 the note says "Administration and Laboratory complex and other facilities." I wonder if the Minister can explain the difference between "Laboratory Complex". Are we having two? Is this $900,000 allocated for the Government laboratory the same laboratory that has not yet been handed over to the Barbados National Standards Institute or is it another Government laboratory. Is this one that will include forensic aspect of laboratory work or a separate and distinct laboratory, so that we will have two or three laboratories in the country? And if so, is this considered desirable in a country the size of Barbados? Is it desirable for us to have a proliferation of laboratories?

One last point. I see under Item 10 that the ADC is providing for what is described here as orchard crops. Now, Sir, when the Estimates are put together, officers have a duty to submit as clearly as possible their requirements, and one cannot blame them for some times waxing a bit loquatious.
6.05 p.m.

But, sir, we have to separate the wood from the tress and the orchards from the wilderness. I would like the Minister to explain what are these orchard crops, where they will be planted, what does he anticipate will be the result etc. I do not believe that I have to spell that out.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, there are further matters which would need clarification by the Minister of Agriculture. This, certainly, as far as the public is concerned, is one of the ministries which is causing some concern. I have seen some calls in the Press for a re-allocation so that the talents of the Front Bench may be better utilised. I do not know what the Prime Minister has in mind. I know that he has the burdens of Job; but we warn the Minister that he will have to give a full account today. We warn him. So again, simply, I am asking for information. This is the time for giving account; and we want an account from the Minister of Agriculture.

I see that the Prime Minister is leaving at this stage. The first Item that I would like clarification on is the question of the training of fishermen. I saw a provision in the Current Estimates for the training of fishermen, and in the Estimates for 1978–79 there is provision for the training of fishermen. Now, I have been following to the best of my ability developments in this area; and I have seen a great deal of correspondence in the Press relating to the difficulties which young fishermen who have gone for training in the Caribbean region – I believe in Trinidad – have found in obtaining employment on their return. I believe that some of us may have some of these people in our constituencies; and there are others who state that they have been selected for training courses, but for some reason or the other have been finding difficulty in knowing exactly what was the result of these training courses.

I am not certain what is the position. There was a time when the Minister would be more forthcoming with information, but of late he has not been as forthcoming as before; and this, I suppose is a matter for concern in other quarters; but I do hope that he will be able to tell us what exactly is the position in respect of the training programme in the Caribbean region in Trinidad and if any training also is envisaged in the Fisheries Department for local fishermen.

Another Item which we would clearly like some information on is Item 8 which refers to modification of boats, and in brackets "insulation." We would really like some information on what is envisaged under this particular item and what is involved in this insulation. I note that under Item 9 there is provision for sheep development, and under Item 10 – Agricultural Development Corporation – there is provision for Black Belly Sheep Multiplication Unit. I would like the Minister to tell us about the two programmes because I assume that there are two different programmes, one administered by the A.D.C. and one by the Ministry of Agriculture. What is the difference between the two programmes? What is the co-ordination for the proper development of our sheep resources?

There was a matter which I referred to earlier under the Inter-American Institute of Agriculture and Sciences; and maybe the Minister when he is replying can tell us whether the Barbados Agricultural Society is getting any part of its subsidy for the year 1977–78, whether there has been prompt payment of that particular subsidy or whether there was a delay; and if there was a delay, why there was a delay in paying out the subsidy to the Barbados Agricultural Society. We know that there have been some differences between the Minister and the Society or some persons in the Society, and will he be

able to tell us whether the delay had anything to do with this, or whether there was a delay at all.

I do not know much about these matters, and I would like to ask whether the Minister has under consideration any increase in the price of chicken. I would like to ask that question. We have read recently that the price of chickens from the hatcheries of those who produce the chickens at that price has gone up. I have read recently in the newspapers that there has been an increase due to the matter which the member for St. Michael South West raised. I myself have a few chicks in my backyard – feathered stock, not yard fowls – and I can decalre my interest in this; but I would like to say that I have heard these statements being made. I know that the price for the baby chicks and the old chicks has gone up so that the cost to the producers would have increased; and the Minister can tell us whether he has under consideration, whether he has any request for an increase in the price of this type of poultry meat and whether he will make a statement on this particular matter. I will not punish the Minister anymore on these particular matters but I will give him a chance to reply.

Mr. SISNETT: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to add a little contribution to this debate, more or less to thank the youth of Barbados for a reverse in their attitude towards agriculture.
6.15 p.m.

We have been told by the former Prime Minister of Barbados that he would like to see the day when there is not a single cane blade in this country, and as a result there was in Barbados among the people a kind of stigma attached to things agricultural. We have over the past decade had a massive unemployment problem, so much so that we had to import labour to harvest the sugar cane crops, and as a result Barbados had paid approximately from 1968 to 1975 $4 million to Vincentians who came into Barbados to harvest our crops. What I would particularly like to stress, Mr. Chairman, is the fact that because of the present Government's decision to prevent any foreign labour from harvesting our crops and the reversed attitude of our Barbadian youth to get involved in agriculture, it has proved to the former administration that it is just another form of employment and if the Vincentians can do it, the Barbadian youth can do it. In 1968 about 752 Vincentians came to Barbados to harvest our crops and they earned $247,000; in 1978 the figure increased to 1,110 and there was a net earning of $400,000. The situation continued the following year where 1,227 Vincentians came at a time when Barbadians were saying that they could not find jobs, and the Vincentians came in to harvest the crops to show Barbadians there is nothing wrong in agriculture. In that year the net amount for the Vincentians was $576,000 and so Mr. Chairman, up to 1975 Barbados paid out just over $4 million in earnings for imported labour to harvest our sugar crops.

As I said, I only want to thank the youth of Barbados for their turn around attitude in looking at agriculture. I believe that if more young people could become involved in going back to the land and tilling the soil we can really get on the road in cutting down our import bill. There is nothing wrong with agriculture; it is just a stigma that was attached to it some years ago and I believe that if the youth put themselves together in order to assist the present Government in cutting down on the imported foodstuff in this country, we would do a great deal in saving a lot on our food import bill. I would like to find out from the Minister of Agriculture, despite what has been carried in one of the local newspapers, if there are still any foreign workers engaged in the sugar industry.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, just one question. The hon. member spoke about the importation of Vincentians, and I wonder whether he did not wish to continue or confirm the fact that two buses went out to the airport recently to fetch Vincentians and take them into the country. I wonder if the hon. member can tell us whether or not that is a fact.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, I have been always interested in agriculture and I have listened to the various contributions made by hon. members of this Chamber, and I think that it would be a problem for us if we did not look at agriculture not only as a problem but if we did not look at the new thrust which the Minister of Agriculture and the Ministry of Agriculture have been putting into agriculture during the last 15 months or so. We have spoken on lots of occasions about the Government's policy and attitude towards agriculture and ever so often members on the other side have been playing to the Gallery and giving the impression that this Government, despite the fact that it has been talking in terms of promoting agriculture, has not been able to do anything tangible. I must say that the Ministry of Agriculture during the last couple of months has been making significant progress in the field of agriculture. With agriculture as you know, Mr. Chairman, there was a stigma as the hon. member for St. Michael North East quite rightly said. The young people after hearing the famous cane blade speech by the former Prime Minister decided against taking up agriculture as a pastime or even as a means of making a living, and what has happened is that we no longer have kitchen gardens attached to schools. As you know, there were schools in my day and most of the hon. member's days with kitchen gardens attached to them and the children were made to go into the kitchen gardens and know something about cultivating the soil. That was during the time of the Barbados Labour Party, and maybe that was one of the

reasons why under the Barbados Labour Party agriculture ranked prime and foremost as far as this country was concerned. But we have seen a complete turn around now, and during the D.L.P. Government regime, we found a situation where most of these kitchen gardens were allowed to run to ruin, allowing grass to grow on them, so you see right there in the schools where the incentive ought to be started a complete twist and lack of interest because of the policy of the former Government.

Now it is no sense our talking about the development of Agriculture if we do not understand where we have to start. We have to start right at the bottom and get the young people of this country educated to understand the importance of agriculture, not only as a means of making a living, but as a means of making them independent and at the same time helping them to produce and understand that the soil is very important to their existence. Agriculture is not merely looking at markets as the hon. member for St. Michael South West would make us understand. We have got to look and see what we are going to put in the markets and understand that the Ministry of Agriculture will have to devise plans whereby they would inject into the youth of this country a feeling that agriculture is something good and beneficial to them. Now let us understand it this way: the young people are prepared to go into agriculture, but they are not prepared to hear reckless statements made by people who are supposed to be in responsible positions.
6.25 p.m.

Let us understand that, and if we are going to encourage the young people of today to get involved in agriculture which would eventually save this country, we have got to appreciate whatever they do.

The 4-H Clubs. I have not heard members from that side mention the 4-H Clubs, but they have been making a very valuable contribution, they have been involved in lots of agricultural projects. Pig rearing, cattle rearing, this is good for the future generations and we have seen now a new dimension, a new thrust, where the Government is encouraging young boys and girls who are apt to take up agriculture to benefit by way of scholarships. I call this the new dimension in agriculture, and that is the direction in which agriculture should be heading if we are supposed to revive it as one of the prime and foremost sources of our economy.

Now, back to the 4–H Movement. There have been some snags about the 4–H Movement. Although there are young people throughout the length and breadth of this country who are prepared to take up agriculture or to get involved in agriculture, they cannot find parcels of land, nor can they find the people who can really teach them. We do not have enough training power, we do not have the people at the disposal of the Government in order to go around the country to dispense this knowledge to the young people. This is the problem. If we are going to make a success of agriculture, we have got to understand that training is very important indeed, and secondly we have got to make available plots of land for the people to cultivate. They must go hand in hand, and I do feel that the Ministry of Agriculture will do a considerable good if they were to think in terms of having officers who will be willing to go into districts and encourage the youth to get accustomed to the soil.

Mr. Chairman, we have to look at it in this way. The older people who were accustomed to agriculture are fast going out of it, and there are new techniques to be employed in agriculture, and what we are going to see is a sophistication, a new technology, and we have got to understand that the young people must bear in mind that they have got to be equipped and trained fully if they are going to use the new experiments. Agriculture is not the old conventional way, we have to see it in the new technological light, and therefore it is going to call for all our efforts to see that right at the primary level of education agriculture forms a basic part of the syllabus in all the primary schools. We must understand that, we have got to think in terms of the non-conventional education, we have now got to resort to thinking in terms of agriculture as a very important aspect of our economy.

What has happened over the years is that we have found people who ought to know better looking upon the farmers and those involved in agriculture as people of the lower orders of this society, and it is a shame that we have some people in this country who are prepared to perpetuate that feeling, and it is not good, it will not augur good for the welfare of this country. We have got to look upon agriculture, we have got to encourage the young boys and girls and we have got to let them know that there is nothing wrong, nothing degenerate about getting involved in the soil. This is it. We will talk in here at length about agriculture, we will talk about having sugar canes, vegetables for the BMC and the lot, but we have got to understand and face it once and for all that we have got to spend lots of time examining where this country will be going in ten years' time. I do not believe that enough is being done for agriculture in this sense, and I would like to see when there is enough money when the country can afford the Minister of Agriculture coming here and asking for a substantial vote in order to push agriculture, because merely saying it is not enough. We have got to understand that we are importing lots of vegetables still, we are importing meat, and there are lots of people in the countryside who have land who will be willing to have it cultivated, but as I said, Mr. Chairman, there are certain drawbacks which can easily be identified.

One hon. member earlier in this Chamber said that there was a question of irrigation. That is what he really

meant, he meant irrigation rather than water and the water consumption. This is a problem and it must be drawn to the Minister's attention on this occasion, because there are lots of people, and I know one particular friend of mine who bought four acres of land in St. Philip and he wanted to use the land for cultivation, he wanted to grow crops. The land was originally passed by Town and Country Planning for subdivision, but this young man was interested in going back to the soil, turning that land into agricultural land, but when he sought to have that land cultivated he was told that he could not use the water and that he would have to sink a well, and sinking a well is a very expensive thing. The young man could not afford it, and it means therefore now that the man instead of having the four acres of land cultivated he has got to resort to a portion of the land now under cultivation. That is why I say we have to look at the factors which will impede the progress of agriculture, and we have to think seriously in terms of irrigation, when we heard over the past couple of months that we have got to watch our water situation. I do agree with this, we have to look at the problems which are likely to beset the agricultural thrust in this country. We cannot turn our backs on it, let us face it, something has got to be done and I am asking the Minister to look into the situation to see how his Ministry can explore the wells, tap the wells and water resources in this country so that instead of tapping the Waterworks Department, the farmers will be able to exploit wells within their lands so that they will be able to water their crops.

As I say, these are the things we have got to look at, and as I said, we have got to congratulate the young people who are participating in the 4-H activities. I want to pay them a few compliments. Mr. Chairman, I know my time is short, but let us deal with these basic problems so that when the time comes and we ask for a national appeal on agriculture we will have the best benefits from it.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, before the Head is put I should like to say it is interesting that this debate on this particular Head has elicited so many contributions, and indeed in the midst of it all only one person with any real qualifications on the subject of agriculture has spoken, and that is the Minister himself, and if we should take it that there is now a non-technical interest from parliamentarians on this subject, it is certainly a departure from the past when too often we heard so little being said from other than the Ministers with direct responsibility for this subject, and I welcome myself a debate that has gone on for perhaps an extremely long time, with perhaps a great deal of repetition in many instances, but certainly which has for the first time perhaps focussed attention on this Ministry.

I do not pretend to be an expert by any means, indeed I do not find time now to dabble with the soil, but I know that the Minister himself is certainly an expert in this field and has certainly had a long time in working in agriculture.

6.35 p.m.

It is a qualification that very few of the members who have spoken in this debate have. But let me say that I would like to congratulate the Minister on the fact that in his first full year in office the figures have shown that growth rate in the agricultural sector has increased by something in the region of seven per cent. It has not performed as well as the manufacturing, construction or tourist sectors of the economy, but it has performed much better than in the last three years of the Democratic Labour Party rule. I think that this ought to be said and ought to be some encouragement for officials of the Ministry of Agriculture to show new enthusiasm and a new spirit of cooperation and unity. Too often one hears whether with any degree of truth or not – the allegation that the technical experts of the Ministry of Agriculture do not work together, and this would be a pity if because of any personal disagreements among themselves this should become a hindrance to the trust we need in this country. I recognize that it is the sort of Ministry that calls for a judicious blend of administration – practical and technical. Barbados is a small country with limited land use and not a heavy rainfall and so we have to use our maximum endeavours in the development of our agriculture, and I hope that the Ministry under the present new director and the policies which the Government is outlining and in which the Minister has his full heart, it will be realized that the Government sees agriculture as vital to the progress of the country, as vital as the impact we expect from manufacturing or tourism.

I welcome the emphasis which the Minister has placed on land use. Speaking as one of the support Ministries in the field of land use, I have had support from the Ministry of Agriculture on matters related to land use planning. And this not only concerns soil conservation but must extend also to the restrictions of the use of good agricultural land for residental purposes. And in this respect I pledge the support of the Ministry of Town and Country Planning that it will not continue to allow good agricultural land to be cut up for people to become millionaires overnight. That has stopped; and no matter how many speeches are made on political platforms that will be the norm. No longer can they come and put pressure on any Ministry, and I have told one or two people who have come to me to talk about applications to get out of my office or I would call the police for them. I believe that it is only with this type of policy that there can be hope and I make no apologies about it. It is a vital policy and one on which history will judge us to be right. If it is one thing that this period of our national life calls for, it is for people of firm views. We have to have firm views and made firm decisions and this also applies to the field of agriculture, where officers

not pulling their weight must be disciplined and must understand we are here to get things done. There should be no personality conflicts within this Ministry; I want to make this quite clear. There is growing up in Barbados an idea that you will run the Government by pressurizing and calling press conferences on everything. Out duty is to minimize confrontation and invite the farming sector to co-operate, but no Government must allow itself to be bullied and threatened. Instead we must all work in the national interest.

I make these points so as to clear the air, and to let it be known that the Minister has the support of the Government. We expect that his Ministry and the farmers will cooperate with him, and Government will use all the resources available to encourage agricultural production to the stage where it can no longer be said that the Barbados Marketing Corporation cannot fulfill its contracts. What is the point of spending money on these services if we are going to be let down by producers and by narrow sectoral interests? So I appeal in the national interest for a higher level of approach to these issues. It is no fun for me to hear anybody making a joke about the fact that we cannot supply okras overseas. There are lots of areas in St. Philip, St. Lucy and Christ Church suitable for growing okras and we should be ashamed to find ourselves in this position. Let me say how proud I am that even though I myself cannot find the time to do it some of my family have been growing things, vegetables and such like.

And I would like to say to the Minister that although he has had a long debate, it shows that at long last we have convinced the Democratic Labour Party of the need to take a keen interest in agricultural production and the need to have a land use policy that will not cater to those close to the party bosom who knew every plantation that was to be cut up even before Town and Country Planning knew. Thank God the Lord is so good that he is returning the land for the use of people. I commend to Barbadians a paper written by Mr. Coleridge Pilgrim, a former Chief Agricultural Officer, on how he saw agriculture developing in Barbados since 1970. A lot of it discouraged him and no doubt he retired a broken man. I would really like to see some person come into my office to get a plantation cut up. Those days are past; they have to show good justification now. And if there is one thing that the Barbados Labour Party can be proud of it is that we have stopped all that useless emasulation of the land of Barbados.

Mr. SANDIFORD: On a point of elucidation, I wonder if the Minister will tell us where the Polytechnic is to be cited at Wildey and whether this was land that was used for agriculture?

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: As far as I know this is not agricultural area.

6.45 p.m.

As far as I know, the answer is no. I think that the Minister of Education will tell you that. What I would like to say is this: under Soil Conservation some fuss was made about the interest of the Italian Government in this matter. It is a fact that the Italian Government has intimated that they have about $300,000 (US) which can be made available to Barbados for technical assistance, and they have an interest in matters which should go on in the Soil Conservation, and by way of joint ventures and through the EEC they will be willing to help.

I do not think that the Government will find any difficulty in finding funds, including soft loans for the development of the Scotland region. The matter is now in the hands of the Government officials to see how soon they will act. I have said before that we have got to get over in the Public Service – let me say that I am not one of those people who believe that the Public Service is an army of occupation – but one of the things that we have got to get over in the Public Service is that we have to work with greater intensity, with more rapidity and with greater care. Certainly I set an example as a Minister by doing my work as quickly as I can and as best as I can with the assistance of people who I will say have reacted in large measure in the same way. I trust that this will be done in other Ministries as well.

I believe that first and foremost we have got to be Barbadians. No matter what we say, we are Barbadians and we all live in this island. Our children will continue to live in it. We can run away for a while like some of us do, but as the world goes these days Third World people of our colour are not being accepted too easily in other places, and in the final resort it is back to Barbados or back to the Caribbean. It is on that note that I am appealing to the farmers, that I am appealing to the corporations, that I am appealing to the experts and that I am appealing even to the Opposition to see agriculture not in terms of sharing licks to the Minister, punishing him or as they say giving blows, but in terms of a great opportunity for a small nation which has been known for its national enterprise to renew its effotts to set an example which we can teach the world in new fields.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, at one time I think that I ignored many of the questions which came from the Other Side, because some of them had been dealt with last night. Then they, like little school boys walked out. They opened a Pandora's box, and finding what they released they could not take, they left the scene of action; but I believe that for the benefit of the people of this country I should explain my position and the Government's position represented through me in the Ministry of Agriculture in this country today. One thing that I would like many people to understand is

that agriculture does not achieve anything overnight. It is something for which you have to lay plans, and the plans do not materialise overnight. It takes time.

In the Ministry of Agriculture we have had many frustrations. There were obstacles, and there are still obstacles. I promised the people of Barbados that I will tell the whole story because I believe that Barbados has natural resources — land and people — and we must utilise the two together for the benefit of the entire community. Mr. Chairman, we have to look at agriculture in Barbados as it stood before September, 1976, and it called for a serious reorganisation. We have got to get people to understand that we are serious about what is happening in the Ministry of Agriculture; and it has not been an easy task to achieve even the limited 7% growth that has been recorded by Central Bank figures.

We have had to make several plans. We have had to reorganise practically every section of the Ministry of Agriculture from what it was under the Democratic Labour Party. No one can doubt that Ministers have been switched from time to time, but nothing constructive has been done in the Ministry because if the Minister of Finance did not produce the necessary money to support the Ministry then it could not function. I have said in no uncertain terms that I will not be a Minister to sit down in an office simply to say that I am Minister of Agriculture, because there is nothing glorious about it.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to answer the question posed by members on the Other Side. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition spoke about a newspaper report about the Italian Ambassador talking about money to be given for the Scotland District. We in our Manifesto said that we would seek international assistance to recover that one-seventh area of Barbados that was being eroded by rain and by wind. Several countries have shown an interest. The money has been approved for the prefeasibility study, and I can say that we have had letters from Germany, Canada and even from the Chinese expressing an intererest; and what has been said is that as soon as the feasibility study has been done, they would be willing to put money into the various projects on condition that companies from these various parts will take part in the restructuring of the Scotland District. The IADB approved a sum for the feasibility study, and as I said last night, we have already allocated space at Codrington where the work will begin.

We have identified in the Ministry of Agriculture certain projects; but under the international agreement you have to have prequalifications. As I have said before, many countries have expressed an interest in lending us the money to get the projects going. So when the Italian Ambassador said that they were prepared to put in money, he said the same thing, that if Italian firms can be involved they are prepared to put in the money. What else do you want us to report? We report exactly what is said. This Government does not believe in putting out fancy statements for the sake of making things look good when they are bad.

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member spoke about livestock development. As I have said, you have to make certain plans before you can get anything to move off smoothly. We have been looking at the total livestock in the island, and not only in the Ministry of Agriculture. The hon. member asked how many cows came in from Canada, how many people are repaying, will new cows be coming in this year.
6.55 p.m.

He also asked whether the former Minister of Agriculture Mr. Edwards is paying for his cows etc. I can say this. I had a survey done of the cows that came in under the CIDA scheme and I found that the records are missing or are not complete in respect of the first two years when cows came into this country. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: What years?) That was I believe 1970-71. The people must know. I have asked to investigate the disappearance of these files. I have reported it to the Minister responsible, the Attorney General, but I can say that out of the last batch that came in fifty per cent died, and if you want me to call names, I can tell you who had them. People who did not even have a square foot of grazing land had as many as fifty cows. In the Ministry there was a price fixing committee. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us not be shouting across the Chamber.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Call the names.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: The Leader of the Opposition would like to know what happened during the time he was in office. It is not for me to call names at this stage.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: If the hon member would give way, I am not out to shield anybody. If people are defrauding the taxpayers of Barbados, name them. There is no secret about this. Take them to Court and sue them, because anybody who tries to defraud somebody in this country who is suffering under heavy taxation should pay the penalty. I am not asking for information because I was a Minister; I am asking because this is a public matter and the public is interested in knowing.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would ask the hon. member not to shout; it affects the ear somewhat.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I apologise. The shouting may be because the equipment is not operated by me.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: I have had a survey carried out of the number of cows that came into the country and the persons who have had these cows. Believe me I am still very worried about it because persons have had cows.....I will give you a simple example. A Mr. John Daniel who had something like fifty cows lived in Amity Lodge on about 6,000 square feet of land; he did not have one square foot of grazing land. This is Mr. John Daniel who is an insurance salesman and has never had one day in agriculture. *(A VOICE:* Where did he keep the cows?) I cannot find out where the cows were kept.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, would the Minister indicate where the gentleman kept the cows? Did he keep them in the drawing room?

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: They are asking for information and my job is to give it. I have had the livestock officer going around about three months. We heard they were at Norwood at one time then at Blowers, then somewhere else, but there are no records as to when the cows were moved from somewhere in St. John where they went. We have looked at the records, we have looked at these people and I am in the process of coming to a final decision on how best to handle the matter.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Is the Minister saying that this is a matter that should be referred to the Duffus Commission?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Will the Minister also agree that he went to Canada and chose some? Where are his?

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: I went to Canada; I was a shareholder in a Company. You want to know the story; let me tell you the story. Mr. Chairman, the system of selecting persons who buy cows was this: you got a telephone call about 7 o'clock a night saying we have money from CIDA to buy cows, do you want any, say how many you want. I was in the Opposition then and I was involved in a plantation in which I am no longer involved. I had given up my interest in it, long ago even before I left the Opposition. I went to Canada at the expense of the Company of which I was a director at the time, not the Government. As a matter of fact, I will tell you something. When I got to Canada, the fellows on the Government side never spoke to me. They thought I was infringing, and they had a man called Sleidsner whose office I went into and I put my hands down on his books, and I will tell you that the cows were bought at one price and sold at another price to the Barbados Government, and from the number of horses and other gifts they were given at the time, they thought I knew too much. That is why I know the history of the cow deal. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: This is the first time we are hearing about it.) I have said it before from the Opposition bench.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: If the hon. member would give way, this is a very interesting history because I do not remember hearing it, and I have been in here for the last seven years, and I do not think it is in Hansard either, and that is why I asked because the public must know these things. I would still like to know whether you brought back any horses or cows.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, if the Opposition wants a full run down from the Canadian cow exercise, I will promise them within a week to bring the file here and if possible lay the contents on the Table of the House so that everybody can see what went on. But I will get back to the subject.

They had a price-fixing Committee and a Revolving Fund Committee. What I have done subsequent to that, which has been approved by Cabinet is to have a dairy cattle development committee, and one of the terms of the Committee is to look at the importation of cattle into Barbados, and there must be rules to visit every farmer who applies for cows to make sure he is a *bona fide* farmer and that he has available land on which to keep the number of cows for which he applies. That is one of the things I have done because I would not allow the same thing to happen while I am in the Ministry as happened before. I have looked at re-organising the Government farms for this reason.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, if the Minister can help us, I am very interested in this cow business because I would like to pass the papers on the Director of Public Prosecutions or to Sir Herbert Duffus. I am interested in it for this reason. As I understand it, if a delegation went away from the Ministry spending Government funds to use funds given by CIDA, there should have been a report to Cabinet. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for St. Michael South West as members of the Cabinet at that time should have been aware by way of information of what was going on. If they are now expressing surprise that during that period of time cows were bought from funds provided by Barbados and misused and they were not as Ministers of the Government aware of it, something was wrong with Government responsibility. That is the first point I want to make.

Secondly, if there was a misuse of public funds amounting almost to larceny, these papers should be referred to the Director of Public Presecutions. Thirdly, if it involves Ministers of the Government at time, it is a very serious matter indeed. Fourthly, if it involves officials, it is a more serious matter, and fifthly, it

sounds to me as if this is one of the incidents that should go before Sir Herbert Duffus.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of elucidation, I have listened with great interest to the Hon. Attorney General and I think he knows from the entire runnings of a Ministry that if you go and choose cows under a particular scheme, you do not have to report to Cabinet whether six bulls, two calves or three cows pregnant came down. That is foolishness.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: If the hon. member would give way,.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member give way?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Let me finish. I think a report was made. I am no cattle man anyhow; I wish I had a farm in Texas or Calgary, but what I am saying about the point the Attorney General raises is that if they want to prolong the Duffus Commission indefinitely that is not important, but what I assume, and I am surprised to hear him, is that the subject referred to the Duffus Commission must have been exhaustively studied by the Government.
7.05 p.m.

What I have asked the Minister to give us details of it for, is that if the scheme is not working, if it is going to jeopardise the future CIDA commitment to the scheme – and I am surprised to hear the Minister giving these facts – and I would like him now further to tell us since his revelation as Minister what is CIDA's attitude to the alleged abuse of the scheme, because from what the Minister is saying to me the scheme must be in jeopardy, because if I were a Canadian Minister of whatever responsibility and I can hear in Parliament that 50% of the cows died, and people had cows and did not have land, I should be worried if I were responsible for the Canadian taxpayers' money. Just let me make this clear, Mr. Chairman, I have not raised this to embarrass anybody, but I am interested in Barbados, because if I were not interested in Barbados I would not be back here now listening to the insults I get over there and so on, I would not have to be, but I am interested in my country and I am asking these questions purely from a desire that the scheme whatever its faults in the past, can be set on a proper footing.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, if the Hon. Attorney General.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Attorney General has my eye.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, the point I am making is quite simple. What I am saying, Sir, my understanding is that the second part of the scheme was a grant to the Government of Barbados of $325,000 (Can.), I believe it is. That was the second part of the grant, so it was money given to the Government of Barbados to be used for a small farmer scheme, a dairy scheme. There was therefore a trust and an obligation on whoever was the Minister concerned to see that that money was properly and correctly spent, it was his individual responsibility. There was the Cabinet responsibility, because it involved our international relations, and that is why I am genuinely taken by surprise when the two former Ministers were pressing for this sort of information, because if they were in complete ignorance as they are saying of what has gone on in their Cabinet, does it not confirm the fact that they were obviously being dominated or that there was no co-ordination in the Cabinet? That is all I am saying on this scheme, and now if I hear allegations that cows were taken by an insurance salesman who lives up in Rendezvous, and who has not got any land and nowhere to keep them, and that cows disappeared and some went to Norwood, obvious conclusions are being drawn. Really, you cannot get away from it so easily, Sir, I think it is serious enough.

I am grateful to the hon. member for raising the issue, but it involves serious implications for constitutional Government and ministerial responsibility, and it shows the Democratic Labour Party once more has spraddled down on their faces, as we have said. Everybody will now wash their hands like Pilate, there are some things that can be hidden, there are others that come to light.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Hon. Attorney General might have inadvertently, I would not believe deliberately, been misleading this Hon. House. On two occasions he has stood up and he has indicated that; and I heard him say the hon. member for St. Michael South West, when we were talking about what I choose to call the cow deal. Now, Mr. Chairman, the hon. and learned Attorney General must know that the time the Hon. Minister was speaking about was 1970 or 1971, and he must further know that I was neither a cowboy nor a Minister, and therefore for him to take on his customary.....

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. TAITT: I am on a point of order, Mr. Chairman, there cannot be a point of order on a point of order.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: He is on the wrong point.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am on a point of order, the rules are very clear on that. The Minister cannot get up on a point of order while I am on a

point of order. Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Attorney General must know that it is therefore misleading for him to indicate that I was a Minister in order to, and with that pious look which he so sanctimoniously puts on for the image not only of the Press but the Gallery, and suggest that the hon. member for St. Michael South West was involved when all he wants to do is to divert attention from the cows in 1978. We want to hear about the cows in 1978, we want to hear about agriculture, but do not let him mislead the House on this all the time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: At no time did I hear from the Hon. Attorney General that the member who just sat down was involved in anything, so that is not a point of order.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member has certainly grasped the whole thing wrong.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I must say that if this is to continue it is not likely that the Shorthand Reporter will know what to write, with all this cross talk Let one member speak and the other afterward. There is too much cross talking and too much noise. Please continue.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: The two files that are missing I believe are files which started between 1970 and 1971. The infelicities with the cows started in 1972, 1973 and 1974. It is the 1974 cows that 50 from one man cannot now be found. I have sent the officers to the Ministry to search for all the files on the cows, and I will leave the Canadian cows for a minute until they come back because I am going to read out all the names, who had and who lost.

Mr. Chairman, I will come back to that at another time because it has other implications in it as well. Even the revolving fund, the money that should be paid back to Government to go into the revolving fund, the revolving fund had a system of administration that not even the Minister knew who got money out of it, so if you apply for money you could get money out of it and it never passed through the Minister. As I said, the new Committee will look into all these procedures to stop this sort of thing going on.

From the point of view of the Government livestock now, I have had to re-organise that as well. Figures will tell you, why it was necessary for a re-organisation. In 1977 out of 874 piglets produced on Government stations there were some 400 odd piglets that died, 39% of those produced died. You produced 409 rabbits on Government stations, 231 died because you had... (Hon F. G. SMITH: Was said to die or alleged to have died). Or alleged to have died.
7.15 p.m.

As I said, everybody may say that they have not seen anything in agriculture, but as I said you had to get hold of the problems and try to reorganize things in order to stop this sort of behaviour, and I believe we will see better results in the coming year.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, this is usually the time when we ask that you report progress and ask leave to sit again. I therefore beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question that Mr. CHAIRMAN report progress and ask for leave to sit was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.
7.20 p.m.

On resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: When this Sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply; to that it now reverts.

Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, as I was saying when we took the Suspension, we had embarked on a reorganization of the Government Agricultural Stations so as to achieve greater efficiency and to make better use of the money we are putting into them. I remember somebody last night commenting on the decrease in the vote for agriculture, but as I said earlier, if we can save by reorganization, what may appear to be a decrease in the sum voted may in fact turn out to be an actual increase.

I said earlier that out of 874 piglets produced on the station in 1977, some 338 died; out of 409 rabbits produced, 231 allegedly died.

I turn now to the next question asked by the Leader of the Opposition. He asked about employment at the ADC. In the Greenland project – the livestock project – we have been able to sell some $9,935 in cattle simply because we have a very qualified young man at Greenland looking after the projects. The Leader of the Opposition queried why there were some workers at the ADC over the age of 60. Now I hate these statements couched in language which suggest that there is a generality of persons in this age group at the ADC. This is not so. There is one man called an Agricultural Attorney, Mr. Field by name, who has been brought on at the ADC and who is probably over the age of 60. We have said that where persons over the age of 60 have special skills they can be employed for those skills. Mr. Field is employed on year to year basis, and I

have no hesitation in saying that I will go on supporting the re-employment of Mr. Field for this basis reason; the ADC today is still $2 million in debt after being refinanced by the previous administration. When we took up office it was $2.8 million in debt. Mr. Field in his first week of office saved one station $1,500, and he is getting less than $1,500 a month. How did he do it? We worked out that according to the figures supplied by one of the stations it was costing the ADC $1.55 per pound to produce sweet potatoes.
8.05 p.m.

The highest price paid for sweet potatoes in this country was 80 cents a pound, but when Mr. Field visited the station – because this is why he was employed – there was always contention among the officers at the Agricultural Development Corporation that Government bought non-productive plantations and expected them to produce; and the previous manager had the gumption to send me a memorandum when I first went into office telling me that I must not look at the dollars and cents losses at the ADC. The ADC has taken up non-productive lands, and therefore they are doing their best; but Mr. Field has been able to show that it is not that you have taken up non-productive land because we have a lot of land in the non-productive area – the Scotland area which is able to make a profit. The ADC has lands next door which are making a profit while the ADC lands were losing money.

We have been able to produce sweet potatoes, we have been able to produce carrots and we have been able to produce onions since Mr. Field has been employed, at far less a cost than anything that has been produced before in the same range as on the other commercial estates. As a result we have re-organised the whole of the ADC. We said that 80 acres will go into research development and all the other lands must operate as a commercial system. The managers must now produce. We have raised the manager's pay up to the same level as those in private enterprise. Mr. Field, a private Attorney, who has looked at plantations before will visit every plantation, and they will have to account and must produce as commercial plantations are producing because they are on the same salary basis as any manager on commercial plantations.

Potatoes. At this point I must congratulate the farmers in Barbados. We have been advocating an increase in agricultural development in the country. The farmers have been producing, and as you have heard the Minister for External Trade say, we have carried out studies into food markets. We have one problem which has arisen here. The farmers themselves entered into an agreement to export egg plant, and peppers to one buyer in England. Something went wrong and now we have other buyers who are asking the Government to come to Great Britain and negotiate contract for the supply of vegetables from Barbados. We will come to that in due course.

Mr. Chairman, the member for St. Michael South West spoke about the Barbados Marketing Corporation which I believe has been adequately dealt with by the Chairman. He asked if the ADC had acquired additional land. The answer is yes. There is one Plantation at Hopefield which is owned by Mr. David Seale and was put up for leasing. We have looked at Fairy Valley and Spencers, and as you will know, part of Fairy Valley really belongs to the Airport. We have looked at the management situation and the Board of the ADC has decided as a commercial operation to rent the lands at Hopefield at what can be called a reasonable rent to be worked as all the other lands of the ADC. Therefore it will be worked on a commercial basis because as we have said, the developmental section will purely be developmental, and the commercial section must be commercial, that is the situation, Mr. Chairman.

Cotton. Cotton was re-established under the Democratic Labour Party. When I went into office – at this point I must make it absolutely clear that there are some farmers in Barbados who believe that by calling the Press and giving wrong information to news reporters which 90% of the time are untrue statements, believe that you can communicate with the Government via the newspaper. Now, as the member for St. Michael South West will tell you, when he was Minister responsible for Trade, I used to be Chairman of the Poultry Association of Barbados. I sought an interview with him. This was to show him the justification for an increase in prices because there was a high price of feed, low quality feed and low prices for the egg farmers. He said .that he would speak to his Technical Officer and give me an answer by a certain day which was a Tuesday morning. I phoned and one of the Officers said that I could not speak to the Minister then. I said that I must speak to the Minister and I persevered. I said "Mr. Minister you made me a promise. If you are not going to keep your promise, then I will go to the Press." He said give me a couple of days and I will fix it by Thursday, and I never went to the Press because one must appreciate that lines of communication between private Organisations and the Government do not operate that way.

I have meetings practically every week with the Chamber of Commerce.

One cannot deny that there is in all countries the problem between a Ministry and the private sector and the way you solve the problem is by coming together, putting down and having discussions and a compromise; but some farmers believe by going to the Press and giving wrong information they can embarrass or coerce

this Government. I can say categorically here and now as long as I am a Minister I will keep my doors open, but I will not be moved by unfair, unjust and wrong statements in a newspaper. I can do better outside. They call me on a Monday and said that they wanted a meeting on Tuesday. I waited in my office until 4, 5 or 6 o'clock. Sometimes I wait there until 9 o'clock at night. I want them to understand that at any time that they want to have discussions with me I am open for discussion; but I am taking no messages via a newspaper. I want them to clearly understand that.

Cotton. I have called a meeting of the Cotton Growers Association. Do you realise that all of the people who spoke in the Press about cotton, that they do not grow 120 acres of cotton, but the ADC even today is the largest grower of cotton and has no representative voice on the Cotton Growers Association? You have somebody growing 20 acres of cotton who is Chairman of the Association and representing growers of cotton and merchants in cotton; but the ADC distributes seeds and grows the largest acreage and buys cotton from the local farmers; and yet the ADC has not got a voice in the Cotton Association.

This is the situation. When the figures came to me I called a meeting. Let me tell you something now. You had the Secretary of the West Indies Sea Island Cotton Growers Association coming into the meeting with his hands folded and sitting next to me. Mr. Roy Edwards, the past President said, give the Minister the figures; and the man put his hands like this and refused to open his mouth. I adjourned the meeting, and said "Well gentlemen, we do not want to talk this morning you can come back again."

But, with the figures produced to me the taxpayers in Barbados are supporting a few cotton growers in Barbados who are keeping all the noise because after 6 years of growing cotton we have granted money year after year; and the people who grow cotton know full well that they get a price subsidised by the taxpayer of this country. I had to put to the Cabinet that a decision will have to be taken because we cannot go on subsidising cotton at the expense of the taxpayers of this country.

8.15 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, we have had more applications than the Ministry's vehicles can handle. As a result of this, we have had to call on private contractors. They themselves said that their hands were full because of the Government's policy of bringing idle lots back into operation, and they could not help us. That is the situation. In the Estimates you will find that we have to give back $5,000 from the money we have collected to do ploughing, but we could not get around to everybody who wanted their lands ploughed. I admit that people have responded to the call to bring the lands back into cultivation, but we have not been able to handle it because we have not got the machinery. In these Estimates we have more money to buy two more tractors, and I am hoping we can do a little bit more this year. I understand that out of 12,000 acres of land lying idle there are some 6,000 acres that have come back into cultivation, and I am sure this year we will see more of it coming back into cultivation; but the Ministry itself is doing as much as it can. I think the agricultural engineer is even looking at overtime to see how much we can handle this coming year.

Somebody talked about farmers not getting certain things duty free. As I said, no farmers' organisation had made representation to my Ministry in order for me to make representation to the Minister of Finance to raise duty on equipment in the poultry industry. I read it in the newspapers like anybody else, and the newspapers can report things that are not true, and therefore I cannot go to the Minister of Finance and say I have read something in the newspapers. I will not go until they learn to behave themselves and come and sit down and talk like gentlemen. How do you expect me to read the newspaper with messages coming through it? It is similar to the matter with the pigs. I came back from Mauritius and found every day something in the newspaper. When you call them in and sit down to talk with them, do you know what they tell yo? Don't mind what was said in the newspapers. I do not understand this two-way operation.

I think the hon. member for St. Michael South West asked when will the BNSI building be handed over. We are waiting for certain fumigation cupboards which were ordered for quite a long time. I understand that is the last work to be done in the BNSI building. As far as I recall MCW is now proposing to build the cupboards locally, and as soon as these cupboards have been fitted the building will be handed over. It is no fault of my Ministry and no blame can be put on the Ministry of Communications and Works. Here again is the question of depending on supplies coming from outside to complete a building.

Mr. TAITT: If the hon. member will give way, I did not quite understand what he said. Did he say they are now building them locally?

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: I said they were ordered from abroad originally, something has happened to the order and as far as I can recall, they have now decided to construct them locally.

We come now to the question of the shortage of supply of chicken backs and necks. Mr. Chairman, you know it is peculiar how some people operate. There is a general world-wide shortage of hatching eggs. As a

matter of fact, in December at a veterinary conference in Antigua, the question was raised by Antigua for the importation of day old chicks from Hungary. Barbados depends on hatching eggs from the Southern United States. They have not been able to supply the eggs, and therefore a shortage arose in Barbados. I granted licences for the importation of a batch of chicks which one hatchery negotiated for in the United States, and we allowed them in although it was contrary to our policy; so it is nothing to do with the Government not assisting the farmers. There is a world-wide shortage because, as I understand it, drought conditions at one time and flooding at another time in the United States. We depend on outside sources and when outside sources are affected, we can do nothing here. There has been no hold up as far as we are concerned.

The CARICOM Secretariat under the CFC has carried out a study of a hatching egg project for the Caribbean and the study has been sent around to the various Governments. Now I will deal with this in the light of a question asked further about a turkey project in Barbados. I believe everybody knows tha state of the turkey project. A private investor came to Barbados and presented the Ministry of Agriculture with a very glossy document for setting up a turkey project in Barbados. Now I looked at it, referred it to my technical officers and that man used all kinds of pressures to get me to approve the project so that he could go to the Barbados Development Bank and borrow $1.5 million. Mr. Chairman, I could not sleep at night. He went so far as to hold a cocktail party at the house in St. Philip where he invited a lot of people and told them that I was holding up a $7 million project in this country. *(Asides)* Mr. Chairman, he did not invite me because the cocktail party was to beat me, but...

Mr. TAITT: I wonder if the Minister would give way. He said a lot of people. There cannot be a lot of people to whom anyone can complain for the Minister. I wonder if he could enlighten us further.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I did not go to the cocktail party, so it would not be right for me to call names of those whom I heard were there; but the position is that I said to the gentleman, "look, I have to look at the farmers in Barbados who have set up poultry projects before and I have to guarantee their existence. If you want me to back the scheme as Minister you have two options: either join the ADC and run the project." He said he would have to think about it. He went away and came back and said he wanted nothing to do with any Government. I said "well join with the private poultry men in Barbados". He went away and came back and said "no", but he still wanted me to okay the $1.5 million. I said "no". People phoned me and told me how he told them he had $7 million to invest and I said I would not be okaying it even if I had to leave the Ministry. (A VOICE: What kind of people?) Don't tell me call what kind of people.

Anyhow, Mr.Chairman, the project got off the ground and the next thing is that I got a message from some other private persons in Barbados wanting to see me urgently about this project, and I told them to come the next morning. They told me that he owed them $450,000, he could not pay and they wanted to take over the project and asked whether I would approve a egg hatching project. I told them that CDB had produced a study, it had been marked "confidential" and I could not disclose it, but if they went into it as farmers in Barbados I would give them 100% support. It is still there up to now. I heard the man is in prison somewhere and what I have heard otherwise it is not right for me to say at this time.

The hon. member spoke about okras. The Barbados Marketing Corporation has generated a demand for okras that has never been generated before in Barbados. Mr. Challenor Jones came into me with a man called Mr. Keromanie from England who wanted okras for the English market. I told him that if he could get the fellows to grow okras I would give him a permit although the BMC has got the exclusive right to export, and that is what has been happening.
8.25 p.m.

The BMC could not get all they wanted to export to the U.S., but the reports are that they will be exporting okras to Britain by Mr. Challenor Jones every week from last October, and the period of growing the okras is between October and June each year, so that is what is happening in Barbados. We have contracts, we have buyers in Britain who will buy sweet peppers, sweet potatoes .and christophenes, but as the Hon. Leader of the House has said, we are fighting with the airlines to get better tariff rates. When they give us better rates we can then go to Britain and sit down and discuss with the buyers the quantities which they want, which I know the farmers are willing to produce.

It might shock the Opposition to hear that the Vegetable Growers' Association, I must say they have been very co-operative, they would telephone and ask for a meeting, they would come in and discuss their problems with us. They have grown eggplant, but unfortunately they have been let down by the buyer in Britain.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, if he will just give way, I heard the Minister say it will shock the Opposition. Any progress in agriculture will shock the Opposition.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: The farmers have grown eggplant and because of the breakdown in arrangements between themselves and the particular buyer in Britain you have not seen the volume of export as I would have liked to see, or probably the Opposition would have liked to see.

The question of use of water, Mr. Chairman. The water resources study has shown that there is considerable water in Barbados, we are growing at the moment 1,500 acres of vegetables, we can step it up to between 4,500 and 5,000 acres.

Mr TAITT: Mr. Chairman, before he moves off the supply, I think he has left me a little concerned, because I thought I heard the Chairman of the BMC, or I saw in the newspapers, that the Chairman of the BMC had indicated that the farmers had let him down in the production of okras.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: There were two arrangements for okras, Mr. Chairman. One arrangement was for okras to be grown for the English market because the English market required a long okra. There was another arrangement for the American market because the Americans market want a short okra. There were two sections of growers, one section was growing for the English market, those who arranged to grow for the American market did not meet the contract, they sold them to the hotels because the demand went up for okras in Barbados.

On the use of water, as I have said before, I believe that irrigation water in this country should be managed like all the other resources, like gas or oil. We are studying the report of the Water Resources Study, certain thoughts have been put up by the technical officers of the Ministry, as soon as these have been finalised I will let the House know exactly what the position is.

The member for St. Michael South asked about contributions to the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences. We joined the Institute last year. They have set up an office in Barbados, the gentleman heading the office is a Mr. Hosief, and they are coming in with us to do research in agriculture. We have to make an annual contribution to the organisation because it is a corporate organisation and they in turn pay officers and do research in Barbados, so that is the reason why you saw a token vote.

The Caribbean Food Corporation. Barbados has paid up its full contributions. There are certain difficulties existing which I would not like to disclose at this time because the Board of Governors has never met and we are trying to get a meeting of the Board of Governors. As soon as that matter has been solved we will report to the House what has been going on.

Mr. TAITT rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Before the hon. member for St. Michael South West proceeds, I have heard many pleasant comments about the back bench of the Government, and I must observe it and I must confess it looks very well indeed.

Mr. TAITT: If the Hon. Minister would give way, the query which I raised about the Food Corporation, if the Minister would look at the actual Item...*(Asides)*...I wonder why the Hon. Minister of Health does not come back up to the front?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I think the only comment and the only thing you said which has added to the back bench is the presence of the Minister of Health on the back bench, which has added some charm to it. I have never seen it so charming since I have been in here since 2nd September, 1976.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I must say now I am not giving way any more, according to the rules you can only have three hours' debate on a Head and this Head has gone on very long. I want them to let me get through with what I am saying.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. (Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Well, let us break it up now if that is what you want). Mr. Chairman, this is a very serious point I am raising. I raised the point about the Caribbean Food Corporation, I am not here to make sport. Under the Head it says a token vote.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, although Barbados has paid up its total sum to the Corporation, the Corporation is so structured that it can go into any of the countries of CARICOM, set up a business and operate on something which is necessary for the development of that country or the region. Therefore if part of the CFC's activities was designed for a hatching egg unit, we have to keep a token vote in the Estimates so that if they come into Barbados we have money that Government can join with them in the enterprise.

The member for St. Philip South spoke about metrication which I hope I will get back to afterwards.

The farm school. We have looked at a farm school in Barbados, we are now revising the old plans for a farm school, because my belief is that there would be too many proliferations of farm schools not only in Barbados but in the Caribbean, so that is the reason for keeping the token vote in the Estimates. You have a bit

done at the polytechnic and we are looking at a practical application where you will go around to the various stations and show farmers the practicality. The original plan was to set up a farm school at Codrington and bring in the plantation owners, etc., people who can spend two and three days. My view is you need to get back to grass roots teaching and teach the small farmers so that they can get in the production line as well, and that is in abeyance for the time being.

The Comfith project. We are phasing out the Comfith project because figures have now shown that it is uneconomical to carry on the Comfith project, it is not producing what we were told it would produce. You will find that the Central Livestock Station produced 226,643 pounds of milk and sold it to the Pine Hill Dairy for some $84,000, and reports have shown that if you feed the cows by another method you can have a 15 to 25% increase.

The Springhall Development. We are still waiting on the CDB to look at the plan which we have put forward, because we want to work it as an investigation project, together with a commercial project, because we believe ADC must produce a certain amount of the vegetables which we want to export in order to support the BMC if farmers fall down on their contracts.

Under Item 9 in the Capital Estimates I would like to add the words "and incentives" on the third line of the note.

With that I beg to move that the sum of $6,108,973 under Capital Expenditure – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs – as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

8.35 p.m.

HEAD 10 – MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL – (1) DIRECTION AND POLICY FORMULATION

Head 10(1) – Direction and Policy Formulation in the sum of $1,457,864 was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: In moving this Head I would ask that the following amendment be accepted:

The Note numbered 10 on page 44 should be renumbered 11; in Item 11 the word: "of" should be "on".

I would just like to say briefly two things about this particular Head. I think that on the second reading of the Appropriation Bill the hon. member for Christ Church East raised the question of the increase of what he described as over $2 million for the Ministry of the Attorney General, and I think he made the point that at this time there should be less emphasis on law and order. I would like to explain the increase so that hon. members will appreciate what is really involved. The total Estimates for 1977–78 amounted to $15,575,499. The total Estimates for this coming financial year amount to $19,222,403, showing a net increase of $3,000,646. The net increase is occasioned by the following:

Total net increase of Personal emoluments for Head 10.1 to 10.8 of $1,880,307. Of this amount approximately $851,120 becomes payable for duty allowance which was voted by this House for the Police, Fire Service and Prison; therefore it is statutory expenditure which this House has already approved, and I think the House recognised at that time the necessity of paying the duty allowance. It is not for me at this time to reopen arguments on that particular Head but I am simply showing why there appears to be an increase in this particular Head. Also included in the $3 million under Head 11 "Judiciary" is the figure of $1,056,108. Now although Head 11 is new to the Ministry of the Attorney General it really does not represent an increase in the overall government expenditure for the simple reason that these Heads formerly appeared under the Prime Minister, as the Judiciary was then under the Prime Minister, so it is not really in truth and in fact an increase in the Ministry of the Attorney General. Now the net increase in "Other Charges – Non-recurrent" under Head 10.1 to 10.8 inclusive amounts to only $128,524; so if there is any real increase at all in the Ministry of the Attorney General, it is the figure of $128,524 which amounts to "Other Charges" and to the non-recurrent Heads and not the $3.6 million spoken of. There is also a net increase in capital expenditure of $582,635; when I come to deal with the matter of capital expenditure I think this Committee will be satisfied that there is a very strong case for this Ministry to have a developmental aspect. It is a mistake – with all due respect to my hon. and learned colleague on this side of the House – to assume that the social aspects of law are not developmental. It is a concept that is very outdated and I hope one of these days to have the opportunity to show hon. members how it is impossible without looking at the developmental aspects of law and order for any community to move forward. If it is one thing I regret it is that the economic circumstances of today do not allow me to vote a massive increase in legal aid, a very necessary part of the developmental aspect of law. Indeed, there is no project of the Government that can rest secure unless we have a basic stability in the country. For instance, it is a mistake to believe that tourism in this country can go forward unless the country is secure, and for this we need police protection. It is a mistake to believe that agricultural production can continue in circumstances where praedial larceny is an accepted pattern of behaviour. And so the preservation of law

and order is necessary to create the climate in which all sectors can work harmoniously.

With regard to Item 11 I should like to say that I am hopeful that the report of the National Commission on the Status of Women will be available this year and I promise that the report will be considered by Government and its recommendation taken very seriously. The House will be allowed to see the report and I hope hon. members will take the opportunity to debate its findings and conclusions. I know that the Commission has been working very hard and has had some success with public participation, and I look forward to its report and to be able to work on it.

Another area I would like to speak on is Item 17 – Professional Services. We are hoping we can shortly set up a Law Reform Committee at the administrative level. We have not had word yet from the Bar Association but when I hear from this Body I will be able to announce the composition of the Law Reform Committee. The Ministry of the Attorney General has started a programme of law reform; it is not going at the pace I would like but we have already effectively completed legislation for the land law of this country. Each practising member of the Bar will have been provided with a copy of seven Bills being discussed with the University of the West Indies. In addition we have completed a review of the Law of Marriage and the Bill was circulated to churches throughout the Island and we are now doing the third draft. We have also sent out the first draft of a new Bill on defamation and privacy, and we are engaged on the second working draft of the Integrity Legislation. But it is not only Integrity Legislation by itself; if the views of the Ministry are accepted by the Government the Bill will also include laws on corruption.
8.45 p.m.

We will deal with all of the bovine mishaps and misadventures that may have occurred. We have asked the British Government for assistance in completing reform in the Criminal Law. I believe that reform in the Criminal Law in this country is in need of massive reform, both Criminal Law and procedure; and we are going during this year to place emphasis and getting legislation in this field. We have also approached the UNDP for an Expert who will be devoting his time to look into those bits of the Imperial Legislation which still affect and apply to Barbados and pass our own Statutes so that they become part of the laws of Barbados.

I am mindful of the pleas of the Bar Association for an updating and reforming of the Rules of Court. I hope that this expert, a Canadian, who will be here in July, will do a new set of Rules for the Supreme Court, embracing Admiralty and other jurisdictions. I hope that he will do our own Court of Appeal Rules for the first time.

Mr. Chairman, in the field of Penology, I have a committee which has been sitting and we are looking at laws to reform – penal laws for instance – the attachment of wages and a more lenient attitude towards debtors, making them work rather than merely imprisoning them; and I hope that this Committee will report to me during the coming year so that I can get on with bringing some legislation before the House.

Mr. Chairman, we are not in this country in the position of a country with petrol dollars; and I must confess that I am finding it difficult to retain and indeed to recruit people of the right calibre and indeed with the right expertise who can help me to push a programme. Only this week I knew of a substantial offer made to one of my officers, a very competent officer, by Trinidad which has the petrol dollars. I would like to say that I am much indebted to the legal officers in my Ministry who despite the low salaries available as compared to what is available at the private Bar are sticking very strongly to the task of giving the public service their assistance in this field. I would like particularly to say that I have had the full support of certainly the Solicitor General and the Chief Parliamentary Counsel, who are the two main departmental heads responsible to me for the conduct of Government business. Indeed, every officer in that Ministry has given me total support including the typists who come and work on weekends without extra remuneration. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that in this Ministry, in the administrative side as well, we have got a new impetus and a new spirit, and I am glad that in any way that I can assist them, I set an example; and I hope that the Ministry will be able to give an increased service to the Government Departments who depend on our advice and support; and with that I would ask that this Head stand part, as amended.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I have listened with great attention to the Hon. Attorney General, and I too would like to pay tribute to the officers in his department whom I bequeathed to him, including the Solicitor General and the entire staff – I think about 90 per cent; and I think that any tribute that he pays to them is probably because of the training of the first Attorney General *(cheers)* who schooled them not only in the ways of loyalty and dedication, but who since he is following in my footsteps, has enabled them to feel as professional men a commitment to their country and to give the best advice to whichever Government is in power.

I think that perhaps my commitment to them enabled me to get into difficulties with one of the Commissions of Inquiry set up by that Government when one of his own officers was not permitted as a professional man to express his views. Perhaps if I did not know the Law I might have been in Glendairy or suffered some other punishment; but after 26 years I think that I know my way around. I cannot help saying that we have a Solicitor General and officers in his department who are dedicated, who are not politically minded. Even if they hold their own political views they are dedicated to the proper administration of justice, to the performance of their duties and to the maintenance of law and order in this community and to the establishment of a strong democracy in this country.

We are not at cross purposes, because I think he knows how I feel about the officers that he has in his department, and I think that he knows how they feel about me as a former Attorney General. I think to that extent we are not quarrelling. I am in a bit of a difficulty because I think that the Hon. Attorney General was dealing with several Heads in a broad ranging aspect perhaps to save his fire for a final winding up. Instead of giving speeches on each different Head, he tried to give to this Hon. House a global report of what he hopes for and his aspirations and what he intends to do for the country.

I would like as a former Attorney General, Leader of the Opposition and President of the Bar Association, to pay tribute to him. *(asides)*. No Mr. Chairman, this is not boasting. I have always said in this House that if you do not blow your own trumpet nobody is going to blow it for you; and knowing Barbadians as I know them, if you blow your trumpet they will get a newspaper and push in it so that you cannot blow it. I am not in my particular case blowing my own trumpet; but since I assumed leadership of the Bar I have had a meeting with the Attorney General and we have discussed probably about 25 areas in which the administration of justice can be improved. We had a frank, honest discussion in which I hope that the administration of justice and law and order, the convenience of litigants and other persons can be improved; because the administration of law and order and justice can never be a partisan matter; and God forbid that this country should ever reach the stage where judges or magistrates or policemen or those who are called to administer justice should be biassed or influenced by any political party, one or the other.

I think that after 300 odd years – I have said this already. I have said it abroad, and I have said it in Barbados – that whatever the colonial approach to Barbados is, Barbados can boast of two good things that we have inherited from the British – a respect for parliamentary democracy and a sound system of law and order. I have never heard that our Justices are capable of being bribed – of course I have said in here Justices are entitled to be ignorant because there are Court of Appeals and other Courts that can correct them; but I have never heard in my 26 years as a barrister that we have ever had one single case of people going to a judge's house in the night to pay money to give a decision next morning. I think Barbadians must be appreciative of this fact. We have ignorant judges in any part of the world – England, Australia, New Zealand; but it is a judge's privilege to be ignorant because the law is supposed, as I have said in here already, to reside in his bosom, but not in the heads of counsel. We counsel are supposed to have law books, and if we know where to find it we might be able to direct the judge to what is the correct position in any particular case.

I would like to join the Attorney General in paying tribute to a bunch of magistrates and a bunch of judges who have administered law and justice in this country over the years; and I think that neither side should ever attempt to weaken that pure and unadulterated stream of justice.

8.55 p.m.

I give the Attorney General as President of the Bar and as one of the leading members of it my unstinted support to maintain that. Now dealing with this Head of Attorney General, there are a lot of problems in law and order which we have got to deal with. I have had a meeting with the Attorney General and the only difference with him is that he has long term projections, and I find there are a lot of short term solutions which must be found. I see the hon. member for St. Philip North agreeing with me. In our frank discussions with the Attorney General, his ideas are long term, but I think, and I will have another meeting with him shortly, that we at the Bar and in the profession and in the administration of justice need some temporary and short term remedies which eventually can be carried over as long term projections for a proper and fitting administration of justice. I will probably deal with that in greater detail when we come to deal with the Capital Estimates for this particular Ministry.

Now, Mr. Chairman, on the operating expenses for the Commission on the status of women, I think the Opposition and the Attorney General himself will agree that the setting up of the Commission originated when we were in Government, but we went out of Government on the eve of his instituting it and formalising it. I think that is a historical fact, and we are looking forward with great interest to the report on this Commission because I remember when I was Minister of Education I met with a distinguished lady from Canada, and I had almost set up the Commission when he came in as the sort of champion

of women. I do not know why we old men always champion women, but it seems a good idea to give us some feeling that we have not lost our virility or at least have not passed over that curve which means that we are now looking for companionship. Anyhow, the Attorney General of course is much younger than I am, but I am thinking of my age group. He is probably ten or twelve years younger than I am, but without being facetious I would like to assure him that we are looking forward to this report, because he knows and I know that there are several areas in which women are discriminated against in this country, and there is a time both in the Government Service and in other areas of Government when, if the Committee does a proper job, there will be legislation to follow to remove these inequalities. I will give you an example. I have given this before and perhaps you will say I have an interest. Mr. Chairman, I had better declare my interest in this right now. I think there is provision in the Standing Orders that you must declare your interest if you have an interest, but this is contingent on future interest as some lawyers say.

A woman in the civil service has her husband in the civil service who has reached the stage where he can take his wife on long leave, and he gets passages for his wife and his children. Suppose he is a doctor! When the time is up he can get a passage for his wife and a certain number of children to go to the United Kingdom. Now the wife who is a doctor cannot take her husband. I am suffering from that because my wife is a doctor, and that is why I declared my interest. I hope that this new status of women position would remove that anomaly because I would really like to see the United Kingdom or Canada. You know I am getting on in age. I might not have arthritis but I would like to see it before I reach that stage. I am showing you that the commission on the status of women is going to serve a useful purpose, it is going to remove a lot of anomalies. For instance, I hope it removes the anomaly which exists at the moment that if a wife brings a divorce against her husband the Judge orders the husband to pay the cost of the divorce. Now the wife must pay something, but right now invariably the husband pays the cost. So there are a lot of areas in which I am and the public is looking forward to the report of the Commission on the status of women. Let me say this right away: I don't care what the Commission or the Attorney General who has always been the champion of women say, I would still believe that women are the weaker sex, not weaker physically, but I think they deserve the courtesies and respect which they should get either by tradition or by long years of training and upbringing. Even tonight when the Minister of Health came in the dining room and wanted a seat, I insisted that my colleagues at the table stand. I think she deserves it. If she would only smile more often, I do not think anybody could fault her at all. In life she is charming. I would not go any further, but just speaking on the status of women, and the Minister of Labour can bear this out, the Minister of Health is charming in many ways. Now I think that whatever she feels, that she is equal to the Attorney General, the Minister of Labour or the Prime Minister. I will always believe that to her and to her sex from us is due some sort of courtesy, old world courtesy you may call it, just to show that we appreciate them, we admire them and we think that from their point of view they will have to carry on the future generations of Barbados. That is how I feel. I may be wrong.

Now I see under Item 10 "includes provision for cost of Medicines and spectacles on behalf of members of Police Force, Fire Service and Prisons Department". I was terribly disappointed when I saw firemen cooking on wood. Now I want an explanation for that. In 1976 the Democratic Labour Party said that if you voted for the Barbados Labour Party they were carrying you back to cow dung, wood and so on, and I was wondering when I saw in the Nation this photograph of firemen at Seawell cooking on wood because there was no gas, whether our prophesies had come true. Only this week I saw a sergeant in the Court using an old time pen nib that went out with the Boer War. I said "Serge, firemen are cooking with wood, you are writing with one of these old time pen nibs with a bottle of ink, what is happening in this country? We had prophesied this." The Sergeant said he had two or three ball points; but I said "Serge, why are you writing with a pen nib; things are looking grim"; and I said if this is an indication of what is happening in this country with the police and I saw the Nation with the firemen cooking with wood, then the DLP's prophesy in part, if not in whole, is coming true; and therefore I want to find out from the Minister what happened. This may be under the Fire Department Head, but I want to alert him under Head 10(1) that we want an explanation why the Nation or any newspaper in this country should show a photograph in 1978 of the people who are to protect us from fires cooking with wood, and it was not one day, it was two days. I hope it is not an indication of the grim economic condition which we must face in 1978 because of the gloomy predictions which the economy is undergoing.

9.05 p.m.

I hope it is not an indication of the grim, economic conditions which we must face in 1978 and which the masses must face in 1978 because of the gloomy predictions which the economy is undergoing.

I would like to assure the Hon. Attorney General on Item 17 that the Law Reform Committee has received his communication, we are dealing with this matter as a matter of utmost urgency, we have circulated to members of the Bar whom we thought could make a serious contribution and we were turned down, and we have consequently consulted other members, and if he has not already got our reply to this I will see about it tomorrow when I go back. I had assumed that we had the numbers

and the members he had asked for this Committee, and I will speak to the Secretary tomorrow to see that he gets the reply so that he can announce which he wants to do, because I consider, and I think all members of the Bar consider that the question of law reform in Barbados is a matter of vital importance. In all areas we are still acting under old time colonial legislation which bears no relation to the changing economic, social, cultural pattern in Barbados, and I think the Attorney General only a few weeks ago indicated that he himself in spite of the hard and dedicated work he was doing, was hampered by the shortage of staff and the failure of Barbadians to enter his Department to enable him to deal with the multifarious and the numerous problems which he is faced with to bring the laws of Barbados up to date, and it is always a question of money.

I can see with him, but I would like to assure him that I shall ensure that the Law Reform Committee, the members from the Bar Association will announce to him, because the Bar Association views with serious concern the old time state of law of several Acts on the Statute Book in Barbados. Further, I would like to assure him that the legislation which he has submitted to the Bar Association is receiving active consideration. I think what he does not understand is that he has been glutting us with so much legislation in the last two, three, four weeks and giving us such a short deadline, that if he does not get back the return from us he must understand that in trying to make a bread and to earn a living we have only got a limited time to devote – we will try to make it unlimited – but I hope the Attorney General will understand that the areas of legislation which he has referred to the Bar Association and the Bar Council is so voluminous within the last two or three weeks that even the deadline he set may not be met, but I promise him that we are giving it serious consideration and I would like to assure him that if we do not meet the deadline it is not because we are not thinking the reform of the law to be a serious matter but because in fixing it in with our practice from time to time, and meetings from time to time, we cannot devote the time that he has submitted to us to deal with it.

I would like to deal with Item 16, and I think we have drawn to him the question of the Council of Legal Education. I am a member now of the Council of Legal Education and I think he has been made aware by the Bar of certain problems which are affecting members, Barbadians, who have been abroad and who cannot for one reason or another because of the old agreement, the CARICOM Agreement setting up this body, are suffering some difficulty. I will not blame the Attorney General for this, because we have not had a meeting of the Heads of Governments to amend this particular agreement setting up the law Faculty and the Council for Legal Education, and I think it has been drawn to his attention by the Bar Council that there are certain barristers in Barbados and other persons who are likely to suffer as a result of the existing agreement under this particular legal setup. I know he has given me the assurance and this is one of the matters I discussed with him, that we are awaiting a Heads of Governments conference to try to deal with this particular matter on the Council of Legal Education.

The only thing I would say about this is a general comment to assure and to ask the members of the Government – I only saw the Express in Barbados today, and this worries me because there is a cartoon on the centre page of the Express, I don't want to make it a document of the House, but I think that generally on our comments on the CARICOM is a cartoon which is reminiscent of a gold mine, a coal mine in some other country where you have boards knocked against it "CARICOM Heads of Governments Conference – this property is condemned." I don't want to make it a document of the House, because it is not my paper, as a matter of fact, one day I remember in this House the then Leader of the Opposition asking me for my paper, he wanted to make it a document of the House, I said it was mine, and I got sent out because I came over here ready to beat him for it and to take it from him. I think the Marshal remembers this, they said I passed in front of the Speaker, but I wanted my paper and he wanted it for argument.

Mr. WEEKES: On a point of order. A pauper bought that paper, Sir, no other person than your humble servant, the hon. member for St. Philip South.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: So I cannot make it a document of the House, but this is something I would like to counsel the hon. members on all sides of the House, that if we continue in this House – and I'm dealing with the question of the Council of Legal Education – if we continue to attack the economies of Guyana and Jamaica and make scathing comments or even references, we are postponing further and further the day for a meeting of the Heads of Governments in the Caribbean which among other things has got to deal with this particular question under the Council of Legal Education which, as the Attorney General knows, is affecting certain nationals, not a significant number of nationals, but some of our people, and I would counsel members of this House, and I would like to say now, that I feel like the Government that a Heads of Governments conference is long overdue, and anything that can be done to bring it about is something of vital importance to the region, and I would only ask all members of the House that in discussing our economic situation, and discussing the situation throughout the world we should avoid making scathing or any type of reference which might be interpreted by any other country in the region to be derogatory either of their political philosophies or the way they are running their Governments, because as I say we are dealing simply, as the Attorney General

knows, it is not a large majority, so unless the protocol or the agreement is altered there are no hundreds that are going to suffer, but there are one or two Barbadians who are at the moment experiencing difficulty because there is not this amendment to the agreement setting up the Council of Legal Education to enable them to practise in their own country, and therefore we must all avoid any approach, or any attitude, or any utterances which can injure that particular approach.

Mr. Chairman, as I say, it is a pity that we couldn't deal with this Head globally, and I think the Attorney General dealt with it, so it means that the spokesman on Legal Affairs I may have to weary this House with more than one speech, and I wish I could deal with Head (1), Head (2), Head (3) not at any length, but it is a pity because it means that I have to speak on the Registration which deals with the Registry, Crown Solicitor's, Police, Probation, and it means that if you see me popping up like a jack-in-the-box it is not that I want to criticise the Attorney General or to make any political points, I do not view the administration of law and justice as any opportunity for any party to make political points.
9.15 p.m.

So if you see me popping up like a jack-in-the-box it is not because I want to criticise the Attorney General or to make any political points, for I do not view the administration of law and justice as any opportunity for any Party to make political points. As lawyers we cannot support any maladministration of justice or breach of human rights; as lawyers we have got to support the proper administration of justice because it is on the basis of a proper administration of law and order that this society will continue to exist. If there is a breach of human rights by the Government, if there is a breach of human rights by the police, there is the Bar and public opinion that must step in, because Government is saying what the law is and you must obey the law. But as I have said in this House before, there is a principle of law that I cannot agree with, that every citizen is presumed to know the law. How can this be when you have a million laws and regulations? Yet there is a well known expression *ignorantia legis non excusat* ignorance of the law is no excuse. So a person cannot tell a magistrate he did not know what the law was. So the administration of law and justice in a democracy is very important, and therefore we as members of Parliament and as lawyers have got to see to it that the system we administer is pure and unadulterated.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I would like to get some information from the Attorney General. There is an almost 50% increase in the vote for the Commission on the Status of Women, and I wonder if the Minister would give us some breakdown of this increase, bearing in mind this is a year in which great stringencies and cuts have been imposed.

I also wish to make a few observations on the question of law and order and I want to deal with a particular issue which has been afflicting this community, not least the constituency I represent – St. Michael South. A large number of my constituents, and indeed a large number of persons in other constituencies as well, have been very much concerned about the recent spate of rapes and other offences – some unnatural – against young people in this country. A number of my constituents have been molested and a number of instances have taken place, and I would like the Minister who has spoken on law and order to make some statement on this particular issue as to what special measures are being taken to calm the fears and anxieties, especially among the female section of the population in this regard. I believe there have been similar problems in other areas and I think it is in order for the Minister to make some statement on this issue which is one that is causing genuine concern.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I shall have something to say on the specific Heads as they come up, so I will not detain this Honourable House for very long at this stage. But I want to say, however, that when the Attorney General started his broad outline statement he indicated that the hon. member for Christ Church East may have been mistaken in his concept. But I think that if one looks at the memorandum normally submitted with the Estimates, the hon. member for Christ Church East could have been misled into believing that the increase was in fact over $2 million, because the memorandum highlighted the Ministry of the Attorney General with the other Ministries that had an increase in their vote, and the hon. member for Christ Church East, unaccustomed so far to Ministerial position, would not have been acquainted with the twist and turns that occur in the presentation of the Estimates. But it would not be doing the hon. member justice to speak of what he said in terms of the developmental aspect of law and order. I believe he was thinking more of the production areas, and I share a number of the sentiments he expressed, and it seems to me he was suggesting there is a difference between the provision of services which we all agree are necessary and needed.

I do not propose to dwell on it any longer at this time but I feel that the record should show the slight if subtle difference between what the hon. Attorney General defended and what the hon. member for Christ Church East said, as far as I understood him.

Mr. Chairman, the hon. Attorney General and the Leader of the Opposition, both in praise of the system we have in this country, talked about the great job which judges and members of the legal profession have done to maintain law and order in this country. Unfortunately, when one talks about law and order – not only in Barbados but in general in western societies, one seems to

Barbados are fashioned, whether they take into account offences reported, offences cleared up or offences for which there have been convictions. There are three different stages and very often at the level of reporting, criminal statistics can become clouded by a dark number. For example, let us assume there is rape. A woman may be raped tonight; she may be a married woman out in some part of the country sneaking out with a man but she does not want that to come out, and that rape is never reported to the police. Other people for other reasons do not report offences to the police. Very often there are cases especially cases like wounding, and to some extent in rape cases I have known of, where parties get together and say "look, this is really an assault for which you can be compensated", and the case is settled on the payment of money. Now an offence has been committed but unless your criminal statistics show to what extent that incident was followed through, you get a clouded picture, because as I say, if there was no conviction, you can forget it. If it was never cleared up or the police wrote it off or did not bother with it, it is a wrong input. That is what Leon Radzinowicz called the dark number, so that criminal statistics can give a guide but they are and they do not necessarily point deliberately or conclusively to any increase in the incidence of anything unless the statistics are very sophisticated. Britain has only come to grips and had only sophisticated their criminal statistics in the 1970s but they were searching from time to time and making improvements on the method, and so I am interested even from a personal point of view in seeing criminal statistics and to what extent they are reliable guides.
9.45 p.m.

While talking about criminal statistics and the police, Sir, I have been practising in Barbados for seven or eight years, and I cannot remember in the last four or five years – I may be wrong, the Attorney General can correct me – senior police officers being given overseas courses. I am not talking about the Commissioner who before he became Commissioner had a special course in security which was absolutely necessary, I am talking of the level of Sergeants and Inspectors. When I was a boy and when I was overseas studying I read of police officers going abroad to Hendon and doing various courses. I know Inspector Mervyn Holder has had training at Wakefield, I believe it is, in fingerprinting and various things like that, but I cannot think of anybody from the C.I.D. in the last few years who has been abroad and done any training. If criminal activity in Barbados is assuming a level of sophistication beyond the level of sophistication of the services of detection of crime, then we are in for trouble. In my view, the level of police services and training should be in advance of criminal activity.

There was a time, a few years ago, when the police only after Hartley Reeves, I believe, and Coggins were running around and had done a lot of damage, only realised that they were in league with a man from Grenada, and they used to leave Barbados and go and do jobs – I'm using the language of the underworld now, Sir – do jobs in Grenada, and the Grenadian would come to Barbados, and the police were thinking it was a Barbadian who was robbing or breaking into a pilot's house down on the west coast, when in fact it was a Grenadian doing the job. It took them a little time, but I think it is absolutely necessary that training at all levels be pursued as a constant thing in the Police Force, and I am making a plea – I do not do a lot of criminal work now, Sir, so I have nothing to gain by making this plea – for the Attorney General to set up a regular on-going course of training for senior police officers outside of Barbados if possible. Let them see other systems.

In terms of the reaction of the Attorney General to the speech of the hon. member for Christ Church East on the second reading of the Appropriation Bill, I think what the hon. member for Christ Church East was trying to say was that in terms of getting the economy moving as a factor in the productive sector in the country, the Attorney General's Ministry from the economic point of view was not a priority as compared with Tourism, or IDC, or whatever. I think that was the simple point that he was making that had in my view a lot of merit in it. The Attorney General's position tonight is, and I agree with him, a limited position that law can be seen as a factor in the process of social engineering, but there is not much law can do in terms of economic productivity, in keeping down praedial larceny, making the fines more stiff, or having a secure society that tourists can feel free to walk about unlike other countries and so on, that may have an indirect economic benefit, but the point the hon. member for Christ Church East was making was that it is not a direct productive economic instrument.

Sir, before I finish, I am going to speak from time to time on various of the Heads, but before I finish I think we must compliment the Attorney General for the amount of legislation which is coming out of his Department, legislation of very important consequence to the country, legislation in which I think we have noted that the language of the draughtsmen has become a lot more simple and a lot more intelligible. *(Asides).* Sir, I am being told that I have exceeded my fifteen minutes, I am also speaking for the member for St. Michael North West. He shares a lot of my views and I am endorsing some of his silent observations.

Mr. Chairman, I have a very serious point to make. The Attorney General's Ministry.....*(Asides)*.....I couldn't expect the Leader of the Opposition to compliment him in the same terms or be as lavish as I am attempting to be, but the Leader of the Opposition

gave it away – he only needed to be a little bigger – he gave it away when he said that he is inundated with Bills and files and pieces of paper coming out of the Attorney General's Office. That shows that the Attorney General's Department has been one of the most active and productive, not in an economic sense, departments of the new Government, and I think the Attorney General is to be highly complimented. The Attorney General knows that we would argue in here and disagree, and I will criticise him when I have to because I have never been afraid of anybody, but when I have to compliment him I will compliment him and his department, and I think the Attorney General's Department is doing a very good job. The Attorney General is a little too modest to say, but it is something that a lot of us in Government and semi-Government positions should take to heart.

I understand that the Attorney General has a meeting once a month with the various Heads of his Departments, and that is very useful, something that Governments in the past should have done, and it is certainly that has had a lot in it for me. Now I want to make a point. Certain sections of the Press are not here, but I want to make a point, Sir.

Last Wednesday, or I believe it was last Friday, in the Nation there was a gossip article written that certain people on this side are jockeying for positions for the Attorney General of this island. Because the Attorney General has made certain statements, certain members of the Press seem to think that all of a sudden people here are lining up at the starting gate. I want to make it clear; I am not in the race, not jockeying. I have enough trouble trying to find a regular jockey, Mohammed, to be jockeying for any Attorney General position. I said in the bye-election in St. Philip and in the General Election that I have no interest in any ministerial office in the period 1976 to 1981, and I don't like the tone with which that article was written, because this is a united party and nobody has been indulging in intrigue to fill anybody's position. When the time comes the Prime Minister has the decision to make as to who will fill this office if anybody feels it obligatory to resign and he will make the decision without any coaxing from the Press.

But even though we compliment the Attorney General's Department on the productivity of the department, it must be said that the staff at the Attorney General's Chambers is short of its fullest complement, and it is short and there is a shortage of lawyers in Government because of the salary they receive. Unless the Government, the National Union of Public Workers get together and take a decision that certain service Ministries which rely on people of certain expertise have to have a salary structure that is different from the general service, there will always be a shortage, the Attorney General's Chambers will always be inundated with applications from people who have one or two years' experience.
9.55 p.m.

So some system has got to be set up by which staff of the Attorney General's Chamber can share an economic salary for the work they do. I do not know how it is to be done and this is not the time and place but I feel perhaps some fund could be set up if it is not offensive to other civil Servants. Let us face it – jealousy is a serious thing. But can you imagine somebody in the government service having to draw a contract involving the government for millions of dollars and at the end of the day carrying home a thousand dollars as monthly salary when he knows that in private practice he would be drawing scale fees? All of us are not cut out to be advocates; some of us do Chamber work; some do conveyancing; but if we are to attract the right quality of people and retain them, something has got to be done about the remuneration problem. Some people may say I am pleading for lawyers. I do not intend that at all, but I recognize the problem. I believe that the Leader of the Opposition when he was Attorney General had this problem and it is something that perhaps the Bar Council and Bar Association can look into. But I believe some impetus can come from the private Bar for the amelioration of the people at Marine House.

Mr. Chairman, I have over-stayed my time, but will have a few observations to make on some Heads later on, in particular Probation and the Crown Solicitor's Department.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I never like getting into debates of this nature. I am not a legal luminary, so I cannot praise the Attorney General for good work or bad as Attorney General, but after hearing colleagues on both sides of the House complimenting him for the good work he has done, I can only share that view because they should know. I am going to say something here tonight, and I am not speaking against Government's policy because I have looked at the Party's manifesto quite carefully and have seen nothing in it contrary to Government's policy.

My colleague, the hon. member for St. Philip North, spoke about coming down in blood when it comes to Police brutality. I do not want to misquote him; maybe he did not put it in that manner, but he is going to do his very best to stamp out any police brutality.

Mr. SIMMONS: On a point of elucidation, Mr. Chairman, I said that if it ever arose I would fight against it.

blunt approach to what can only be considered as a layman's approach to the serious problem of the administration of law and order. I am sure at least his three colleagues on his right perhaps in many ways share some of the blunt expressions, not on the question of beating and calling him, but I think they do share his condemnation of innocent people being raped, people who are in their houses or going about their lawful business or going to their professions, raped. I do not say you share all. He made such a speech, not short but long, and from the legal point of view you do not share his approach to the remedies and to police brutality and to the methods of getting evidence to convict and so on, but I think this Honourable House is perhaps unanimous in condemning the increase in crime, the mere fact that people have not been allowed to pursue their lawful occupation, and I share with him this view that I knew Barbados as he did.

I was born like him in an 18' x 9' where the back door was pushed up by a piece of board, and with a shedroof, and you could sleep with your windows opened and did not have to fear; and I particularly share with him the fact today that so much money is spent by housebuilders in putting up wrought iron and burglar proof iron-works. I think we all share that Barbados has reached the point where today the freedom to enjoy the air, peace and friendship have completely changed. I think to that extent I am with him, but as I say, I admire him, not for the legal aspect or the penology of it or the method of dealing with a problem that has arisen in Barbados' society that is increasing in economic wealth and so on. I think we should all admire him at any rate for his blunt, forthright views for a politician which I have never heard in this House before. We are all apologists for something; we are all trying to win votes for something; we are all trying to make people believe that we do not believe in certain things or in other things, and I would say this, and this would not help him anyhow in 1981; I admire that an hon. member on the front bench of the Government party could get up and express in such blunt language how he feels right in his heart on a very vital aspect of our existence, that is, the maintenance of law and order. We are not sharing it with him except our condemnation of the increase in crime and the fact that because of changed circumstances Barbadians are not allowed to go about their occupations and to live in their homes without this constant fear of being interfered with by, as he said, near-do-wells or other people in our society.

I do not share his legal aspects, but I admire his courage and guts that tonight he can get up and say that. I feel he said what he did with all sincerity and from a firm feeling; and do not let us fool ourselves as lawyers; what he has said tonight is going to find a lot of sympathy in the entire community because he has been honest, sincere, blunt and brutal, and that is the feeling of a lot of people who are not lawyers, trained as we are; but it is the expression of people who have been the victims of the criminal element in our society.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, there are a few points to which I must give some answers, and I hope to do them in ten minutes. I was asked by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central about a report dealing with firemen cooking on wood. Now I addressed the Fire Service Association on 8th March, 1978, and perhaps what I said then I will repeat for the benefit of hon. members. I said then that another matter that disturbed me was when at times the first notification which I have of something wrong in the Fire Service was when I read of it in the columns of the newspaper, and I advised the Fire Service Association to submit their complaints to the Chief Fire Officer and through him to the Permanent Secretary who would in turn inform me of the position. I said I could not run a Ministry where the first notification of cause for complaint was to be found in the newspaper, and even though I myself was not personally embarrassed when I saw such things in the papers, I do not think this procedure was fair to the Chief Fire Officer. If I was questioned about such complaints in the House I would say that I had received no written complaints from anybody. I was prepared to stand up and defend the Fire Service to the hilt against any unfair or unjust criticism, but I demand that I should be notified of any complaints before hand. That is the stand which I took.

Now apparently there are two sets of bottle gas made available at the Fire Station at Seawell. One was known to have run out and the duty officer was informed and took a note of that, but that note was not passed on to the senior officer. In the meantime the second one ran out and then at that time somebody took notice of it and instead of passing it on to the senior officer, apparently one or two people in the Service always seem to have a grouse and they like being in the newspaper, and one of the people concerned got hold of the newspaper and invited them to take a picture of himself cooking. If that is the attitude, he can remain cooking on wood as far as I am concerned. I am not defending any officer who believes that he is going to try to embarrass his superiors or indeed embarrass me by dealing with a trivial complaint. There has been provision for the provision of bottle gas; it is wrong and a bad sense of understanding of his duty as an officer to invite the press to take his picture in order to think he is embarrassing the Chief Fire Officer or the Fire Chief who is in charge up there, and he certainly does not embarrass this Minister. As far as I am concerned, I understand it is the same officer who is always reporting sick. I have told them in the Fire

Service that I am dissatisfied with a person who can be ill for 169 days in one year.
10.25 p.m.

As far as I am concerned, I understand that the same officer is always reporting sick. I have told them in the Fire Service that I am dissatisfied that a person can go off 169 days ill in one year. I think some of them do not turn up at Christmas, especially in the last few years, and I have the records. I am totally dissatisfied with some of the medical officers who will give a medical certificate without doing proper enquiry. I have raised the matter with the Minister of Health and I said I am going to give her the details of these matters, but I will come back to that later in the debate.

I will let the Hon. Leader of the Opposition know that there was provision in the vote for the ordering of bottled gas. This Government does not intend to make anybody go and cook in other than congenial circumstances, but he has proved one thing. We could not get so advanced in this country in all circumstances where the energy crisis is causing us to spend a lot of money that if we have the necessary firewood around we could not make use of it. It is a mistake to think that this is what the Hon. Prime Minister meant when he spoke of alternative sources of energy, that he meant it was degrading. We have to learn to conserve hard currency, but I have no sympathy for that officer at all, and I do not think it was becoming of the Fire Service that he should approach the matter this way. I told him that at the meeting, I said I was going to repeat it on the floor of the House, because I really do not feel I should stand up for some of the people who behave in that way.

This is the second instance that I feel there are people in the Fire Service who believe that they may be embarrassing somebody by running to the Press, but they are making a sad mistake, not this Minister; get my position clear. If I become neglectful, or if any officer in my Ministry becomes neglectful in his duty, I take full responsibility. If it is of such a nature that it causes a fundamental change in Government policy, I will hand in my resignation, because I think politically I must take the blame, but I am not going to tolerate nonsense from any junior or senior official in my Ministry.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I would like an assurance from the Attorney General that that particular fireman will not be fired.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I will not fire him, he might just fire himself. I do not even want a report made to the proper Service Commission on this matter, because I believe that everybody gets a chance with me, but I will tell you something, I will only say that you get one, possible two chances with me. I have Minute Files in my Department, and I will report any officer to the Judicial and Legal Service Commission who merits it or who adopts this attitude. That is the point I want to make on that, Sir.

I believe, Sir, it is 10.30 p.m., and I have not completed my reply.

On the motion of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, seconded by Hon. H. deB. FORDE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 10.30 a.m. tomorrow.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
10.32 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

On the Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed. When the suspension was taken, the House was in Committee of Supply and to that it now reverts.

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

MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

HEAD 10(1) – DIRECTION AND POLICY FORMULATION

Head 10(1) – Direction and Policy Formulation (Debate resumed) in the sum of $1,457,864 was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I was giving some answers to some queries raised by hon. members on this particular Head, and before the debate had been suspended I had replied to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition concerning a member of the Fire Service Department at Seawell cooking on wood, and whose picture appeared in the newspaper. I trust that the explanation which I gave is satisfactory to the hon. member.

Mr. Chairman, some mention was made under the item dealing with the Council for Legal Education about

four years, part of which is spent in apprenticeship, serving in Chambers, and recently last year there was a conference held in St. Kitts held by the Bar Association and the Faculty of Law on the functions of legal education which reviewed this question and exactly the point made by the hon. member was very strongly argued there, and I believe that the Governments are being asked to review the period of training at the professional Law School. I myself think that it should be possible to reduce this to four years, and perhaps with the young lawyers coming into professional Chambers doing the fifth year in which he is immediately working and serving and getting a salary and there can be a final report if you like on him at this time. But five years of straight academic training, even although the last two years are supposed to be on the professional side, seems to me, I agree, a rather long time. Barbados has put forward this position at the conference in St. Kitts, and the Cabinet has taken the decision of asking me to raise at the next Council of Legal Education meeting the whole question of shortening the period of time in which lawyers are trained.

Now with respect to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition's question, there are certainly two Barbadians I know of who have got their law degrees and their professional qualifications in the United Kingdom, but they got them without coming within the cut off period during which it was stipulated that no lawyer would be admitted to practise in the Caribbean unless he was qualified at the professional Law School here.
10.55 a.m.

Now, we have taken up this matter of the Council of Legal Education and we have got an agreement to amend the Agreement between all of the territories, but we are awaiting a meeting of the Heads of Governments, since the decisions has to go now to the Heads of Governments to be formally approved. I do not anticipate any difficulty with approval being given, and we will be able to deal with those two cases, but there must be some cut off point. Now, there is another way we can approach this problem, and it is one I would hope that we could develop in a few years, and that is by having a reciprocity between ourselves and other jurisdictions. We will be approaching the United Kingdom in due course with a view to seeing whether there can be an agreement where people qualified and entitled to practice in the United Kingdom will get the right to practice here provided that we have a reciprocal right to practice in the United Kingdom. At the moment it is a closed shop, lawyers have so structured the profession that the legal profession is a closed shop, practising in the Caribbean is becoming a closed shop, and I have always said that lawyers seem to be the only genuine trade union that has safeguarded itself and that has a brotherhood that is almost impenetrable. That is true, and obviously we will give reciprocity to other countries provided they give reciprocity to us, but I am mindful of the problem and I hope the hon. member will realise that it is only the failure so far for a Heads of Governments Conference to be convened that has delayed a decision on this matter.

The hon. member for St. Michael South raised the question of the increase in the vote under the Commission on the Status of Women, and he wanted to know why was the actual increase made. Although it deals with matters related to the Commission on the Status of Women, it also includes a vote for other areas which the Department of Women's Affairs will be looking after. For instance, there are subventions to be given to the Girls' Industrial Union, the Young Women's Christian Association and other women's organisations. That is about $5,200. We also propose this year to carry out certain projects under the programme here.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, if the Minister would give way, I think if you have subventions to these organisations which I believe have been getting subventions, I do not know if they have been getting subventions under another Ministry, probably transferred to his Ministry, but I think this is a very clear and a patent case for a note to that effect to be added to these Estimates, and I would certainly like the Minister to take that into consideration and have the necessary amendment made.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: If the hon. member wants me to say "and includes subventions to non-profit organisations" I will include that note, and I will ask that it be made before we finish, but also it is projects which will be carried out in connection with the Commission on the Status of Women. For instance, we would wish to grant money for certain projects because the Commission at the time would wish to have legal aid and the problems created through the lack of this facility remedied, because the Commission recognises that several mothers particularly are suffering but we have no accurate details of this because of the lack of the provision of legal aid facilities.

We also propose to run a programme called "know your legislation" which will be designed to educate women in particular and the nation generally about the laws which affect their lives, and in particular we will be doing this in relation to the Commission on the Status of Women's report on the family law provisions in Barbados, and those projects have been built in in this vote. That accounts for the increase in this respect.

The hon. member for St. Michael South West asked about the Film Censorship Board and what steps are being taken to deal with the quality and nature of films which we are getting into Barbados. Mr. Chairman, the

former Minister in charge of Information, Mr. Peter Morgan, had appointed a committee to consider the legislation governing films and publications in general, and that committee is still meeting. I myself have taken an interest in the committee and have managed to collect comparative legislation from all parts of the world. The Committee, unfortunately, has not been as active as I would have liked, the Chairperson was ill for a period of time, and despite that she has been present but some of the other members of the committee have not been turning up to form a quorum, and I am proposing that my Ministry should get out a draft model Act, and indeed the Administrative Assistant in the Ministry is at present working on specific proposals to put before that committee, and I am hopeful that the committee will report by the end of the year. But I share the hon. member's concern about the standard of films coming into this country.

Nowadays you can alway see a film with violence and Kung Fu and very little of an educational nature being shown in the cinemas, and I intend very seriously when the new legislation is available to review the manner and the criteria which are set out for passing films which are imported in this country. I think the cinemas owe their public a higher duty than they have been performing up to now. I myself have taken the odd opportunity of leisure time to go to watch films – I have taken my elder boy along on one or two occasions – but by and large there are no good films of a family nature that a family can enjoy, that children can learn something from, and we seem to have gone into a tail spin in which we are getting films simply from Hong Kong and the Far East because they are the cheapest films available, and the standard of the film industry in Barbados is about to go down. Perhaps this is an area in which the Government Information Service, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Industry can take an interest, because I think that Barbados should try to develop a film industry here and in the process we might be able to produce something of a much higher quality but the hon. member's concern is very much well founded and I am sure that his views, having been heard by my administrative staff, will be conveyed to the persons who sit on the Film Censorship Board and we will hope to get the new legislation before the House as soon as we can.

Now, Sir, quite a few hon. members spoke on the question of the rise in crime statistics. Before I get on to that, I want to deal with the question of the training of policemen. This question was asked by the hon. member for St. Philip North who is not now here, and I have had a look at the training courses which have been given to the police in the last two years. In 1974 one officer was sent for training in immigration, two on farriers' courses, one in a CID course, two in narcotics control.
11.05 a.m.

In 1974 one officer was sent for training in Immigration, 2 on farrier's course, 1 on a CID course and 2 in narcotics control. In 1975, 1 was sent on a bandmaster's course, 1 on Immigration, 1 on telecommunications, 1 on narcotics control and 1 for Senior commands training. In 1976, 1 was sent on a bandmaster's course and 1 on a diploma course in public administration. In 1977, 3 officers were sent on language courses in Spanish and 2 on advanced International Narcotics control.

I agree that there is need for increased training in the Police Force at the level of middle management and at the senior police level. I agree with this for two reasons: first I believe that crime is becoming a lot more sophisticated, and indeed there has been a shift towards regional and international crime which is taxing Police Forces all over the world, and therefore there must be a higher quality in the type of training and police method. Secondly, and most important, it would be extremely frustrating for young policemen to go into the Force and have very little or no refreshers and find themselves matched against criminals with high expertise in many respects and only to find themselves thrown against lawyers who are extremely well-trained. Because of this, in my monthly meeting with the Commissioner of Police and others in my Department, we have raised the whole subject of training and the Ministry is making two attempts at this problem. One is the short term and consist of two branches – a refresher course on the job conducted by officers themselves, and one or two at the Regional Police Training College. Under the short term programme as well we are asking the assistance of friendly Governments, the United Kingdom and Canada in particular, to assist us in training in certain specialized areas such as fingerprinting, ballistics, fraud, anti-terrorist techniques, and such areas; and in fact already this year we have had a course in certain security measures with the assistance of the United Kingdom Government and about seven members of the Force have been exposed to this. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police has very high standards despite its recent difficulties. The Venezuelan Government has also indicated to me its interest in having those members of our Police Force who are being sent for training in Spanish to be attached to their special national Bar for Training as well in certain other areas. We are examining this offer but have not yet completely made up our minds on it.

What we do find vital is that the Police Force should have training in foreign languages. In fact, I have said to the Head of the Civil Service and to Permanent Secretaries that the time has come where training in languages is a necessity for people within Government structure. The Cubana affair esposed this need in the Police Force.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I am going to move off quickly, but I am saying that in 1910–11 exactly the same arguments, fears and bothers came from a section of the United Kingdom people. Now on the other hand a little later an attempt was made to stop daylight saving time in England and the people were violent about stopping it. People are reluctant to change. I give the hon. member the Government's firm undertaking that an adequate survey is being carried out this year, and if it reveals that it has no beneficial consequences and the people are not interested in it, it is not anything big in Government's policy. We are not wedded to it to the extent that it would go through willy-nilly. This Government does not believe in that, and therefore it is not something we are pushing on anybody.

Let me say so far as the laws are concerned that we have looked at the Interpretation Act, Cap. 1 on this matter. I have asked the Chief Parliamentary Counsel to look at it and we believe there may be laws which might need some amendment. This is being examined and if it is necessary, I believe there would be two areas affecting the Police, the necessary amendments will be made to deal with that so that there would be no person charged in any infraction of the law in circumstances where daylight saving time would make us look stupid by saying it was lighting up time. We will deal with that. I give the hon. member my assurance on that.

Now in so far as the question of rape and the increase in crime is concerned, let me say that throughout the world in the 1960s and 1970s with greater industrialisation and greater wealth, there has been a trend towards an increase in crime. Now we have been a little bit fortunate in Barbados in that our figures show that by and large we have had a decrease if you look over a ten year span in this country. The figures have shown crime coming down and 1976 for some reason or another right throughout the whole world has been an exceptional year. It is almost difficult if you follow an analysis of crime statistics in the Bahamas, the United Kingdom and the United States to analyse what went well in 1976, but crime dropped considerably and the same thing happened in Barbados. If you are to take a proper comparison, I think you have to look at 1975 and 1977 and the figures show, if I take these two years, that we have had a total of 6,464 cases reported to us in 1977. Of these 96 were rejected as false and there was a total of 6,365 true cases, cases that we considered as true. This compares with the figures for 1975 on the other hand of 7,001 cases. The statistics for 1977 show a decrease in the crime rate when compared with 1975, but a slight increase with the crime rate when compared with 1976, which as I said has been an exceptional year.

There are certain strong features of our crime statistics which I must advert to. Hon. members should know that in 1975 for the first time the police tried to introduce a five day week and a day and night shift system, and there is no doubt in our minds that the consequences with these changes in the hours of duty brought about some considerable reduction in the total operational ability of the police force. It would seem that because of this in 1975, this reduction in coverage, there was an adverse effect on the police capability to control crimes, and consequently crime increased in 1975 by 13.4% over the 1974 figure. Now in 1976 the crime figures dropped and the total figure for that year was 11.6% less than the 1975 figure. Last year we had an increase over the 1976 figure, but it is not as alarming as it sounds because it was only 4.8% increase over 1976, yet it was 7.4% below that of 1975. I think we should see this.

I have talked about the operational capability of the force with the shorter hours, but there are certain strong features which the Commissioner has identified and my Ministry in the monthly review which we have on these matters, and the strong features in 1977 in particular are that with an increase in the number of visitors coming into Barbados, we have a large number of people particularly during the winter months after whom to look, and in Barbados the situation is ideal for criminals in that there are people whose living standards are higher, their way of life probably a little bit more relaxed, our population is daily swollen by thousands who have the money and jewelry, and this is an ideal situation to attract the criminals, and we have therefore noticed some increase in larceny from motor vehicles and from people who go on the beaches or go to tourist centres and leave their handbags in mini-mokes unattended. We have noticed an increase in some larceny from the person and particularly in the southern area where we had a problem because of the shortage of staff, and some increase in larceny from the dwelling house. However, we have managed to analyse some of this increase. One person committed 49 offences of breaking and entering. Now it was not a number of criminals; this was one person.

We have also had the problem of criminals coming from other countries and carrying on a crime syndicate between the islands, and therefore we have had to be more rigid in controlling the entry of persons from the other islands, and as was said in the House, a couple of weeks ago, we have had to use the method of deporting some people because when we had checked out with them here, we found that they had police records for this type of offence in their countries, and obviously now it is a little bit of a regional syndicate going on. They hit the tourists in Barbados and go and spend the travellers cheques in St. Vincent or they hit the tourists in St. Vincent and come and spend the travellers cheques here, and the police forces are combining much more on a regional basis in order to control this sort of development.

Mr. Chairman, I am satisfied that the police will have to have some more mobility and some more manpower, and this is why we have decided to release 52 posts by transferring the writ servers' posts to the process officers' section and still keeping 52 posts available for the police. When the economic circumstances of this country improve, I expect that the police will have a first class case for some additional increase in the establishment of a police force.
11.35 a.m.

The detection rate is interesting, Sir. One of the things that the police have to be conscious of is the police's capability to maintain effective control over the commission of crime and ultimately to reduce the crime. The figures for 1977 I have already given you, but we had a 42.3% detection of crime reported last year. This is below what I consider to be, and what the Commissioner considers to be, a good average; a good average is that we should at least be able to detect a minimum of 50% of all crimes reported to us, and we intend to step up the sort of training that we have been giving to detectives who are on the road. In fact, if I may look at the detection rate in the last three years, in 1975 the detection rate was 35.2%, in 1976 56.5%, in 1977 it was 42.3%, and I have already in conversation with the Commissioner and the senior officers pointed out that we must step up our detection rate of crime.

Also, I would wish – I cannot interfere with the Judiciary, I would not even presume to do so – but I would hope that the DPP and his officers when making submissions in court, once they have had convictions, to answer the point raised by the hon. member for St. Joseph, will bring before the Magistrates and the Judges the statistics so that they can in turn advert to these in their sentencing policy. In the particular case of which the hon. member for St. Joseph spoke, about a Magistrate who C.R.D. for praedial larceny, I have not got the full facts so I cannot answer him in detail, but I have known that there are cases where the police or Crown Counsel have not led before the Magistrate evidence of the increases in the particular areas for which the person is charged. If this is done I am sure that our Judiciary, including the Magistrates, will respond to giving treatment as it is deserved.

There has, however, been as was said by the hon. member for St. Michael South some increase in rape. In 1975 there were 42 cases of rape reported, in 1976 there were 43, and in 1977 there were 55, which was an increase. Likewise, I believe this year we have had, if I may compare the period up to the 14th March in 1977, up to the 14th March there were nine cases reported, in 1978 up to the 14th March there were 18 cases reported. In 1977 there were two cases of indecent assualt reported up to the 14th March, and there are eight cases reported up to the 14th March, 1978. In 1977, as I said, there were no cases of buggery, in 1978 one case of buggery, and the offences have mostly been committed in the southern division again, and in certain areas in the Bridgetown division principally, and funnily enough in St. Philip.

Contrary to the opinion of some hoteliers, the number of cases of rape and indecent assault reported in the west coast area have not gone to the sort of heights that I hear are alarming or get alarming letters from hoteliers, not in that area. We have been having problems in the southern division and we have stepped up the number of men in the southern division to deal with this, and indeed the Commissioner has gone out of his way to bring in someone else, another additional officer, and I am happy to say that we have made some significant arrests already, in the southern area and near to Bridgetown, we have been keeping with the hon. member's area. In the hon. member's area we have actually made an arrest for the instances which he cited dealing with the child in his constituency or the young person in his constituency who has suffered. We have actually been able to deal with that situation. Well, there have been two cases and in both cases we have made arrests. I know this, because I myself and my Permanent Secretary get every morning, certainly by 10 o'clock, on my desk, I have the up-to-date list of crimes reported to the police in the whole island, and I daily minute out my views, not to substitute myself for the law enforcement agencies, but any policy views or any queries I have go to the Commissioner, and as I said before, I have a monthly meeting with the Commissioner and invariably about twice on other occasions during the month I see him, and we talk on the telephone daily on these instances. We are trying our best to keep down any such instances.

I do not believe there is a rape wave on in Barbados, however, nor indeed do I believe we have a crime wave. Our crime is still on international standards, one of the lowest any part of the world, if judged per head of population and even taking into account visitors coming into the island, and pitted against other Caribbean countries or other industrialised or developing countries. It is a good feature, yet I believe there is room for improvement. I have called for a 50% reduction in crime in this island this year. I cannot get 100% but at least I want a 50% reduction, and I have asked the police and I am sure they will co-operate up to the hilt, but we must appeal to the public of Barbados to come forward and give information. They are not doing their part of the matter, and my appeal has gone out on more than one occasion for co-operation from the public, particularly in those areas where persons and property, and particularly persons, are being assaulted and abused.

Now, I feel strongly about crime, about rape and all that, but let me say that although I admire the candidness of the hon. member for St. James when he spoke on his

assure us that we will get any more work done today. I feel that Cricket is part of our national development and growth, and listening to cricket or watching it is part of our life style. If the Other Side said that we do not have to come back in today, I am sure that members on this would not use it as a political gimmick.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I support the views expressed on both sides; but I know that when push comes to shove I will hear that we will not do the people's business. I support what the Leader of the Opposition said, but I cannot support the idea that the people should not feel that way. I have said on several occasions that we as politicians sell ourselves too short to the public.

The question that the sitting be suspended until 1.45 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
12.30 p.m.

On resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: When the Sitting was suspended, the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it now reverts.

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

HEAD 10 – MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
(2) REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Head 10 – Ministry of Attorney General (2) Registration Department, was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, in moving that Head 10(2) for the sum of $287,321 stand part, I will ask for an amendment to the explanatory note at Item 10 on page 45 Note 10 should be renumbered 11, deleting the note to Item 11 and substituting the words "Includes expenses of the Chief Process Officer, Process Officers, Attendance at Court, expenses of Disciplinary Committee, Scrubbing."

I beg to move that the sum of $287,321 under Head 10 – Ministry of Attorney General (2) Registration Department as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to make plea to the Hon. Attorney General that since this particular Head includes so many different aspects of the matters affecting law, and since he has spoken exhaustively and I must say wide-rangingly on so many aspects which affect the administration of justice, I hope he will not find it necessary to be as long as he was this morning.

Now dealing with the question of the Registration Department, I would like to go on record as saying that this Department admirable as it is and doing the best as it is doing, is working under difficult conditions. As a matter of fact, after I became President of the Bar Association, I had a discussion with the Attorney General and the functioning of this Department was one of the matters discussed. The Attorney General in this discussion explained to me what his plans were in the long range and how he had planned not only for the development of the courts but for the proper accommodation of the judiciary and the Registry, but I would like to tell the Attorney General that in the meantime while the grass is growing the horse is starving. I have had an occasion too to discuss with the Registrar the problems of the Registry as brought to me by practitioners and other persons, involved in business in that Department, and he has given me his assurance that he is doing his utmost to improve the conditions in that Department. I would like to say that I think every person who is involved in dealing with the Registry is dissatisfied for the simple reason that the staff of the Registry are working under extremely difficult and cramped conditions, and unless we can do some improvement in terms of accommodation and in terms of the place in which people can file documents and make checks, the problems which are existing in the Registry are problems which cannot be solved until we find proper accommodation for the Registry's staff.

I think the hon. member for St. Philip North in his speech earlier in this debate drew attention to the need for training, etc. when we dealt with the establishment order for a change. I would like to go on record not as criticising the Registration Department but of saying that unless we can get proper accommodation and proper personnel in that Department, the problems which legal practitioners face today will continue. I do not think the blame can be placed on the Registrar or any of his deputies; it is a matter which I think year in year out even under the Democratic Labour Party the then Opposition with nearly six lawyers in it drew to the attention of the then Government of which I was a member. I am not going to rehash and voice the dissatisfaction which I heard from the Hon. Attorney General, the hon. member for St. Philip North, the hon. member for St. Joseph and the hon. member for Bridgetown, and all the other lawyers who were then in the Opposition although a lot of these criticisms are today still relevant and pertinent to the existing conditions. I am not blaming the Attorney General because in my discussion with him he has given me the assurance as President of the Bar Association that

attempts will be made subject to the availability of funds to the altering of these cramped conditions.

Since the members of the Bar Association have been gazetted as members of the Disciplinary Committee I would like to assure the public that as long as I have the honour to be President of the Bar, there will be no attempt to shield my fellow practitioners, but that every complaint made to the Disciplinary Committee about members of the Bar will be dealt with fearlessly, honestly and after going into all the facts. To that end I have recently had a meeting with the deputy Registrar who is Secretary of the Committee and we shall be having a meeting of the Disciplinary Committee as soon as possible and convenient, to make sure that the complaints which are filed are dealt with honestly and clearly in the best traditions of the administration of justice. I want to assure the public that we as members of the legal profession are not drones on the society; we are prepared to police ourselves; we are prepared to give the public the best advice of which we are capable, and if there are any black sheep among our group, I think I have the support of the legal members on both sides of this House that we in the profession are prepared to see that the people on whom we depend for our living are given a fair deal by all those who are engaged in the legal profession, and I want to go on record as saying that the public should feel assured that we are not shielding each other and when these complaints come before the Disciplinary Committee, in due course their complaints will receive a judicial approach, a fair hearing, and if it is necessary to discipline any member of the profession because it is proven that he has fallen from the high standards that we have set ourselves, then he will be disciplined without favour, fear, affection or ill will. I want to give the public that assurance as President of the Bar Association and Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee of the Bar.

I am glad to see that money is put in for the running of this very important aspect because any profession that is not prepared to discipline itself to maintain the high traditions and high standards is unworthy of the confidence and support of the public; and especially as lawyers depend on the public for our living, it is vital that we should convince the public that we are not a self-protecting body, a body that is not prepared to maintain the high standards in all our dealings with the public of Barbados. I want to assure you that the public has looked at me as an honest, straight-talking politician who has only gained by being honest and fair. I think that has been the secret of my success throughout my entire career both in politics and in the legal profession.

There is one thing I wish to draw to the attention of the Hon. Attorney General. He has already passed an establishment order in which he is transferring the writ servers in the department who now are under the police to the Registration Department. I am not concerned with the physical accommodation; I am more concerned with how this new set-up with which I have no complaint is going to work. I want to draw to his attention certain problems which I think this new arrangement is going to present. At the moment the Bar Association as far as I know, and I speak subject to correction, has not seen the legislation which is going to establish, protect and guide the process servers' department. I understand that this legislation has been referred to the police and to bodies who are going to be directly affected. I would like to assure the Attorney General that this legislation ought to have been sent to the Bar Association – it may have been sent to the Secretary – for our views on the legislation which is going to bring this new Department into existence.

2.00 p.m.

We are the lawyers who are concerned with representing clients, it is our clients who are going to be affected if process is not served, it is going to be a waste of judicial time if process is not served, and if the proper procedures are not observed. If it has been sent, I stand corrected, but if it has not been sent I would counsel the Attorney General that this is one piece of legislation among others which have been referred to the Bar Council for their comments and opinions, then this particular piece of legislation is vital to the administration of justice in Barbados. I have seen a circular sent out to the writ servers who are now under the Police, giving them until the 28th March to opt whether they will go back to the Police Force of which they are now members, or whether they will join the new Process Servers Department. Now, there are some difficulties which are inherent in this transfer, and I would like to tell him that without being critical of the Government the Writ Servers themselves are in great doubt, even although as I say, some of them admitted to me that they had seen the legislation, but they are still in doubt as to how this particular system is going to work.

They are policemen now, they get free transportation on buses, they get a duty allowance, they get free medical attention. Are these same conditions going to obtain when they move over to the Writ Servers Department? And when you look at it in monetary terms, is this going to be a loss of emoluments or fringe benefits if they opt from their experience of this system to go over to the Process Servers Department? This is something I would ask the Attorney General to seriously consider, but right now as policemen they get free medical attention, they can travel free on the buses, and they get a duty allowance which was given by the last Government. Have these fringe benefits been taken into account with the transfer or asking of them to opt whether they will remain with the Police or whether they go over to the Writ Servers Department?

I think that I want to hear the Attorney General particularly on that aspect of it when he replies. Further, if they now are policemen and fall under the Police Act and the usual police enforcement procedures apply to them, they are under the Police Act and the other pieces of legislation which usually govern the Police Force in this country. When they move over to the Process Servers Department, are they going to get some of the same allowances? Well, obviously they are not because they are no longer policemen as such. As I say, I have not seen the legislation but I am assuming that the legislation will have provision for protecting them in the execution of their duty. I am not asking to equate them in monetary terms with the police, but I think that this is something which is going to affect them considerably and is worrying them as to what the final enactment of the legislation will give them in terms of their independence.

Now, the Registration Office is working in considerable difficulty in terms of physical accommodation, in terms of changeover of staff, in cases of lack of knowledge of the members of staff, and this is something the Registrar himself in a discussion with me has agreed, that there is great room for training, there is great room for improvement. As a matter of fact, as I say, there has been little improvement, because I think if the Attorney General ever decided to visit any Tuesday morning he would see the colossal waste of judicial time that takes place. There is a colossal waste of manpower among lawyers on a Tuesday morning when a matter of five minutes by a junior might take him till 11 o'clock before he can get into the Judge, and we have either got in due course to ask lawyers to set down when they file summonses for Chambers to indicate on the summonses whether the matter might take five minutes, ten minutes or whatever, so that they will know how much time they have.

I will give you a very interesting joke. The other morning I went in before a certain Judge and I suggested that Queen's Counsel on that Tuesday morning should have preference. Mr. Hanschell, my learned friend, who is my senior, was given the preference and I had to wait two hours to do a matter that took only five minutes. I am only showing you that you can have a colossal waste of time unless we update the Registry or have in the Registry persons who are able to understand these things, once they are properly drawn, which can take about five minutes, not like a husband and wife matter under the Married Women's Property Act which can go on for two or three hours, and without criticising the Bar you will see that we have to train the staff or call upon the lawyers themselves to indicate as they do when they ask for a matter to be set down for trial, and they indicate to the Judge whether it is two days, three days or what have you; and we may have to go further and amend the rules to ask lawyers how long they suspect a particular summons to take.

I would just ask the Attorney General, finally, with this transfer which is a matter that is causing concern to the Writ Servers, not because they are opposed to it, not because they are hesitant or unwilling to serve the community, but I am wondering whether we could not have a trial period to give them some idea of how it is going to work. As I say, some of them are already saying – I have not gone into this statistically – that there is going to be a drop with the numbers that they had before, with the numbers now that the Marshals have, there is going to be a drop of 8, 9, 10 or 11. This is the impression I got from speaking to them, and of course I think the Attorney General when he was at the Bar with his expensive practice could understand that the Marshals' duty is entirely different from the Writ Servers' duty. The Marshals have been dealing usually with a person in a higher status in society and a different type of person from the person who is dealing in a Magistrate's court in the violation of a summons and execution of it, and even although the Attorney General has indicated that he is going to introduce legislation to make employers pay the amount of money which the court has imposed on a father, I would like to assure him that there is a wide area of persons who are compelled by law to pay violation orders who do not work and who are peripatetic.

2.10 p.m.

So to a large extent although we may be able to force persons who have set employment to pay, to a large extent Writ Servers will still be called upon to find persons such as labourers on estates, on building sites and people who move around from place to place. So I am not in a position at this point to say how great will be the alleviation given by making employers responsible for deducting these sums and I am not sure if the Attorney General has had any meetings with the Writ Servers. I doubt that they would be reluctant to move over. But in the absence of legislation by Parliament, even though they had an opportunity of seeing the draft, they are still uncertain about their final position as policemen assigned to the Writ Servers' Department. I am not quarrelling with the principle of this arrangement, but I am only asking the Attorney General to ensure that this new arrangement does not place these experienced and dedicated officers who have served in that department at a financial disadvantage or any disadvantage of employment from a working condition and so on. And I would like to see a serious attempt made to improve the condition in the Registry both administratively and physically, as well as from the point of view of training and less turnover of staff.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I will try to reply to the points raised by the hon. member. First let me say that I am indebted to him for the consultations we had when he assumed office as President of the Bar Association. I found him to be helpful, and I look

forward in the coming year to overcoming some of the problems that confront the Registration office. This is the first full year that the Judiciary and other segments of law and order administration will be centralized, and this was one of the main recommendations of the Bar Association made in 1971 and repeated in 1975, and for the first time you will notice that I am dealing with all the Heads which appertain to law and order, so to that extent we have carried out one of the recommendations of the Bar Association.

They have been some other recommendations from the Bar Association, for instance, that the interests of the administration of justice would be best served if all matters concerning the administration of justice came under a single Ministry rather than being split between two or more Ministries. It is now under one Ministry. It was pointed out that while Judges and Magistrates came under the Prime Minister's office, the Clerks came under the Ministry of Legal Affairs. Another recommendation of the Bar Association ever since 1971 was that the Writ Servers should be moved from under the Police jurisdiction and placed under the jurisdiction of the magistrates or be located in the Registration office. This is now being done. I know that the Police in 1971 did not agree with this recommendation, but the record shows that my predecesssors in office accepted the recommendation. I am now carrying this out.

In drafting the legislation we had to follow the existing legislation. The first draft was submitted to me on 9th March, 1978, and it was promptly submitted to the Chief Justice, the Registrar and to the Police. It was not submitted to the Bar Association, but I will direct my Permanent Secretary to send the draft with any comments received today from the Police, Registrar or Chief Justice, to the Bar Association for their attention. Let me say that I was disappointed with the first draft and had been discussing with the officers concerned a redraft of the legislation and I was hoping we would have got the second draft, in light of the comments we had received and also from the fact that I did not think the first draft was innovative enough, before we sent it to the Bar Association. I will not be able now to get the legislation to Parliament before 1st April, 1978, but members will notice I will be asking when the legislation comes before Parliament to accept the Clause deeming the legislation to come into effect from 1st April, 1978. Even prior to the legislation being formulated the Permanent Secretary, the Chief Establishments Officer and the Commissioner of Police met with the Writ Servers to discuss the position with them. Prior to that my Ministry had made recommendations to Establishments on the period of time during which an option should be given to the Writ Servers to transfer. We were recommending six months but Establishments did not consider this feasible and this view prevailed and so there has been a shorter time for the option to be exercised. All persons going over will be getting a clothing allowance of $22 a month and travel allowance at the normal rates. They will, however, not be getting a duty allowance. This is understandable. Their hours of duty will be considerably reduced and I cannot in conscience make out a case for the continuation of duty allowance for a situation where the conditions for such an allowance no longer exist.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: If the Attorney General would give way, the Writ Servers claim that to serve a summons they often have to get up at 4 o'clock to catch a man going to work or catch him when he comes in, so that to do the job properly they have no set hours. If they are getting these duty allowances now as policemen for hunting down people at all hours, the same situation will continue. This is the argument, that they are still working almost twenty four hours a day to be effective.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that the Writ Servers be given a course by the Deputy Marshal. He will show them how to find people.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: We already have functioning in the Supreme Court marshals who carry out the same duties as Writ Servers but do it in relation to the Supreme Court.

2.20 p.m.

Now, it is the same duties that they are being asked to perform. These existing Marshals are not policemen, and they do not get as generous terms as writservers who remain policemen. Their hours of duty will be the same as the writservers' who are now process officers; and they have never put up a case for a duty allowance. Now the writservers have a choice of remaining in the Police Force because those particular offices are not being abolished. My friend has put forward a case. I suppose that some people have spoken to him.

Let me say this: the writservers – those who are going over to the level of Process Officer (1) will be better off than they are at their present status of writservers because the basic emoluments are higher, although they do lose some allowances. At the level of Process Officer (2), if they give up free medical allowance and duty allowance, it is expected that some of them are actually worse off; but at the level of Process Officer (2) that if they give up free medical allowance and duty allowance – as I said – they are worse off: but with clothing allowance and travelling allowance and less hours of work, in my view they are no worse off.

Now, I would have liked to have a longer period for arrangements, but the Establishments Division want to get on with the training of the new people coming in; and I have reluctantly accepted this decision. As I have said, I cannot see that they will be any worse off in the long run. The back up forces of the Police will be available to

assist them in their duties. They will be able to call on the police for assistance in the arrest of people who may prove difficult; and they will be given limited powers of arrest as the Marshals now have. I do not think that some who have complained have understood the position. The Commissioner of Police has put forward their case, and I am looking forward to the department functioning properly under the Registrar. Of course there will be teething problems, but I do not think that they will be formidable. My friend will get a copy of the legislation as soon as I can get it to him.

Now, Sir, it is a fact that the physical conditions in the Registration Office are very bad, and have been so for a long time. Indeed part of my complaint is that there has been no developmental aspect of law, and that there has been no long term planning for eliminating these conditions, and therefore I recognise now that I have to do it; but I remain firmly convinced after having been advised by all of my advisers and looking at it on behalf of myself, that a short term solution at this point will only be wasting scarce money.

That is why in these Estimates I have included a provision so that I can commence work on a new Registration Office, a new Supreme Court, and new Land Title Section; and I hope to combine all of this with the Attorney General's Legal Department being next to the Hall of Justice, all on the Coleridge Street area. Already steps are being taken to acquire the necessary land, and I hope that by the next callendar year, that we will commence construction of a new Hall of Justice; and that is still subject to the availability of finance; but hon. members can rest assured that certainly by 1978–79, or by early 1980 that we will have new Law Courts, a new Registration Office, enough room in the Registry itself and a new Land Title Department as well.

As far as Training is concerned, I will read from a memorandum recently issued by my office. It is about training of people in the Registration Office; and we have now had submitted to us by the Registrar and the Crown Solicitor, recommendations for training courses overseas for people who man the Registration Office; as well as we are hoping to run a course ourselves for selected officers in the Registration Office, in the Crown Solicitor's Department, in the Attorney General's Department and for private practitioners as well in certain necessary fields. There is para-legal training as well, but it is taking some time to plan a proper para-legal course which will be at the Community College. The hon. member can rest assured that we are working on these things.

As I say, this is the first year that one Minister has co-ordinating responsibility for this subject. I am very concerned about the people in the Registration Department, particularly women who have been acting in an office for eight or nine years and whose appointments have not been confirmed. This is no fault of the Registrar. I have seen the files and the Registrar has made recommendations to the Public Service Commission, and he is waiting until he can get the posts confirmed.

I have voiced my total dissatisfaction at the manner in which appointments in the Registration Office are being handled and which is causing a lot of frustration. I have sent a letter to the Public Service Commission expressing my total dissatisfaction. If I do not get an answer from the Public Service Commission, hon. members can rest assured that I will take the matter up with the Minister responsible. I am not satisfied that people, particularly some of the most efficient young women in the Service, should be allowed to hold on acting, and the only answer I can get is that somebody else is acting in a higher post or has gone out on secondment and they have to choose between the Public Service and whatever else they want; but that is not satisfactory to me. That is why I spoke to the Minister, and I think that a word to the wise is enough. I do not want to raise it with the Minister today. I do not know what the former Minister did, but I am not going to be frustrated by the Public Service Commission or Public Officers who, because they may have been close to the Prime Minister in the last Government present Ministers must pay for their mistakes. That will not happen; otherwise the Prime Minister will choose between me and the Civil Servants. I have told the Chief Personnel Officer, who is a friend of mine, what is my view – Establishments is taking long to understand that Ministers of this Government are not going to be frustrated. I want these appointments made before June; or I will tell the Prime Minister "get them made, or I gone."

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I see the hon. Minister's point; but I am glad that he is tasting what we had to.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The difference is that it was 15 years. This is one Minister that they are not doing it with. I have gone on platforms and commented on certain things, and I am going to perform. The day that I do not perform, throw me out; but I am not going to be frustrated in the Ministry for which I have responsibility. 2.30 p.m.

I am saying it in the highest area of political power which is in Parliament. I am not satisfied with the manner in which appointments in the Registration Office have been made, the transfer of people and the fact that there are women down there who are quite capable of doing the job and cannot get promotion. I am not going to be addressing this Committee on the issue again. I am making my position clear to the Public Service Commission; it must either be done or they have to choose between me as Minister and them and the Public Service Commission. That is the end of the matter as far as I am concerned.

Now, Sir, I believe this answers the hon. member's main point, and I welcome his assurance about the Disciplinary Committee. In fact I am genuinely looking forward to an interesting year of work with the Bar Association. I will say that since the hon. member has taken over, he has shown a great deal of interest. I do not know if this is because of his pending movement back to the Bar in full, but certainly he is showing a great deal of enthusiasm as President of the Bar, and already I have noticed the wind of change in the Bar Association and I am glad he has inspired them in this way. I really want to say this because it helps me and it helps the administration of justice, and I look forward at the end of the year that both himself and myself will look back and report to this House that we have performed creditably.

The question that the sum of $287,321 under Head 10 – Ministry of the Attorney General (2) Registration Department, as amended, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 10 – MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
(3) – CROWN SOLICITOR'S DEPARTMENT

Head 10 – Ministry of the Attorney General (3) Crown Solicitor's Department – was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $21,080 under Head 10 – Ministry of the Attorney General (3) Crown Solicitor's Department – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I understand there is a proposal to integrate this Department eventually into the Ministry of Legal Affairs as well as to move it from the present location. I wonder if the Attorney General will tell us what his plans are as briefly as he can.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Very briefly I am hoping eventually that the Crown Solicitor's Department will be physically located around the other legal offices so that the necessary support which they need will come from the Solicitor General's Chambers. The problem we have is that many of the present Attorneys at Law are not being trained in the conveyancing of the solicitors' side of the practice and I am hoping to get this done by a physical integration as well as by a functional integration and I am hoping that when the present holder of the office moves – he feels he is getting to the end of his days – that I will be able to do a proper overall reorganisation of the services as well. I am hoping that the Crown Solicitor will some time this year be within the overall Solicitor General's Department.

The question that the sum of $21,080 under Head 10 – Ministry of the Attorney General (3) Crown Solicitor's Department, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 10 – MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
(4) PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Head 10 – Ministry of the Attorney General (4) Probation Department was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $25,020 under Head 10 – Ministry of the Attorney General (4) Probation Department – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I should just like to pay tribute to this very vital Department on behalf of the Opposition. I am in a better position in the sense that I attend that court very rarely and I am more than satisfied that this particular Department is making a sincere and dedicated effort to solve some of the basic, social problems in this country, and I have only risen on behalf of the Opposition to go on record as saying that we all feel on this side of the House that that Department is worthy of the support of the entire community, and I wish they go from strength to strength in solving some of the problems. You only have to go there on mornings when they are sitting and see what problems they face, how they handle them with kindness, love, humanity and understanding, and how they endeavour at all levels to try to bring into many lives a love which they did not get, and how they do not attempt to destroy human nature but to rebuild and rehabilitate it. The Opposition would like as well to go on record as saying that if there is one department of Government especially in this modern age among young people with problems which needs the support of the entire community, it is the Probation Department.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I wish to make a small contribution to this Head. I shall not let the compliments of the Opposition go unheralded from this side because I feel we on this side also wish to compliment the Probation Department for the efficiency and the sympathy shown in the discharge of their duties. I believe that over the last year or year and a half the Probation Department has largely been responsible for the institution of a new form of treatment for convicted persons, that is, the Community Service Order. As I understand it, a convicted person can be asked as part of his debt to pay for the crime he has committed to perform some useful service to the community, and I wish the Attorney General would give the House and especially the general public some idea as to the scope of the Community Service Order and the efficacy of it during the time it was in operation, and any future plans for making it more efficacious than it has been up to now.

I wish also to pay tribute to the Probation Service, from another point of view. It is part of the Government's policy as set out in the manifesto to consider the writing off of arrears of rent at the National Housing Corporation by persons who genuinely cannot pay. To that extent I started some time, I think, in October, after several consultations with the Ministry of Housing to do preparatory work for a survey of all of the renters of the National Housing Corporation. Now in order to carry out this survey it requires that we have people of competence, people who are trained in social work techniques, and we feel that the Probation Department and the Social Welfare Department have the quality personnel that we are looking for to help us in the carrying out of this scheme. I must pay tribute to the head of the Probation Department and the head of the Social Welfare Department for the interest they have shown in the survey and the very useful inputs they have made in assisting us in coming up with a proper form of questionnaire. We anticipate that the survey should start after April, certainly in the new financial year, and we are going to utilise some of the staff from both departments on an overtime basis. I hope that the heads of the departments would let us know shortly how much money we will have to pay them.
2.40 p.m.

I hope that the Head of Department will let us know shortly how much money we will have to pay them, I think that is one thing we have not settled. At the same time, it is convenient for me to ask the general public to co-operate with the Probation Officers and the Social Welfare Officers who will be conducting the survey. There is no particular reason that we want this information other than to help the National Housing Corporation to get a better factual basis and analysis of its position both in terms of its economic position and its future planning. There will be personal questions asked of course, but I am sure that the officers appointed to carry out the survey will treat the matters coming to their knowledge with the utmost anonymity and confidentiality, and I think the general public will be assured that it will be treated with the utmost confidentiality by those who have been appointed to do this survey.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: If I may be reasonably quick, Sir, let me say that I wholeheartedly endorse the compliments paid by both hon. members who have spoken to the Probation Office. Indeed, Sir, when I was in the Opposition I frequently used to speak under this Head and I would make similiar comments, and since I have been the Minister responsible for the Service, I would like to go a little further and say that it is one of the most efficiently run, if not the most efficiently run, Departments of Government, and I believe that the guidance of its present Head, Miss Weekes, has a lot to do with it, and it bears out my very strong feeling about women's rights. Here is a lady at the head of a department showing tremendous ability, and I wish that her ability could be recognised and that she could be placed much higher in the Service. I think when civil servants do well, people should make the point.

Usually it is a very good job on very little money, and this Committee should feel happy in voting this $25,020 for this Department, despite the fact that our increase is only $3,588, because she was asked within the guidelines to prune and she has pruned down to the bone, yet I am sure that with her ability and the ability of her department there will be no saving in efficiency.

It is a fact that the Probation Service has been in some years supervisory and the Judges often acknowledge the good work that it has been doing over the years, and as an experiment which has proved so far to be successful, any person under 16 years of age, instead of being sent to prison can be made to go out and service the community, and the Probation Service Supervisors have to make sure they get jobs, that they have taken up the work, that they are gainfully employed and learn various skills, and we have had an almost perfect successful record in this respect. We are looking at the legislation governing the Probation Service as a whole and we will pass other legislation dealing with this as well as updating the laws dealing with the Probation Service as a whole.

You will note that in the Capital Estimates I have made a token provision for a Family Court. During this year we hope to purchase land and to get the physical planning out of the way in the hope that in the next financial year we will have enough money to do this. We are also working on a training institute for juvenile offenders, people 16 years and over who are now sent to prison. We have not got the money for that yet, but we are formulating our plans in this respect, and I am therefore happy to say that if there is any public money being well spent, it is being spent on this department.

The question that the sum of $25,020 under Head 10(4) – Probation Department – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
HEAD 10(5) – PRISONS

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $376,150 under Head 10(5) – Prisons – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, last year I asked the Attorney General to take a look at the statement that

had been made in the Other Place by the then Senator Wesley Hall, and he promised me that he would take a look at it with a view to working it into his policy on the Prisons. If he has not yet done it, I do not wish to repeat what I said last year.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I must apologise to the hon. member, Sir. We have just issued amendments to the Prison Rules in which the Chief Probation Officer will be in charge of the after care of prisoners, and we are revising our attitudes towards rehabilitation. One of the areas in which we are working is not only assisting prisoners while they are in prison by way of improving their education and their training in skills, but continuing outside of prison to make sure that they are integrated into the society and can get gainful employment. We have had a lot of assistance from the Barbados Workers' Union, the Soroptimists, the Business and Professional Women's Club, and I have taken my friend's suggestions. We have just published the rules, and I will undertake to have a copy of the new regulations sent to him.

In the meantime, I am also working on proposals along with the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Industry for a trade centre to be available for those prisoners who have acquired skills to continue their work after they have left prison. I should tell hon. members too that we had a very successful exhibition of prisoners' work, and indeed the Prison is getting a lot of orders now. We are in production, we are part of the whole manufacturing process in this country and we are making a contribution to handicrafts, but this year we have just started planning for a Caribbean Prisoners' Exhibition and I have written inviting Caribbean Governments to participate in this. I am hopeful that we should be able to help people who have gone astray once or twice to find the right path once again.

I would like to put out another suggestion this year. I know it is unusual for Barbados, but I would like to see us consider the concept of the one dollar a year per person in the community, and I know there are a number of people in this community who are interested in the after care of prisoners who will respond to this appeal so that these prisoners can be rehabilitated in society after they have paid their debt to the society.
2.50 p.m.

It is not possible for everyone to be involved as a member of a Committee because that would make the Committee unworkable, but I hope that the Minister would give some consideration to this concept of making use of persons in the community who would be interested in giving of their time. Many people are reluctant to come forward, but if such persons could be employed as advisors for the sum of say, $1 a year, I think it could make a difference.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, for several years they have been calls at all levels in this Island about the need for a Borstal type institution. Everyone recognizes that we cannot put social deviants of varying degrees of criminality, varying ages, attitudes and background together. Yet, even when this country had the financial resources to set up an intermediary penal institution it was never done. We are faced with this problem every day and the need is clear, and I would like to know whether among his plans the Attorney General has for the development of social justice and the administration of law and order, there are any plans for dealing with the 15–21 year old age group committing crimes. Some form of training for that type of individual is necessary, but I have not seen even a token provision made for a Borstal. I believe there are places in this country which Government could readily acquire for the purpose and I want to hear something positive from the Government whether this matter is being considered. I remember we spoke of it when we were in Opposition and I would like to know now what plans there may be for setting up a Borstal type institution.

Mr. SISNETT: Mr. Chairman, I would like to find out from the Attorney General what is the Government's thinking concerning prisoners. Here in Barbados after an individual has gone to prison for a number of years, he is released on society once again to make a livelihood in a society that is hostile to prisoners and people who have broken the law. Quite recently we witnessed an Exhibition in Queen's Park of handicrafts by some of these prisoners who are serving terms of as many as seven or eight years. I would like to find out how feasible it could be for the Government to allow such persons who have such skills to be allowed in the final two years of their prison term to work under the guidance of a social worker, so as to give that person a chance to readjust himself to the society he would be returning to in two years. Once a prisoner has been released from prison he is left to battle for himself in a rather hostile social climate. Wherever such an individual goes, because of his record he is told – regardless of what skills he has to offer – that there is no opportunity, and more often than not such individuals have a family to support. So once again I would ask whether Government would consider permitting people who want to be rehabilitated to work for a time under the guidance of social workers, so that on release from prison they would find themselves better readjusted to and accepted in society. It is very hard for a person after serving eight years in prison to come out and find that he cannot get a job, and I would like to know from the hon. Attorney General how this suggestion would be considered by the present Government.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, just a brief comment. One thing we must remember when dealing with prisoners is that many persons sent to prison are very often persons who have spent time previously at a

well known institution in St. Philip. When I was Minister of Education I minuted the then Attorney General to the effect that a person who had spent time at that reform school in St. Philip and then as an adult had come before the court through having committed an offence, his record of having been at that reform school should not be read to the Judge, for instance, how at age 14 or 15 he was sent to that institution. I would like to see the time when there is no reading out in the court the record of the previous misdeed of such a person for I know that a Judge will be inclined to feel that the person had been bad from birth. So the offence committed at age 14 or 15 should not form part of the Court's record. When I had responsibility for the reform school in St. Philip I minuted that legislation should be introduced to remove from the court record what the person did as a juvenile. The probation officers can testify but lots of persons who come before the court are not really wicked and that it should be the parent who should be in the dock. I have sat in court and listened to accounts about children left with their grandparents who cannot look after them; of parents who do not care about their children; of fathers who do not support them. When such persons come before the court as adults, such matters should not be read into the court record, for however well meaning a Judge might be, when he reads that that person spend five years at a reform school he will take it into consideration when passing sentence. I would therefore like to see the juvenile record removed from the record given to the court in adult cases.
3.00 p.m.

This is an urgent piece of legislation which I would like to see. I agree that attending that institution, Dodds should never form part of the criminal record of a person who has been convicted and sent to that institution.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, in supporting my colleague, I will give this Committee an example of how this can be a problem for an adult. In my constituency there is a man who is in excess of 50 years; and in the normal course of his employment he had to go to the USA. He had to apply for a Visa, and one of the questions was, had he served time any where. This man when he was 12 years old, on the 4th November, he and five more fellows let off a bomb, and the police caught him. He got five years at Dodds. I had to talk to the officer at the US Embassy and explained the sociological factors in Barbados and that he was now 45 years old; and they agreed that he could answer this question incorrectly in order to get a visa. I believe that we should remove that and see that these offences are not always brought about by any deep seated wickedness on the part of children.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I was going to make the same point because I have had to be associated with a number of boys at Dodds – not as the former Prime Minister called me, a Dodds boy – but there are boys in this country who attained the greatest eminence including the field of law.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I think that many things can be said about persons who run a foul of the law; but I believe that one of the things that you have to look at is the type of institution which must now be created for the types of people who find themselves in this position. I have practised for about five years at the Bar. There are people who would never accept that they have committed a wrong in this country and become disillusioned when sentences are meted out against them. There are other persons who are institutionalised and no matter what you do they will not stay out of the institution. They cannot live in an open society.

One of the things I believe must be done, and done urgently, is to introduce into the existing institutions persons who can counsel people who are at present in these institutions. I have sat as a member of the Prisoners after Care Committee for about a year; and I saw most of the prisoners who came before the Committee before they were released. That was the system then. I do not know if it still exists, where grants are made to prisoners who are to be released back into society; and many of them did not know what they wanted in order to be rehabilitated. Some of them presented grandiose ideas. I remember one fellow wanted high heel shoes and about four pairs of jeans. He wanted to come out as a glamour boy. They are others who do not know what they want.

I believe that until you put people into prisons whose job it will be to talk to prisoners from the day they come in and tell them what prison is all about, why they are there and what they should do, and when they came back out they will be no better. There were three young boys who were arrested for entering into a house at Culloden Road and stealing a quantity of jewellery. They were represented by legal aid. The present Chief Justice asked three of us to represent them. The cases were tried. We made the normal plea for leniency and the boys were put on probation. I remember that one said he wanted to be a bicycle repairer. Another one wanted to repair motor cars, but within three months one chap was brought back before the Courts. He was shot in the foot going through somebody's window in Fontabelle.

I believe, sir, that these people should be analysed first. I believe that you should have some psychiatric officer attached to the Courts so that they can analyse these offenders at this early stage. I do not believe even at this stage we should mix first offenders with hardened criminals. I have had a case of a young man remanded to Glendairy. Any time you remand a man to prison, when he comes out he can lie better than you and he knows answers that he did not know when he was in the Courts.
3.10 p.m.

Anyhow Mr. Chairman, I do believe that I have argued before that you should provide a remand home for any person who is remanded and you should have an intermediate institution for first offenders. I also believe that you should have a psychiatric analysis of probably every person who comes before the courts for the first time before he is sentenced, as I think that will go a long way in solving many of the problems which we have in this community.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I agree with all of the points made by the hon. member. I welcome the suggestion of the hon. member for St. Michael South West, and we will certainly be getting in touch with former Senator Wes Hall to get him on our Committee. In fact alreay we have people who assist us in the work at the prisons and in tutoring people there. We do need more assistance and I must say I welcomed his suggestion, and I know that the hon. member for St. Lucy takes an interest in this matter not only in the Union, but from the educational point of view I would hope I can get some assistance for that.

So far as the question asked by the hon. member for St. Michael South East is concerned, it is a very important point he has raised and this relates to the time when we are going to allow people a period of parole. We are at present studying recent legislation in the Commonwealth in this matter and indeed I have submissions from both the Superintendent of Prisons and the Chief Probation Officer who were on the Committee on penal policy that we should institute a system of parole. We anticipate that the only problem we will have is not one of supervision but one of finding employment opportunities, but I will try during the year ahead to see whether in some of the legislation that comes down the suggestions of the hon. member fit in completely with the policy which is being pursued by my Ministry.

So far as the suggestion of the hon. member for St. Michael South is concerned, and this has also gained the support of two other hon. members, for the removal of convictions from the records of persons who are juveniles, he does not have to speak to me very long about that. That is one of the areas of policy that will come in the new legislation. I will say we also intend to extend this not only to juveniles, but that records longer than five years will not be looked at by a court in sentencing and will be removed from the records which we keep of people committing offences. Only a couple of days ago I had a similar experience to the one recounted by the hon. member for St. Michael South West where I was helping one of my constituents to fill out a form, and he had to record the fact that when he was a youngster of eleven years he went up to the Government Industrial school because of some minor offence. He is now a man well on to his thirties with a completely clean record; he has learnt from his experience and is fully integrated into society and I trust that will not prevent him from getting into the United States permanently to join his other relatives.

So far as the suggestion of the hon. member for St. Philip North is concerned about a Borstal for juvenile offenders, this is a matter on which we are working. The present system, Mr. Chairman, is that children up to the age of 15 can be sent to the Government Industrial School or Dodds; between 15 and 21 however if you are convicted of a serious offence and you are to be sentenced; you have to go to the prisons at Glendairy and join sometimes the hard core people. I have a submission from the Chief Probation Officer on a training institute, and exactly the concept which the hon. member has spoken of, and old plantation house in circumstances where there is land to be worked, skills to be learnt is the sort of concept that we have.

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member ought to see the part of my draft for that or plan for the Ministry which is headed "Care Training Institute for Youthful Offenders". We have got to the stage of even trying to find out the cost. We are only dealing with an average of about 20 to 30 people in any one year, but it seems to me that we need to look at it properly. The Chief Probation Officer has told me that we can no longer duck the matter of the question of cost, and during the year I will explore with here and other members of the Ministry the possibility of seeing whether a group like CADEC or one of the service clubs can help in this area by raising funds for it and giving some assistance, because the Government may find it difficult to immediately respond with meeting the cost. So I accept the suggestions made.

The question that the sum of $376,150 under Head 10 – Ministry of the Attorney General (5) Prisons, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 10 – MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (6) – FIRE SERVICE

Head 10 – Ministry of the Attorney General (6) Fire Service – was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the sum of $270,100 under Head 10 – Ministry of the Attorney General (6) – Fire Service – stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 10 – MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (7) – POLICE

Head 10 – Ministry of the Attorney General (7) – Police, was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, in moving that this Head stand part, there are certain amendments which have to be made. The explanatory notes Nos. 10, 11 and 12 should be renumbered 11, 12 and 13. I think those are the only amendments.

I beg to move that the sum of $2,363,515 under Head 10 – Ministry of the Attorney General (7) Police, as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: I beg to second that.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to make a few comments with regard to certain matters affecting the tourist industry. Sometimes things develop in your country which you are not aware of, and I should like to take this opportunity of drawing it to the Minister's attention that in any further planning he may have he may give priority to it. It is not really realised in Barbados the extent to which the Holetown/Sunset Crest area has really developed. I do not know how many people in Barbados realise that that area is becoming the second largest commercial area, second only to Bridgetown. The turnover in that area is in the vicinity of about $35 million a year. In so far as the Holetown/Sunset Crest area is concerned, you will understand that I am taking a radius of about a mile around Holetown, because I do not know exactly where Holetown begins and ends; but Holetown is merged into Sunset Crest. The business of that hotel extends north of Holetown and south of Holetown. To give you an idea, Mr. Chairman, right now there are five banks operating in Holetown, so this would give you some idea of the volume of business done in the area. If you went about a mile and a quarter north of Holetown, you would go as far as Colony Club and include Porters Factory, and if you went to the south you would go as far as Sandy Lane estate.

With this as a background, Mr. Chairman, I would like the Minister of Finance and Planning to upgrade the Holetown Police Station. I used the word "upgrade" but I should use the word "strengthen" because I think it is more manpower needed in that area. The reason for that, Mr. Chairman, is that I believe that the principal service of a Police Force is in the influence of restraint. I heard complaints in that area and I have been driving through there and through no fault of the Police Force, just a lack of manpower, they are unable to have police simply patrolling the road.

3.20 p.m.

I heard of complaints in that area and I have been driving through there at night, and through no fault of the Police Force, just a lack of manpower, they are unable to have police simply patrolling the road. I am not referring to if a crime is committed because if a crime is committed I believe it is dealt with in the usual way, but I am referring to the Sunset Crest area going to the north. In any part of the world, Mr. Chairman, where a volume of many thousands of people gather it is not surprising therefore that although the population might be small, many people move into the area for genuine business but also some people are there to indulge in things that are not so savoury. It is a known fact, Mr. Chairman, that a certain amount of marijuana is in demand in that area. I do not know where it comes from but quite a few tourists say that in Barbados they know where to get certain amounts of it, and there are other matters as well that require the presence of police, and for this reason I believe that if the Police Force in that area had more manpower there would be more police on duty in that area and more patrolling along the streets.

Recently, at the end of last year, something happened in the area which I never heard anything about before. People walking back to Sandy Lane were openly assualted and molested and I believe that if police were patrolling that area – I am not saying that they would be there all the time – but these people who are committing these crimes would realise that the police would be there, and I therefore would like the Minister in due course – I am aware of the fact that if the Minister went to the Minister of Finance and asked for 100 more policemen, I imagine what the reply would be, there is no more money – but we have to use restraint in spending and in truth and in fact if we say we cannot afford extra police the question would be asked, can we afford not to have them, because I will give you an example. In Canada where we get a lot of tourists coming from, there are what are referred to as tour operators and we are getting letters from them saying that their clients have returned to Canada and are complaining of a lot of crime in Barbados, including rape.

I have a copy of a letter I received only this week saying that they are concerned about the number of reports they are getting of petty crime, of people being molested, of people being taken up for indecency and I believe, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister will give more thought to strengthening the Force in this area because it is absolutely essential that Barbados should maintain its good name, and I would say this, Mr. Chairman, that we in Barbados have much to be proud about that when you travel around the world you hear people speak very well of Barbadians and the friendliness and hospitality of the people of Barbados, and we cannot allow our good name to be ruined by a number of people who have nothing else in their heart but wickedness. Earlier during these Estimates we heard the Minister refer to one person who

had committed 45 crimes, he did not say where he came from, but I think he said that most of the crimes had been committed in the Holetown area and he was not from St. James at all, so you cannot tack on the crimes which are committed in St. James to anyone who is operating in another area, but I am simply suggesting that the Force be strengthened so that there will be a greater measure of patrol in that area.

The Minister mentioned earlier this morning the fact that civil servants, especially those in the Foreign Service, should be able to speak at least two foreign languages. I think this could be extended to the Police Force because when they spot certain things being done or are called to any scene of any disturbance or otherwise in the St. James area where there are a lot of tourists, I think it would be to their advantage to be able to speak a few languages, and I am thinking particularly of French and German. It would indeed be an asset because we are getting a number of tourists here some of whom can speak no English, so I just throw that out to the Minister for his consideration.

With those few words, Mr. Chairman, I hope that the Minister will bear what I said in mind because of the volume of business done in that area and make sure that there are enough policemen to patrol that area.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I have listened to the hon. member for Christ Church North Central and I must say that I disagree with him on several points. We have got to depend on tourism, it is a fact of life, the Democratic Labour Party did everything to bring about an increase in tourism, and I am very pleased to see that the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister responsible for Tourism is also endeavouring to do everything to maintain its momentum and I wish him every good luck. We have got to use the natural resources of Barbados, the sea and the sun. The member for Christ Church North Central has called for police patrols in Sunset Crest, but the owner/Manager, Mr. Fred LaForet, has become a multi-millionare out of Sunset Crest. Let him spend some money in protecting the people from whom he became a multi-millionaire.

Mr. WARD: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, perhaps I did not make myself clear. I definitely did not say Sunset Crest, I said the Sunset Crest area, the road leading from the main road to the cemetery, and I also said that patrolling is necessary from Sandy Lane north to Holetown. I am in complete agreement with him, and I will say, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister himself has spoken to the hoteliers and told them they must strengthen their own security, but private security does not have the same influence as a policeman.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: We have an unemployment situation in Barbados. Here is a development in which one entrepreneur placed his capital well, has made millions out of the thing. If he wants to protect the people in that development, let him employ people, buy a few mini-mokes and drive around all night. If he wants the Minister of Defence and Security to make them island constables to arrest and do everything, provide more employment, do that, but why ask the Minister to provide policemen to be standing up at every light and every speck in that particular area? I am not saying that police must not patrol from time to time, but I want to say this, that nine-tenths. of it is not coming into Barbados, because everything is paid for abroad, and this is something which the Minister of Finance shrewd as he is, will have to look into.

That is why he is worried about the whole question of tourism. I think the Minister of Tourism himself must carry out an investigation into this type of operation to make sure that he gets more money coming in, and therefore if we are dealing with security and police, I will not support taxpayers paying money to give any development more or special advantages in terms of police protection.

3.30 p.m.

They have the money and must employ people. I express the view that the development at Sunset Crest and other areas on the west coast must provide their own protection supplemented by the ordinary Police patrols that Miss Jones in Fustic Village gets. If you have an estate worth half million dollars, do not expect the Police to protect it; the Police can only give the normal patrol; so I am not asking the police to provide any special protection.

I have heard of other people in other places getting mugged when they step out of a hotel, but they come to Barbados and expect to find a completely crime-free society. They come down here and if they get robbed they say that Barbados has a bunch of criminals; but in New York people drive up with a van and move out television, furniture etc., but they come to Barbados and one little thing happens and they want to think Barbados is the worst place in the world. The Tourist Board should remind them that crime is not limited to Barbados. As the Hon. Attorney General has said although we are worried about the increase in crime it has not reached the proportions of places like New York, Germany, and such like. People living at Sandy Lane and such places should make arrangements for the proper protection of their property. A police will patrol such places just as they patrol other places but I am against any special police operation for such places.

I would like as President of the Bar Association to pay tribute to the Police Force. In Barbados we have basically excellent law enforcement officers. True, like in any organization, there will be a few black sheep, but the

Police Force has some outstanding officers. There might be some over enthusiastic ones who may break the rules some times, but by and large the Police Force is a competent and efficient one, and as a practising barrister I wish to pay tribute to our capable law enforcement body. But I will not ask for special privileges for any section of the community. Wherever crime has increased, north, south, east or west, let us intensify patrols in such areas and arrest the perpetrators, but let us not reach the stage where we are going to give special protection to any one group.

Another thing that should be noticed is that a lot of the crime in this country is what I would call self-induced because of some of the evil pattern of tourism. If you bring somebody from the beach to your hotel to spend the night and that person sees another room open he would probably go in. That is what I mean by a lot of the crimes being self-induced.
3.40 p.m.

Do not throw yourselves head over heels to satisfy one particular pattern. Do not let us deploy our Police Force in such an area because we will always have crime — crime at Sandy Lane, crime at Sunset Crest, crime on the North Coast and crime on the East Coast. Deploy the Force. You did not increase the Police Force to deal with these young people who are being molested. Why increase it in Sandy Lane? I can see the Chairman of the Tourist Board being concerned and I am not quarrelling with him; but what he is suggesting is not the solution. Asking the Minister to recruit special people is not the answer. He is asking the Minister to recruit these people for special persons. Deploy the Police Force in those places where crime is prevalent and use the Force — provided it is up to its limit — to detect and apprehend. I do not agree with the member's idea.

As a matter of fact, I hope that what happened is that as soon as you get your Defence Force properly set up, you move all those policemen from Government House and let them do Police duties. You are transferring, or rather establishing a different type of writ server and therefore you will have more policemen. If the Prime Minister wants a security man to drive him he can have a security man. If he does not want a security man, give him a good civilian chauffeur. A man cannot do a good security job when he is behind the wheel because he would not be able to draw his gun. You cannot drive a car and do a good security job at the same time. I remember that at a former Prime Ministers Conference we had a Chinese security man who was with us in the car. He used to go through with his hands showing the thing in his hip pocket.

I am a bit humourous, but I would like to see the police being used on police duties as far as possible. I think the Regiment might give you a better and quicker salute. I would like to see the police doing police duties, and I repeat that I do not agree with the Chairman of the Tourist Board. You must not create any special privileges.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman, if I may just say a few words. First of all the hon. member said that there are a number of points with which he disagreed and then went on to refer to Mr. Laforet. There is a number of apartments in that area owned by Barbadians. You can start from Buccaneer Bay. There is a place owned by Mr. Trotman. Mr. Simmons owns a place. There are a lot of Barbadians who own apartments in Sunset Crest. Mr. Hugh Brathwaite owns a number of apartments, and is now building more. Why only Mr. Laforet? I went into one business dealing with him and I got the dirty end of the stick. That does not stop me from saying that he has done a remarkable job in some areas of St. James. I will give him credit for what he has done. If he has made $1 million, I do not know; but I would not be surprised because he was bright enough to develop Sunset Crest. All I am asking is why single out Mr. Laforet.

The Barbados Development Bank has loaned a lot of Barbadians money to build at Sunset Crest. If word gets around that there is crime in Barbados all Barbadians get a bad name, and all Barbadians lose. I am not justifying that there should be crime in Barbados because there is crime in New York. I went to Puerto Rico and I saw policemen with guns walking up and down the road. If we could get more policemen as a deterrent I think that it would be money well spent.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, If I may move away a little from Holetown, I have a few points to put to the Attorney General. Earlier he referred to the Police Department. I would like to say that I think the time has come for us to take a look at our police force in terms of the organisational structure along certain lines. The Minister spoke of the change which came about as a result of the five day week. I believe that some of those problems came out of the organisational structure which we have, and which was brought into force in the past when the functions of the Police Department were slightly different and the system was a different order.

In the first place, I believe that a police commissioner in Barbados ought to be on the same organisational level as a Permanent Secretary in Barbados. I do not believe that the Commissioner of Police must necessarily be equated with the Head of the Fire Service and the Head of the Prisons because all are military organisations. That is not the point that I am making. The Commissioner of Police ought to have direct and complete access to the Minister as for example, the head of the Defence Force would have the right of communication with the Minister. I think that the Commissioner of Police should have the same contact — he and his fellow officers — so that police policy can be

discussed with the Minister and matters concerning the department.
3.50 p.m.

Certainly, Mr. Chairman, the Minister spoke about a training college. I believe I am correct in saying that the present incumbent of the post of Director of the Training College is about to depart, or at least it is on a quasi-temporary basis. I believe the time has come again in the context of the regional police academy which the Minister spoke about for us to look at our Police training not so much as a place where youngsters get some military training, but rather as a place where they begin to learn, for want of a better term, police science or the science of policing. As we heard from the hon. member for Christ Church North Central and as has been said throughout the debate on this Head, the type of crime which is now part and parcel of the Caribbean is of a sophisticated nature. It is a different kind of crime; it is the kind of crime which those of us who have lived in the larger cities perhaps have come to hear about, and it seems to me that a new approach to problem-solving in this area is not only necessary but vital. I do not believe that this would come about by the mere assumption that the person who heads the Police Academy or the Regional Training Centre has to be an old retired policeman who having gone out to pasture will come back to regale the boys with his exploits and tell of his experiences. My own feeling is that such persons can be very useful if they are used to lecture, to participate in seminars and that sort of thing, but the idea of a police training centre should require the same kind of approach that you would have for the Head of the Community College, only you would require different kinds of skills and different kinds of knowledge. The concept of an academy or a training centre, I think, should reach the point in our development where we can look at recruiting the kind of person to head such a centre in the same way as we would look at recruiting a headmaster or the Head of the Community College or head of a faculty in the University.

One other point I would like to put to the Minister. I do believe that there are Barbadians both here in Barbados now and outside who have had the kind of specialised training that would assist them in being head of any centre which we should have in Barbados, and I hope that the next Director of the Training Centre will be a Barbadian. I do not even know the present head of the Training Centre, but I think it would be very useful if the next head of our Training Centre could be a Barbadian in every sense of the word. That is a matter which I am sure the Minister will have to deal with when the time comes.

Mr. Chairman, the Director of Music. For some time now under the previous administration and continuing under this administration the major use to which the Royal Barbados Police Force Band has been put is the entertainment of tourists in ships which call at Barbados. I have no doubt that the original idea to have the Police Band appearing on ships was a good one, and I have no doubt that it serves a useful purpose. I am sure the Minister of Tourism and the Chairman of the Tourist Board would say that, but I believe that as part of the cultural heritage of Barbados the Royal Barbados Police Band should be more available to the people of Barbados. I do not know if the Ministry is aware that if you wish to get the Police Band now to play at a function, in say, St. Philip, you had better put in a request some many months in advance because the Band is booked almost continuously every week during the tourist season, and so far as the ships are concerned, that seems to be all the year round. It is true that the Band divides itself up, as I am told, into two different sections from time to time, but the fact still remains, and I have heard many people complain, that they now do not hear the Barbados Police Band as much as they used to, and that it is not as available as part of the cultural experience in Barbados as it used to be. There must be some reason why not but I am putting it to the Minister so that some consideration can be given to finding ways if necessary to let us increase the band so that it can be divided into three sections. I do not know what the answer is, but I think they should be more available to Barbadians and Barbadian activities.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Minister himself would be aware of some of the frustrations which come about within the Force because of the long length of time it takes from one set of promotions to the other. I am satisfied that the management of any good organisation is dependent on the morale of the persons who function in that organisation, and I can see no reason why the system of promotion in the police department cannot be so systematic for there to be a reasonable amount of time between vacancies and promotions, especially in a closed system like the Police Department; it should not take so long for them to decide who should be promoted where. I think perhaps not at the higher levels but in the lower levels where the man is moving from Corporal to Sergeant or from Sergeant to Station Sergeant it makes a tremendous difference in his life and indeed in his performance if he believes he is entitled to promotion, if he thinks he is near promotion and he has to wait continuously for long periods. I think it is more important here than in some other sections of the Service, and I am recommending to the Minister that he gives consideration to this. If in fact, as I believe, it is the Police Service Commission that has to make these decisions, I think a word from the Government to the Commission, not directing the Commission as we are not able to do under the Constitution, but indicating to the Commission that they need to speed up their work and offering any assistance which they need towards this end.

Police or Parish Police by the Commissioner of Police, will give the guards that more confidence and that greater measure of authority to act; but I am assured that a comprehensive review of the Laws and an increase in the penalties for the existing known offences will reach the Legislature at the earliest date possible.

It must be remembered that as far as the Tourist Industry is concerned, we in Barbados are in an industry that is a competitive industry and which we know has certain consequential effects. If we want to stay in the industry we must do everything in our power to ensure that the climate of security in our country is such that the people who come here feel reasonably secure. I have heard the Leader of the Opposition say that we get mugging in America. We get mugging in Trinidad, and we get mugging in Jamaica. There are certain areas in America to which I would not go precisely because if I went there I would know that it is likely that I would be mugged. There are also certain areas of Trinidad or Jamaica to which I would not go for the same reason.

The truth is that this is a matter on which we should not take up extreme positions. I want us to approach this in a realistic manner. One of the studies that has been done on the sociological consequences of tourism is that it has a tendency to generate a certain type of behaviour which one needs to keep under control, if one wants to keep the tourist industry. Let us not forget that it is precisely because of the income generated by tourism that we have got to the stage where we can pay part of the total cost of protection; but there are not problems in the tourist industry alone. There are also problems in the agricultural industry because for one reason or another all over the world there seems to be a rise in crime and additional specific powers have to be given to the Police to try to combat that behaviour. You have to pass specific laws because the island has to have laws to suit the special problems that arise in the tourist industry.

After all, the Leader of the Opposition should know that the law is only an instrument that reflects certain rules of behaviour in a given society. I hope that we will see this in the light of all of its aspects. It is not a case for extreme attitudes on either side.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, we have had a very long and useful debate under this Head. While I should like to get through with the Heads, I would like to say that I am grateful for the points of view expressed in a very helpful manner by Hon. members, although all hon. members may not have seen eye to eye on all points. As regards the question raised regarding the gentleman who rendered such service to the Police at District E, I will go into the matter. In instances such as the one cited, we would normally request the services of a diver or a person who goes down into wells and make a prior arrangement to pay them. In such circumstances payment is made whether the body is recovered or not. In this case I am willing to give an undertaking that, if the member or the person involved will write a letter to the Commissioner of Police or to the Permanent Secretary of my Ministry, the matter will be taken up. An application must be made so that it can be gone into by the proper quarters.

As regards the questions raised by the hon. members for St. Michael North Central and St. Michael South Central, these matters have been taken up by the Minister who has just spoken. Let me say that he reflects largely the views which my Ministry holds on this matter. We have recognised that tourism is a very important factor in the life of this country. Whatever disadvantages there are, certainly there are advantages which outweight those disadvantages; and we must be sensible enough to balance any disadvantages against the advantages.

Let me make it clear also that the Police Force in this country will not be treating any section of this community, be it visitors or residents, with anything but total impartiality. I do not believe that any section of the community is entitled to any more favours than anyone else. We however believe that, where there are special areas which create special problems at any time, we have a duty to maintain law and order in this country, to make sure that the Police Force is increased, or that their vigilance is increased so that we can adopt measures to deal with these particular problems.

4.30 p.m.

Now it is indeed a fact that we have some problems, as I said, in respect of crime and the tourist industry and they relate to crimes committed against the person and property and visitors. Somehow I believe that the fact the newspaper is now paying attention to the daily crime statistics may have frightened some people into thinking that the problem is a terrible problem or that it has increased beyond proportion. The statistics do not bear this out. Even in the Sunset Crest area, with respect I have written to the hoteliers who have made representations to us and we have given them our statistics on the reported crimes in the area, and they show a decrease in that particular area. The information which I have relates to those crimes which are reported to us; but there are also unreported ones. I cannot do anything about those that are unreported, because we can only deal with offences which have been reported to us, and I am satisfied on the basis of the information given to me by the Commissioner of Police and his officers that there is no escalation of offences against visitors or other persons in the Sunset Crest/Sandy Lane area.

On the other hand in respect of hotels in the southern area of the Island, the statistics show some increase and we have been taking steps to augment our

police manpower in the Southern Division. Mr. Chairman, this is not to say, as the Hon. Minister of Tourism has said, that there is not a case for corrective measures in our tourist industry so far as the impact of crime is affecting the tourist industry. The Minister spoke particularly of undating the law dealing with Petty Trespass. Legislation is being studied by my Department. There have been several meetings held between ourselves, the Hotel Association and the Tourist Board, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of the Attorney General, and we have come up with some ideas about amending legislation and we have now given some additional views on how the legislation can be updated. I am hopeful that very soon we will bring improved legislation before the House for the House's consideration. But it is not only in the area of petty trespass that we are trying to tackle the problem, but also on the beaches where we also have a problem.

The Hon. Minister was recently in Miami and he collected for us the legislation applicable in Florida which governs the control of beaches, and it is very useful information. It confirms some of my legal views, which differ from the advice of the Hotel Association on this matter. We are now looking at the legislation of Florida, of California and of other countries to see in what way we can deal with this problem. But the "beach boy problem" is not only one of crime; it is a question as well of sociology. The Ministry of Tourism has taken the advice of the tourism sociologists on this aspect of the matter. We will also be bringing before Parliament legislation to regulate hawkers or people selling their wares on the beach. We are hoping to have proper facilities so that wares and goods can be displayed on the beach and there will be control powers given to the officers of the Parks and Beaches Commission for the control of the "beach boy problem". That will be attended to as well. We will also try, when money is available, to increase the strength of the Police Force not only to deal with the problem of Sunset Crest or Maxwell Coast, but to deal with the over-all problem of crime in this country. The country has grown significantly in several ways; and of course this may necessitate an increase in the police establishment wanted. I have given you what we will try to do. What I do not agree with is the opinion of several of the hoteliers that we must have police protection in their plant. I am not agreeing to that. I have told them that. Even in the Sunset Crest area, building went ahead without any or due regard to the security considerations. Now that is not right. Architects and people who are going into the tourist industry must recognise that there are security aspects of tourism as well and for this the country as a whole cannot be expected to use its Consolidated Revenue to provide funds.

I have also said to them that there is a strong case for the tourist industry to call for technical assistance by way of a security expert. I have asked them whether they wish us to get technical assistance from the United Kingdom or Canada or from the experts whom we have in the Caribbean and who are knowledgeable in training securing guards especially for the tourist plant. For people must begin to move away from the concept that the security man is a mere watchman. He is more than that. The hoteliers need to spend some money on having electronic equipment providing better communication surveillance between their physical plant, especially where buildings are spread out over a wide area. I am told by the Commissioner of Police that in Sunset Crest in particular whilst they do have some of their own people doing security, they have only two Brinks guards to survey the whole of that area. This is unrealistic.

It is true they are offering to pay for the assistance of police down there, but the police charge is only something like $4.00 an hour to the normal person who use the police, and I could not possibly commit the police in that way. I have made it quite clear to the operators of the plant that they are being unrealistic. They will have to train security people and I am appealing to the hotel industry to pay more regard to their own needs in this area.

I think the hon. member for St. Michael South Central was right on this point; the hotel industry must itself become more security conscious. The hotel industry must recognise that it is not wrong to put up a notice in the hotel telling guests to be conscious of their own security. I do not believe anybody expects in any part of the world these days that we are all saints. Now they are hesitant about doing this; they say this will run off tourists. That is real nonsense. I have gone to hotels in several parts of Europe and North America and a notice is posted in your self-interest. There is no reason why they could not do this. We have appealed to them to do this and they told the Commissioner of Police that they are not interested in that sort of thing. The other thing that they should do is to employ more security people. We want employment in this country. There is no reason why they should not have an up-to-date security service. In Canada private policing and private security guards are often a tremendous supplement and help to the main police forces, and if they can provide that supplement and help the police force in Barbados, we will willingly give them all the support called for.

Having said that, let me say that there are one or two problems of which the hon. member for Christ Church North Central spoke and affecting Sunset Crest area with which I agree. It is highly inconvenient although the situation has been in existence for a long time to have the road to the cemetery running right through the whole of the Sunset Crest area; and we have noticed – I have reports – the area is also witnessing some ladies plying their wares on the streets of Barbados. I am saying it now I do not think I need keep it any more confidential, I have asked the police to step up a campaign against

prostitution on the streets, and during this year – I like women – I intend to get it stamped out. Male and female prostitution is showing its ugly head all over the place We will be carrying on a campaign for the eradication of this sort of profession, if you like to call it that. *(Asides)* The hon. member says it is a well-known and age-old profession; if it was, it has been practised in a professional way, but at the moment it is getting to the stage where we know that people are being accosted in some type of offensive way both along the Holiday Inn area and certainly in the Sunset Crest area, and we intend, if possible, to give some support in this area.
4.40 p.m.

I am warning people that I will be seeking the House's support for amendment of the legislation and penalties dealing with prostitution, both male and female, in public.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Will the Minister state whether among the deterrents he is going to use in this business of prostitution legalisation will be one of the deterrents?

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I cannot say to the hon. member that I have contemplated the legislation of prostitution at all. Although I am a liberal in many respects I am not myself at the moment persuaded that it is necessary to legalise prostitution in Barbados.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister recognises that the upsurge of prostitution in the manner to which he has alluded must be as a result of the economic pressures which persons must feel. I think that to deal with prostitution only in terms of increasing the fines might not necessarily be touching the sociological factors connected with the upsurge of prostitution.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I wish I could prove the hon. member right. The Chief Probation Officer, for instance, has reported to me personally on several cases and although the trend has been increasing in the last five years it is not adverse economic conditions merely, as such, it is that prostitution now has put on new guises. It is a good money affair, the tourist dollar is heavy, if you like to put it that way.

Mr. SANDIFORD: The Minister would have to use a longer period than five years, because there has been no growth in the economy during the past five years, according to your economics.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: If I may put it this way, the hon. member may well recall when we had a problem of child prostitution in the Eagle Hall area prior to 1971 and we had to use very tough measures then and controlled areas to deal with that illegal matter, to deal with special measures dealing with that problem, and we managed to stamp it out. We have reckoned that in the last five years we have seen an increase of this problem and we are trying to deal with that as well.

Mr. Chairman, I have had an indication that you may wish to have a little break, Sir, for a short while, and I am therefore asking that you report progress and ask for leave to sit again. I hope hon. members will understand.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have been going for a very long time and I think for the convenience of the Chairman and other members I now ask that the House be suspended until 5 o'clock.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
4.45 p.m.

On Resumption:

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I beg to move, Sir, that Government Notices be now resumed.

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

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

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to appropriate the sum of $100,000 out of the Consolidated Fund and place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Current Estimates – Part I, Current – as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1977–78, No. 34, which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

On the motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. H. deB. FORDE, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed consideration of the Annual Estimates in Committee, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, just before the short suspension I was dealing with various points

raised by hon. members in relation to tourism and crime and I think enough has been said on that subject. I would like to move on to answer a few of the other points raised by hon. members.

The hon. member for St. Michael South Central raised the question of the police at Government House being kept on guard duties. I would like him to know that this matter is now under revision and the preliminary views of the Ministries concerned, the Ministry of Defence and Security and my Ministry, seem to agree that perhaps the ceremonial functions at Government House can be turned over to the Defence Force on the formation of the Defence Force. However, we have said, and I believe it will be accepted, that there will still be need for some police presence for security and other reasons; and indeed, when we examine precedents in other Commonwealth Caribbean and other countries we notice that it has been found necessary to retain a police presence from a security point of view within the residence of the Head of State.

The hon. member for St. Michael South West raised a few questions, some of which I think are fundamental. The first one, to which I would like to advert, is the organisational restructuring of the Police Force. The Commissioner of Police has submitted to me his thinking on a new organisational structure. In some instances, this would mean regrading; and, in others, the division of duties. The only reason why his suggestions have not advanced to a stage further than it has at present reached is because of the problem of money. But we are looking at this matter in the whole context of the overall manpower needs of the Force. The Hon. Member may be satisfied that we are looking at the problems and his ideas fit in quite well with those which I have in mind. I hope that my Ministry will be able to persuade the Establishments Division in the coming year to take seriously our recommendations on the matter.

Mr. TAITT: One of the points I made which I am sure the Commissioner himself would be unlikely to submit, the present Commissioner being a very modest man, and any Commissioner would be reluctant to make a subvention to himself. I share the Minister's thinking and concept of the Commissioner of Police being at the level of at least Permanent Secretary, not so much in terms of money but in terms of function where the Commissioner of Police has access to the Minister, and the Commissioner of Police seems to me as a staff officer, a specialist, and ought to be able to relate to his Minister in the same kind of way that a Commanding Officer can relate to his Minister.

5.10 p.m.

The Commissioner of Police is a staff officer and a specialist who should be able to relate to the Minister in the same way a Commanding Officer relates to a Chief of Staff.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I would like to assure the hon. member that the Police Commissioner does have direct and constant access to me. Very frequently I am in touch with him when speaking to the Permanent Secretary. There is close coordination between the Ministry and the Commissioner and the Permanent Secretary is kept informed and he gets in touch with me immediately when necessary.

As regards the Police Training College, I have already spoken at length, and the idea of a Barbadian to head the Training College is a matter to which we have given consideration, and although I cannot say specifically that it will be a Barbadian, when the present Commandant goes we must look to the Caribbean for the next head of the Training School.

On the use of the Police Band: My information is that in 1977 the Police Band had 237 engagements. Twelve of these were ceremonials, 13 for charity, 183 for fairs and similar engagements and twelve at institutions. Of the 237 engagements 122 were free and 115 were paid for. I am not aware of any requests for the use of the Police Band having been turned down provided that sufficient notice was given.

As far as promotions are concerned, since I became Minister I have been in constant touch with the Permanent Secretary regarding promotion. When I am notified that the Commissioner of Police proposes to make certain recommendations, the only criteria I have asked the Permanent Secretary to consider is that all eligible persons must be given adequate consideration. I do not want to get into interfering with promotions in any service under my responsibility; I have merely insisted that no one in the promotion zone should be overlooked.

As regards the security system for the Bridgetown Harbour I can assure the hon. member that the Police have been in communication and we expect to have a building at the harbour where there will be provision for personnel of the Harbour Police. There are certain functions which must be retained by the Police, and we are hoping that we will be able to relocate those persons responsible for Harbour Police service at the Bridgetown Harbour.

The hon. member for St. Michael North East raised the question about the District "A" Police Station. I think that much of what he said is true. The living conditions at District "A" are some of the worst I have seen anywhere and the men there suffer great inconvenience. I have had a meeting on this site with the technical people from the Ministry of Communications and Works and we have modified the building arrangements to be made at District "A" and members will see in the Estimates under Head 110 a vote of

$600,000 the majority of which will be spent on the District "A" Police station in the coming year. We are hoping that during that time at least the administration block and a housing block for police will be completed. Let me say that the plans made for the horses and dogs were too elaborate. The plans were conceived long ago when costs were much less than they are now and they began before I could review them, but we have gone so far with the construction that we have to complete it. We have spent a lot of money on the stables and on the walls and I am not satisfied that the money has been properly used. There was too much man power on the project and there seems to be some larceny. Formerly there were three police dogs but now there is only one, but I will ask the Commissioner of Police to bear in mind the comment of the hon. member for St. Michael North East for the use of dogs in crime detection.

I think that covers the queries of hon. members. Finally let me again express my thanks to the Police Force for the cooperation given me during the time I have had responsibility for that department. They are doing a fine job in this country and I can only accept on their behalf the compliments paid to them in this Honourable House and appeal to them to continue to support law and order in this country.

5.20 p.m.

The question that Head 10(7) stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 10(8) – TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

Head 10(8) – Town and Country Planning for the sum of $80,584 was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, in moving that this Head stand part, I will move as well that the amendments circulated be the amendment to this Head and stand part of the amount to be voted. I would like to make a few brief comments. I believe that the efficiency of this department has been improved tremendously for the benefit of the public. In 1977 we received 1,284 applications, and during that year we processed 1,129 of these applications. Under the Town and Country Planning Act we are given three months in which to conclude an application. We have managed to get our performance as high as up to 61.4% being completed within the statutory period. In those cases where we have not been able to complete the applications within the statutory period, sometimes the fault lies with the applicant because the relevant information has not been given; and in other cases we have been waiting on other ministries to give their views – like the Ministry of Communications and Works, the Ministry of Agriculture and mainly the Water Works Department or the Ministry of Health; but the productivity of the Town and Country Planning Office has increased tremendously.

Once again I will say that I am very happy to tell the House as far as the outstanding appeals are concerned, we have made a tremendous impact on these appeals. When I took up the Ministry there were 55 appeals outstanding and not adjudicated, extending over a period from 1967 to 1976. We have heard these appeals, and there are now outstanding, I believe, something like 13 of them. The reason why some are still outstanding is because they are waiting for applicants to indicate if they want to give evidence, and some of them may have gone abroad. We have managed to cut down on outstanding appeals from 1967, something which has never happened before; and in relation to the few appeals, we have been hearing them within a month of the appeals being lodged. We have emphasised the necessity for a quick response with applications coming before the department.

I am proud to say that we are seeing a tremendous decrease in applications for the sub-division of agricultural land. The department is reverting to a very professional approach. We have minimised the political input on applications for sub-division of land. If for instance an application is for sub-division of agricultural land, and the department refuses and the applicant is dissatisfied, I then have to be advised as Minister, and I can then look at the matter and consult with other Ministries; and finally, if it is a considerable amount of agricultural land involved we will go to Cabinet and consult with Cabinet on the proposals made by the Town and Country Planning Office; and it is at that stage that a decision is going to be made. No longer can anybody believe that by running to a politician they can get permission to sub-divide good agricultural land.

I hope to change the regulations even still further by laying down further guidelines and criteria. I feel happy that we have attempted to redress – and I believe we have succeeded in redressing – the ineffectiveness of the Town and Country Planning Department, and restore to them to a large extent their professional integrity.

The question that Head 10(8) stand part as amended was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 10(9) – ECCLESIASTICAL

Head 10(9) – Ecclesiastical in the sum of $26,877 was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 10(9) stand part.

Mr. SISNETT: I beg to second that.

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

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

HEAD 110– MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Head 110 – Ministry of the Attorney General for the sum of $1,762,858 was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, in moving that this Head stand part, I move that the amendment as circulated also stand part. I have spoken at length on very many matters in relation to the development plan for this Ministry, and only if some hon. member wants to make some comments I will reply.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to second the motion. I want to say however, Mr. Chairman, that in 1976 I asked a question of the then Government concerning the establishment of a fire station in the parish of St. Philip. The response from the then Leader of the House was that he would put it up to the Cabinet. Later he said he would get it the following year. Last year I asked this Government what was the intention in respect of a fire station in St. Philip, and indeed I tabled a substantive question. I was promised that in this year's Estimates provision would be made for a fire station in St. Philip.

I do not want to go again into the reasons for the establishment of a fire station, but briefly, St. Philip is an agricultural parish. It is the largest parish in this island. It is a very dry parish. Only within the last three years or four years has there been a substantial stone house development. Even now it is largely a parish with a large proportion of chattel houses where the fire hazards is greater than the others. The Church Village area is very thickly populated, and the whole area consist of chattel houses in the sugar cane belt. Throughout the parish there is this pattern of chattel houses spread among sugar cane fields; the nearest sub-station to the parish, I believe, is in Four Cross Roads in St. John. I believe that there is only one fire tender at that sub-station. There is one station at the airport.

5.30 p.m.

On the other side are those at the airport, but of course they would have priority in respect of air and sea rescue and that type of thing, and one could not expect the service from the Seawell depot to be as regular as one would expect from the St. John end, but if there are fires in St. John and St. Philip at the same time, the parishioners would be at great risk, and that was the rationale behind the question I asked and the same question I am now asking. We have heard that a sub-station was planned for St. Philip, I believe Six Cross Roads was considered the ideal spot, but I see no provision, not even a token one, in the Estimates this year suggesting any decision or positive policy on the part of the Government, and to that extent I would wish the Attorney General to tell the House and the public what, if any, are the proposals for a fire service in St. Philip, and in addition whether the Government intends as they had said last year to shift the police station from District "C" on top the hill to Six Roads. It could be a reasonable exchange to site the Fire Station on top the hill at District "C" and upgrade the facilities, and if you have to build a station to build it at Six Roads. Perhaps in terms of venue the present site at District "C" may have an advantage for a fire station. At night there are fire watchers who park their cars in the yard at District "C" where they have a very good view of the whole of St. Philip on that side and even as far as Christ Church and parts of St. George; so it may be a good look-out for a fire station, but that is just an idea that perhaps the Government can consider and which the Government may already have in mind.

Now with respect to the police station at District "C", I am not going to repeat the observations I made last year and the year before. The facilities at District "C" are all well known to the Government and I believe it is only a question of priorities or perhaps a question of finance and then the question of priorities before something is done about refurbishing the station; but there is something that can be done immediately at no great cost to the Government. This concerns the entrance to District "C" police station. This is the first time I am saying it; I am saying it now because nobody will be able after last night to accuse me of asking for street lights because my former residence was almost next door to the station. I am in the process of completion of moving. There is a long winding gap past my house into District "C" police station; very often it is heavily overgrown with bush. People go there at night to report cases or to check on people who may be arrested and it is very hazardous for them to get up to the station. Immediately that area needs two street lights. I am asking for them in this year's expenditure because I do not wish anybody to accuse me of having lights available for my own protection or otherwise now that I have moved. I have known that when I spoke of magistrates two years ago, Mr. Franklyn put aside what was published in the Gazette except where I said I was not making any special plea because my wife was a magistrate, and circularised it in St. Philip; he caught me once but he will not catch me twice.

On the question of fire tenders, in previous years we have heard a lot of debate about the fire tenders at the Seawell outpost. I do not know if all the facts have ever been given to the public, but it seems to me that there should be some attempt made to let the public know what were the facts about the fire tenders at Seawell. I think my plea is apposite because Item 8 says "Provides for the purchase of one crash tender for use at the Airport and a token provision for additional work on the St. James station."

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That has been amended to read "Worthing station".

Mr. SIMMONS: I am grateful to the Chairman. I believe that the cost of a jet ranger today is in the vicinity of $740,000. In 1972 when the Alvis fire tenders were mysteriously ordered and brought to Barbados, the

cost of the same jet ranger was $319,320 or some such figure. Similarly in 1972 the cost of a Carmichael Bedford water tender was $160,344. The former Government was accused of having wasted taxpayers money having expended large sums of money in buying tenders which were of little or no value. I believe that even now the tenders are still with us, there is great difficulty in having parts supplied with expedition and of quality to suit the needs of the fire service. Some of these tenders I am told are over 23 years, and I think that the Minister, if he has not done so yet, – unfortunately I was in Court, so I was not here when he made his long two-hour speech; I am not being facetious, but we know that the Attorney General is a very thorough person, and any of those who have practised in the Court with him will know that he is very thorough in the presentation of his cases, and even in the Government he has let his former style carry over – should give the facts about the fire tenders and tell us the present day cost vis-a-vis the cost that was available in 1972, and why the Government is now taking this decision to order a tender that costs twice as much as it cost in 1972. I would be grateful if he would shed some light on that area of darkness. I believe we have had a very thorough debate on this Head, he has been asked questions and I have put a few to him, and I would be very grateful for any observations he has to make to my submissions.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, some quick answers. In so far as the lights at the corner of the entrance to District "C" Police Station are concerned, my Ministry will draw that to the attention of the Ministry of Communications and Works who has responsibility for the erection of lights. I will give the hon. member the undertaking that the Permanent Secretary will write in due course and we will also write and let him know we have done so. I believe the same comment applies to the Boarded Hall Police Station and the area for which the hon. member for St. George South has responsibility, and I will take the opportunity to draw that to the attention of the Appropriate Minister.
5.40 p.m.

So far as the Fire Station at District "C" is concerned, our proposals to the Estimates Committee included much more than we have allowed and it is because of the present economic position that several aspects of my Ministry's development plan have not been advanced any further at the moment, but we see the need for additional fire stations in other areas of Barbados, and certainly the Six Cross Roads area and the St. Philip area call for some additional capacity. Our first thinking was to have a station at Six Cross Roads, but since then representations have been made to me that it may be more appropriate to move the police at Six Cross Roads and to give the present existing police station to the fire service.

The other answer, I have not finally made up my mind but I am giving a view. If the Government cannot meet the resources for a new construction it is possible that it may be able to step up the manpower at Four Roads as well as at Grantley Adams Airport to assist in this respect, the development plan itself does take into account the necessity for fire stations in the St. Philip area, preferably Six Roads, in St. Peter to look after St. Lucy and St. Peter, and in the Cave Hill area and at Belleplaine, and these will be the recommendations which we will be making for inclusion in the five year plan, and I will trust that the hon. member would wait perhaps till a little later in the year when my Ministry's section of the Development Plan has been finalised and then he will know the full position.

In so far as the airport fire tenders are concerned, we are classified as an international airport and we have to meet certain standards to get the particular grading that we have and I would not wish to say anything in this House to undermine our position in this respect, but it is an undoubted fact that in 1972 the present Chief Fire Officer recommended to the Government the purchase of two pathfinders fire tenders with a capacity of 5,400 gallons which would then have cost the Government something in the region of $638,640 for two fire tenders. Instead of that the then Government bought eight old refurbished fire tenders with the assistance of Mr. Carlton Brathwaite at the cost of $70,000 each, $78,000 less than the two would have cost and with the capacity of 4,900,500 gallons less. Of those eight old refurbished fire tenders two have been completely cannibalised because we could not get parts to service the others, three are at present operational and five are totally inoperative at the moment.

I have been trying very hard to get parts for them, we have gone to the original makers in England and have been told that no parts are available at all. We have referred to HARP and HARP has said that some parts are available but they cannot find the others. MCW has been asked to give assistance and they are proposing to cannibalise some of the others in order to get a few going until we can replace the sort of capacity that we need at the airport. My view in retrospect, looking at the position from now, I believe that the Chief Fire Officer's opinion should have been accepted by whoever was the Minister at the time and who had to make the final decision. Buying the disused fire tenders has turned out to be an economic disaster, the reports coming in on them and the British engineering experts coming here to look at them have been costly to say the least, some of the engines are too old to work and it is difficult to get parts. I have been trying my best, I do not know but these decisions were taken at that time and this is one decision I do not think reflects so much credit in the circumstances.

That is the total story of it, Sir. I am sorry that it has to be so but we would have lost some money in the process. I think we were being penny wise and pound foolish and I hope it does not happen again. The airport is too crucial an area for us to favour HARP or Mr. Carlton Brathwaite in circumstances where we are playing around with the lives of several thousands of people. That is the story of the airport fire tenders.

The question that the sum of $1,762,858 under Capital Expenditure – Head 110 – Ministry of the Attorney General as amended stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

JUDICIARY

HEAD 11(1) – SUPREME COURT

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, in moving that this Head stand part I ask that the explanatory note to Item 12 should read: "Includes expenses in connection with jurors and witnesses at Assizes, Legal Aid, Medical Witnesses, Execution of Capital Sentences, Scrubbing."

I believe that is the only amendment and I beg to move that the sum of $195,074 under Head 11(1) – Supreme Court – as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

JUDICIARY

HEAD 11(2) – MAGISTRATES' COURTS

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $119,206 under Head 11(2) – Magistrates' Courts stand part of the Schedule.

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

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I just want to say a few words on this, Mr. Chairman. This is an area in which I would like the Attorney General to receive me again on this particular Head in several areas. I would like to say that the Magistrates are doing a good job and there have been no criticisms against them in terms of their endeavour to administer law and justice. There are certain points which I think the member for Christ Church East will agree will have to be settled by the Judicial and Legal Service Commission. I think this is a matter which would have to be discussed with the Attorney General in terms of salaries, in terms of conditions, in terms of promotion, in terms of civil service mobility, in terms of accommodation, in terms of library books to enable this particular aspect of the administration of justice to function at maximum capacity. After nearly 18 years absence from the Bar of Barbados I have come back and found the same old benches, the same absence of books, the same lack of facilities for counsel, almost everything that I left when I left Barbados in 1958. It might be thrown at me that I was partly responsible since I was a part of the Cabinet, but I think if you check the Gazettes at no time during my term of office did I have any responsibility for Magistrates, for the Judiciary or for any form of legal administration. This is a matter of record and the facts will show it.

5.50 p.m.

The fact will show that at no time during my administration did I have any responsibility for magistrates, the Judiciary, the Registry, the Crown Solicitor, or any aspect of the legal administration. This is a matter of record and the Honourable Attorney General knows this. However, I would like to discuss these aspects of the administration of justice with the hon. Attorney General in greater detail.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I promise the Hon. Leader of the Opposition that I will have discussions with him in his capacity as President of the Bar Association.

The question that the sum of $119,206 under Head 11(2) – Magistrates Court – stand part of the Schedule – was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 12 – MINISTRY OF CARIBBEAN AFFAIRS, EXTERNAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY
(1) – DIRECTION AND POLICY FORMULATION

Head 12 – Ministry of Caribbean Affairs, External Trade and Industry – (1) Direction and Policy Formulation – was called.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of this Head I want to draw to the attention of hon. members that there has been a modest increase in the sum provided under this Head, arising from additional resources to the Export Promotion Agencies in Barbados. As hon. members know, we on this side feel that it is vital for us to intensify our efforts in this area, and the resources available should not be limited to the amount of $210,000 which has been provided in the current Estimates. The Agency will have in addition to this sum of money a sum of approximately $200,000 which will come from the European Development Fund, being one-half of the allocation of the joint programme for tourism and export promotion. I can now say that the project document has been inspected by the appropriate Committee of the European Commission and we are now in a position to receive disbursement, and only three days ago when I was in Brussels I called on the head of the division and he informed me that disbursement can now take place. We will be able to have available to us some $60,000 for man power specifically assigned over the course of three years to do specific studies for us, and

one of the first areas that the Export Advisory Council has advised should be undertaken is a review of the possibilities of those industries to be established here in Barbados which are most likely to penetrate the European Common Market, bearing in mind the wave of protectionism that is creeping over those countries, and bearing in mind also the fact that the economies of those countries are not showing a growth rate which is satisfactory to policy makers, employers or employees in those countries. One of the great difficulties that we are faced with here is that no sooner had we been granted preferences in the form of the Lome Conventions than we were faced with the fact that the demand generated in those countries was on the decline because of the general decline in world trade caused by a rise in the price of oil and the availability of those countries to compete with Japan and other South Asian countries in such fields as textiles and electronics, with their very sophisticated technology. So while we are intensifying our efforts in this direction it must be remembered that there is no point in producing a produce that cannot be sold because there is no demand for the product. I would also like to point out in this connection that we in the Caribbean Common Market are also suffering because of the fact that the growth rate of inter-regional trade has been restricted because of the fact that of the more developed countries – in one stage with the largest populations and in the other with whom we had traditional trade ties and good transportation, namely Guyana, both of them are in much the same position as some countries outside of the Common Market.

6.00 p.m.

They have been forced to take corrective action to solve the balance of payments position which has developed. So both within our own home markets so to speak, and within the CARICOM area abroad we are facing limitations of demand; but despite this, I am hopeful and I am convinced that if we look at our opportunities as a whole and we are prepared to exploit, if we are prepared to be competitive we can achieve a significant increase in our exports. Now, I think it will be appropriate also to say a few words on the general CARICOM situation. We in the Ministry have analysed CARICOM trade, and I have a couple of copies which I will willingly circulate to the other side, because this is a matter of interest not only to this side, but the other side.

These statistics show that Barbados had a deficit trade position with Guyana of $7,167,000 in 1977 between January and November. In 1976 that deficit was $4,333,000. With Jamaica the deficit position was $11,607 odd, January to November, 1977 and $5,819,000 odd, January to November, 1976. With Trinidad our position was a deficit of $33,170,761 as opposed to $34,174,000 January to November, 1976. Dominica – I would like to stress this point because the trade between Barbados and the Windward and Leeward Islands is of great importance not only to us, but to them. We are actually in deficit with our trade with Dominica. We are large importers of fruit, vegetables, oils and soaps from Dominica and the demand in Dominica last year for our products was reduced.

Hon. members will remember that last year was the year in Dominica when they were a number of industrial disputes over a great part of the year. The deficit was $112,599 as opposed to $43,000. We are in surplus with Antigua. We increase our exports slightly to Antigua to $755,182. Grenada – we have also increased our surplus position. For the first time with St. Lucia. St. Lucia actually exported to us more than we to them – edible oils and fats in addition to a number of other products coming from St. Lucia. As far as St. Vincent is concerned – and I would like to draw attention to this – St. Vincent has considerably increased their imports, January to November 1977. Belize – for a great part of last year they came in with corn for the animal feed industry, with meat and with fish, Lobster and things of that kind.

I am very pleased that as a result of the staffing proposals which we made with the Ministry of Finance and Establishments, we are now in a position to monitor very quickly the trading position within the CARICOM area and outside. This is because of the fact that the Research Department is now staffed with people with statistical training and they are able to use the Data Processing Unit at an early date to collect this information for us. Now, these figures, particularly in relation to the Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago situation, have engaged the attention of that unit; and I have also just received a copy of the report of the White Committee in Trinidad. It is clear to us that a common market cannot function if the fundamental basis upon which it was conceived, namely the free movements of trade without restrictions operate for any considerable period of time with restrictions.

We have been having a dialogue continuously with Jamaica and Guyana. These figures are more precise details, item by item constituents of the total trade between Barbados and Jamaica, and the firms affected in Barbados. These have been passed on to the Jamaica Government. I understand that the foreign exchange allocation for the first half year will show an increase and the details of the allotments within the allocation I am awaiting from Jamaica.

I have told the Minister of Commerce and Trade in Jamaica point blank that this situation cannot continue for the whole of this year. I believe that it is contemplated, although there is no definite deadline in the treaty in respect of this, that these restrictions will have to be reviewed certainly within an 18 months period, and June will be the 18 months period. The

treaty is not specific because there is no clause which talks about restrictions with 18 months. In any event, I believe it is true to say that before June we will certainly be having a Trade Ministers' meeting. These figures should also have gone to Guyana before, but we wanted to get the December figures.
6.10 p.m.

Based upon the experience of the territories in particular between the four MDCs, the White Report which we will submit, the Cabinet's decision and a number of solutions which we will be putting forward, we are hopeful that the decks will be cleared for a final decision to be taken by the highest authorities at an early date having regard to the gravity of the situation which has developed.

Now the Central Banks have met and they have agreed on certain procedures to implement a multi-lateral clearing facility. In addition to that from about April this year the Export Credit Insurance and Guaranteed Scheme for exporters should be functioning in Barbados. The staff has been recruited with the aid of the Caribbean Development Bank and the leader of UNDP, a regulations expert, has been provided by the Central Bank to establish this division. This will certainly help in some way to facilitate exporters who can get a licence in Barbados but who are afraid to give credit in Guyana and Jamaica because of the experience they had in 1975 whereby long periods of time would pass without them receiving their money. I am pleased to say that as far as reports which have been made to us in relation to Jamaica are concerned, that some 90% or 95% of the arrears to the private sector have now been cleared, but naturally once bitten, twice shy. There are some firms which may have been able to get export licences and if they import would get import licences, but the firms abroad may ask for some credit and they are not willing to do it, but with the help of the Central Bank and the guarantee of insurance provision that credit can now be extended, but stronger action is needed and I believe that we need at the governmental levels to put firm proposals to ensure that some devices which have come in to play allegedly for the purpose of insuring that the private sector organisation do not circumvent CARICOM imports from Third Countries. Some of these devices are questionable in my opinion because we have found specific instances where CARICOM exporters have been denied licences for commodities on the grounds that they are non-essentials, but that licences have been granted to other Third Countries for those same goods, and I can cite pharmaceuticals as an area. Maybe the prices are more competitive or the credit arrangements from these countries are more competitive. But the basic position is that we are firm that while the treaty permits countries in balance of payments positions to adopt certain corrective measures, the treaty does not permit countries with balance of payments difficulties to give by themselves to state trading agencies or other devices preference to Third Countries even though those Third Countries may give better terms of credit. It is quite tricky. Either the goods are essential or non-essential; either they are importable from or they are not importable from abroad, and if they are importable from abroad, in our opinion as a matter of policy first preference should be given to the CARICOM countries so that we will have our own credit arrangements.

I will say that I believe myself from all of our discussions with the Ministers and with the Ambassadors that a genuine concern about our concern, so to speak, is now arriving in both of these countries, and I believe that there are fears that steps will be taken in these countries which will affect the export possibilities to these two countries unless some measure is not arrived at which would permit some measure of growth in these areas. My own view is that there can be some solution and that the time has passed now for not having officials sit down and go through preliminary suggestions and have a definite meeting of the Ministers. I only hope the time is ripe for that and I believe that all the territories have now come around to that view. I believe that every territory in CARICOM has not come around to the view that there should be a meeting of the Trade Ministers after a meeting of officials especially now that we have all of the documentation on the impact of the restrictions on the particular manufacturers and the various sections of the manufacturing industry. Nevertheless I want to emphasise that we must remember in the last analysis the CARICOM market is still only five million people and even if it grew at the rate it grew before when the treaty first removed the barriers, and that is a possibility in my opinion because of the fact that the pattern of development that has taken place is to a large extent in key areas competitive and not complimentary, so that when there is a restriction in the level of demand for whatever reason the competition becomes more intense. I think it is clear that the future growth of trade in the CARICOM area is going to arise in respect of those areas of opportunity which have not to date been explored namely in the agro-industries and in the chemical industries and areas of that kind, but with respect to the existing manufacturers who came in on the assumption of a CARICOM market, they must re-orientate, reshape and re-formulate their production towards outside countries. In the field of agro-industries, as I understand it, even with our difficulties a firm like BARPAC has been able to export some $970,000, just under $1 million to the CARICOM market. Of course food is an essential in anybody's country.
6.20 p.m.

Bearing in mind the analysis of the 1974 figures when the Caricom area was importing nearly a billion

dollars E.C., and it would be more now, you will see that there is great scope for imports substitution in that area. As far as the garment industry is concerned, in all the territories there are still imports from third countries. We ourselves have revised as a result of a meeting the old negative list, the Import Licensing Review Committee has revised the level of protection which was given in the past in the light of the new situation and we have actually reshaped that protection in relation to the study that was done here with a view to ensuring that the market here was protected for the manufacturers. However, I must confess that there are some defects in the garment industry in Barbados. The materials that have been used are not always the most up to date and fashionable, the styles that they use do not always commend themselves to those people who love to be regarded as being in line or in tune with the latest fashion, the quality and the workmanship as a whole I believe is good but in some instances there has been criticism thereof. Nevertheless I am hoping that another new development in another country may be of some help to some garment manufacturers in Barbados. Some have already taken advantage of the opportunities under Lome and under the GSP of the United States of America.

We understand that as from July this year the restrictions which were imposed by the Canadian Government on textiles in 1976 as far as the Caribbean territories and other territories in the world are concerned will be removed, so that there is some sign of hope there.

I think that is about as much as I can say now in respect of trade. As far as the Industrial Development is concerned, the Chairman of the Industrial Development Corporation when we come to that Head has a rather detailed account for Parliament and I would permit him the opportunity of making a statement on that.

There are a number of amendments that have been circulated, so I ask now that the sum of $644,542 under Head 12(1) – Ministry of Caribbean Affairs, External Trade and Industry – as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

MINISTRY OF CARIBBEAN AFFAIRS, EXTERNAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY

HEAD 12(2) – INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, under Head 12(2) the figures show that there is an increase under this Head and that I have committed in my capacity as Minister to increase the staff of the Industrial Development Corporation and the only other area of concern I would like to draw to hon. members' attention is that the Industrial Development Corporation is the administrator of the Hilton and we have just done a complete analysis of the total receipts that we have received from the Hilton Hotel since it came under the jurisdiction of the Industrial Development Corporation, which is from the very beginning, and I want it to be known that this Government is very dissatisfied – and I have told the people at the Hilton this – I am dissatisfied with the rate of return of investment at the Hilton and I am going to order an investigation into the cost structure of the Hilton, because I cannot see how with the occupancy rates that Hilton enjoys the contribution and the amount that it returns to the Government of Barbados gets less than 5%. I am very dissatisfied with that, when Governments in the Third World put money in investments these investments must be run in such a manner that they produce profits on the capital cost, and I am saying that the amount of profits that they get they do not pay a reasonable rate of return to the taxpayers of Barbados who to a large extent are subsidising the Hilton, so therefore a complete review of the Hilton Hotel is urgent because we believe that there are certain charges which we have to pay but which are totally unreasonable and relate to the total Hilton derives and have nothing to do with the Barbados operation. This is nothing more than I would tell Conrad Hilton himself if I see him, because the Government is going to do its own inquiry. We have access to information on hotels of a comparative size, and a detailed point by point investigation is going to come because we want more money for our investment and we feel that we are entitled to it.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Chairman I want to begin by commenting too on the position at the Hilton. Within one month of my assuming office as Chairman of the Industrial Development Corporation I expressed dissatisfaction with the low return on what is a massive investment at the Barbados Hilton. In fact, even though the books were burnt when the Hilton was built – I am not talking about the new 34 rooms which cost over $180,000 per room which were added on a year or two ago – I think it can be worked out quite safely that the investment at the Hilton with that included is something in excess of $10 million and the return from the Hilton is in the region of $600,000 per year. What this means in fact is that we are getting a very low return on such a massive investment, something in the region of 6%, and no hard-hearted businessman would settle for that, a return of $600,000 on an investment of $10 million or $12 million, but the problem at the Hilton is a reflection and is illustrative in many respects of the problems which small developing countries have in bargaining with multi-nationals.

6.30 p.m.

The first mistake that was made with the Hilton is that the Democratic Labour Party government give the Hilton a contract for twenty five years; that was too long to begin with. The second thing is that the Government allowed the Hilton to take off for management services from the top, that is, the first money that is returned does not go to the landlord but goes to the tenant who is also the manager under this arrangement; and what we have found is that the Government is paying in excess of $300,000 for management services to the Hilton every year. Now management technology in relation to hotels is nothing obscure or secretive; Barbadians pretty well know how to manage hotels and Government has no justification in paying the Hilton over $300,000 for management services. And the Deputy Prime Minister is only echoing what I have told the Hilton people, that it will sooner or later become a matter of public concern that the return on the investment is too low and we will have to renegotiate the contract. Two days ago, I told the General Manager that he should get in touch with his management and let them know that the contract should be renegotiated. We are going to do a comparative study, looking at the terms of other hotels leased by Governments to see what return they are getting. We are not interested in maintaining the exploitative arrangement that presently exist with the Barbados Hilton. It would seem that the Trinidad Government found it necessary to renegotiate its contract with the Hilton in Trinidad and it is necessary for Barbados too. But we are not interested in going to the bargaining table before we have done a proper study. When we go to the bargaining table we must be able to speak with authority. I believe that we should be ready for discussions some time later this year, and in the next few months we will be doing the study to prepare these discussions.

I see the hon. member for St. Michael South West busy with writing and no doubt he may want to make a contribution to the debate. Perhaps he will want to tell us that his Government did not consider it desirable to use some of the land at the Hilton to put up a separate complex and get about seventy five rooms for $2.3 million which was spent in getting thirty-four rooms. I always thought this a bad proposition because the Hilton still has less than 200 rooms, and this is not a viable size and the last Government should have gone to something like three hundred rooms and should have got much more than the thirty-four rooms for $2.3 million. If we are to get the best return on the Hilton it seems we must add another hundred to one hundred and fifty rooms. But as far as I have been able to gather together, the position at the IDC was that instructions came down from the Cabinet that the Hotel was to be expanded by thirty-four rooms, that the contract was to be given to so and so and was to cost $2.3 million, and the IDC itself had absolutely no say in the matter. That is what the files indicate.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I think the hon. member is misleading the House in saying that the IDC did not have any part or say in the construction of the thirty-four rooms. The IDC participated in all stages of the discussion.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: I am not interested in getting into cross-talk. I made it my business to investigate this matter and my investigation showed that the IDC was told who were to be the engineers, the contractors, how much money was to be paid and what ever.

I want to turn now to the remarks made by the hon. member for St. Michael South West about Industrial Development Corporation when he said that $5 million have been spent by the IDC over the past two years to create thirty-four net jobs. I regard this statement as irresponsible and the Deputy Prime Minister dealt with it effectively. But even if we conceive this was true this administration would be the one to blame because it will be a year or two or three from now before we can feel the full impact of the imputs which this administration is injecting into the Industrial Development Corporation. 6.40 p.m.

When I got there I got the record searched. They had no plan, and I am happy to say that we have a development plan that will soon be available to members of the House and to the public. We have set out physical planning targets for the estates. We have set out the assumptions on which we are proceeding and we have set out the employment targets. We have also demonstrated what sort of industries we hope to bring in Barbados etc. The plan envisages that in the next five years we will create at least 1,200 jobs a year at the Industrial Development Corporation. I can only hope that the present economic difficulties in the Western World do not worsen, because I believe that that is the only thing that will tend to blow us off course.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member would give way, I want to make a point. I hope that when he is dealing with these industries he will not be bringing in mushroom industries which are going to employ a number of workers for a year or two and after that redundancy comes about which has always been a headache in this country.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I beleive that that should have been directed to the Minister of Agriculture. *(laughter)*

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, if he would give way. I am not going to speak on this matter, but I wonder if he would expand a little more on this 200 room concept of hotel viability. *(Asides)* Is it 300? I would like a little clarification on that, because as far as I know there will be very few hotels. I do not know of any of them at all that would come up to that particular

standard of viability. I would like a little clarification in respect of what is happening in the private sector in the hotel industry.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Chairman, I was dealing with the question of industrial development and I will continue to deal with that. What I was saying before the intervention on the part of the hon. member for St. Michael South is that we are hoping to establish about 6,000 new jobs in the next five years through the IDC, and we too are concerned, I am sure as best we can, that the industries that come to Barbados remain. One of the most hopeful signs, particularly in respect of the IDC is one industry which may well turn out to be the biggest employer. That is INTEL which is planning to set up its own factory at $7 million cost to themselves; and I think that that is a good indication of their commitment to Barbados and the fact that they are likely to stay. This plant can employ in Barbados by 1980, 2,000 people.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order. I wonder if the hon. member would just repeat those figures even if only that the Press may get them right.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: Only three factories folded up in the Industrial Corporation Estates, and the loss of jobs was only 60. Our Industrial Development is like anywhere else in the living world. Industries will die, industries will contract, industries will expand and grow. So even with the best will in the world you cannot prevent some industries from folding up for reasons over which we can have absolutely no control. We have great faith in INTEL because it is one of the greatest leaders in the electronics field; and the big thing if you are going to remain in the electronics field is that you have to invest massive sums in research. If you refuse to invest massive sums in research in electronics you are actually poisoning yourself, as it were. They are a big name, the front runners in the field. I believe that they will remain so for years to come. As I have said they are committed to build their own factory. I think that that is very solid evidence of their intention to remain in Barbados. I am told that outside of the United States this will be one of their biggest plants. Bigger than anyone that they have in South East Asia. *(Hear Hear).*

I want to deal for a moment with the constraints on industrial development that we are experiencing in Barbados, and that is the whole problem of the deficiency of trained manpower in certain skills at certain levels. Notwithstanding all of our efforts in Education over many years in this country, we have reached the position in Barbados where if we are not careful our promotional efforts in the IDC will be frustrated at the last moment. That is, companies will be happy about the stability of Barbados. They will be happy with the efficiency of our public service. They will be happy about wage levels and the responsibility of the unions; but at the last moment they may still be turned off because of the fact that they cannot be sure if we can provide the requisite number of trained persons at all levels; and the area of shortage is particularly in the area of electrical and mechanical skills, persons with a background of digital arithmetic and computer logic, well trained secretaries and engineers with the highest level outside or below degree level. These shortages are of great concern to us at the Industrial Development Corporation.

6.50 p.m.

We have been having discussions with the Ministry of Education with respect to these shortages. Indeed it was about three or four months ago that I had talk with the Minister on this position, and since then the Industrial Development Corporation has taken the initiative in setting up a crash course to look at this matter and see how in the short time we can beat this shortage, and representatives on the task force are from the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, the Community College, the Ministry of Education and one or two from the World of industry itself and from the I.D.C. They had their first meeting about three months ago and the second meeting is going to be held next week, and very soon I am hoping that I can have a report in hand which will point the way as to how in the short run we are likely to improve this trained manpower which currently exists in our community. That is one of two or three major constraints to further industrial development in Barbados.

The second point relates to ship and air freight rates and the frequency of air lift between Barbados and the several parts of the United States and Western Europe in particular. I believe we have made great advances on that front recently, and that does not loom so large a problem as the problem of trained manpower shortage which I spoke about earlier.

With respect to diversifying in areas in which we attract industry, I think that Barbados has a great chance of being chosen as the location centre for manufacturing industries that are interested in exporting to Europe and taking advantage of the Lome Convention, and in this context I think it was a wise decision which we took at the Industrial Development Corporation last year to carry a trade and investment mission to Western Germany. It was a well organised mission and we stimulated a lot of interest wherever we went in Germany, and one direct result of that mission is that a West German Company operating in the United States is currently interested in setting up in Barbados. Advertisement is currently going on and I think you are likely to see a start on their part later in the year. But where I think we fell down has got to do with the fact that there was no money available to allow us to set up an institutional desk in the I.D.C. office in continental Europe so as to service the enquiries that result from

the stimulation of interest on our part. We have a situation where businessmen in Hamburg are interested in coming to Barbados but they have got to write to our office in the United States, but there is no person in continental Europe. I am not talking about the High Commission where we do not even have an I.D.C. desk, and so I believe it is important if we are going to make full use of the advantages provided by the Lome Convention to have an institutional desk and office in Western Europe, and I am very much hoping that next year, if not later this year, we can see our way to establish such an office.

I believe, too, that there is an opportunity for us to begin to attract business from Japan and for Japanese businessmen to set up manufacturing plants. As I understand it, Japanese businessmen cannot or rather are not advised to set up businesses anywhere unless there is first a treaty of friendship between Japan and the country where they set up, in which there is protection for their businessmen, and I am glad that the Minister of External Affairs is on the ball in this respect, and it is hoped within the next few months we can conclude negotiations on a treaty of friendship between Barbados and Japan because it is the first step and paves the way for us to attempt to attract Japanese businessmen to use Barbados as a manufacturing centre not only for the shipment of goods back to the United States and also for the penetration of the European market again using the advances provided by the Lome Convention. In this context we have budgeted $2,000 to be spent in industrial promotion in Japan, and I myself will be going to the United States in early May and we will be having discussions with Japanese businessmen as a first step in this direction; so that we at the I.D.C. are making progress. We have moved to professionalise and increase and improve the staff there and we are grateful to the Minister who has been very sympathetic to our efforts in that direction. The forecast is that in 1978 we will do in excess of 1,200 jobs and may reach as many as 1,536 new direct jobs at the Industrial Development Corporation. That is the forecast at the Industrial Development Corporation, that this year we will provide upwards of 1,536 new jobs through I.D.C.'s efforts. These will cover a wide range of manufacturing concerns such as insecticides, plastic products, flour and its by-products, peanut-processing, bicycles, garments, electronics assembly, fruit juices, adhesives, bathroom ware, non-alcoholic beverages, radiator assembly, air-conditioning assembly and so on.

With respect to the creation of new industrial estates, I think I can say that we are hoping to acquire a substantial number of acres in St. Peter for the purpose of an industrial estate. We are hoping that the St. Peter estate will draw its manpower mostly from St. Peter, St. Andrew and St. Lucy, and because of the fact that we now have a fairly reliable cross country bus service, it should not be difficult for a person from St. Andrew and even St. Joseph to be employed at the Industrial Development Corporation's estate in St. Peter. The position at present is that we have 147 acres right now in industrial estate and about 65 acres undeveloped. Nevertheless we think that we should go ahead and acquire lands in St. Peter to try to develop an industrial estate there. The precise location I do not recall at this point, and perhaps when the Minister comes to wind up he will give a precise description. I think it is about time that I take my seat, but I just want to say, Mr. Chairman, that this will be tied in with the hotel and other developments which will be going on in the Speightstown area and which should certainly bring a large measure of economic activity in that part of the island.

Mr. SISNETT: Mr. Chairman,.....

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member would give way and reserve his speech for after dinner, I would at this point in time beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.

7.00 p.m.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the Sitting be now suspended until 8 o'clock.

On Resumption:

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House is now in Committee.

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

Mr. SISNETT: Mr. Chairman, I must say that I was rather impressed by the progress report of the Chairman of the Industrial Development Corporation and his projections regarding the industrial climate in Barbados in the year ahead and the years to come. I am particularly happy to learn that within the year opportunities have become available and will remain available in the industrial area nd this should make all the members of the House really happy to see that

some jobs are forthcoming for the people of Barbados, but at the same time there is a saying which states that while the grass is growing the horse is starving, and I was looking at some areas where with a little help from Government I will be able to assist immediately with the creation of a few more jobs for the people of this country.

I am referring principally to jobs which are being supported by Barbados, by North America, Europe and Japan, jobs which I think can be done by our Barbadian manpower, and I would like to find out Government's thinking of the suggestion which I will offer to see if this source cannot be tapped to create a few more jobs for the people of Barbados. Looking at some of the commodities which are imported into Barbados we find that many items – and I am referring to refrigerators, stoves, electric irons, motor cycles, bicycles, television sets, transistor radios, radiograms, motor cars, mini mokes, buses and the like. My view is that we can create immediately in Barbados a situation to lighten the unemployment problem. I believe in the case of refrigerators if legislation was enacted not to ban these commodities from coming into this country but rather to set up assembly plants here on the island, this could offer our people a source of employment. When you consider the refrigerator in its entirety, the construction of a refrigerator is nothing more than four sides of metal with an electrical component and a transformer and a little paint. My view is that that form of work can be assembled right here in Barbados. Immediately one sees the creation of jobs for people who have learnt airconditioning and did courses in refrigeration and engineering. Also, the Polytechnic offers courses for Barbadians in spray painting as well as electric wiring and the allied sciences.

I believe that if the proper legislation was enacted making it possible for the agents for these commodities to bring them into this country where an assembly plant could be set up that automatically we would find a number of jobs for a number of qualified people who are walking around daily in search of jobs. But when you compare the situation with refrigerators by that with stoves you will see that the stove is also a four-sided piece of metal with a few components which can be assembled right here, and we have the manpower and the expertise to assemble stoves whether they be gas or electric. I would like to make a suggestion, Sir, that the Government immediately consider taking a look at creating a few more jobs for our qualified people who leave the Polytechnic at the end of every term and just cannot find any source of employment. At this time I would like in order to present my case to pay tribute to the Acme Engineering Company which manufactures buses for the Transport Board. I feel in the past whereas we imported buses from Britain into Barbados and we were spending a fantastic sum of money in order to get the finished product into Barbados, and I hope I am right in saying that gone are the days when such products will not any longer be brought into Barbados as a finished product but merely the components which are necessary for the structural development of such, namely the chassis and the engine.

If you, Mr. Chairman, will consider the construction of a bus you will realise that a bus and its component parts are only an engine and a chassis. All the metal work is no more than what people who have been trained in automotive mechanics can construct right here and this is what Acme Engineering and people like Seale's Engineering Company have been doing over the past few years. I would futher like to state that when you look at that situation with buses and you were to take this a little further and put it into the importation of motor cars into Barbados, my view is that if the appropriate legislation was enacted and agents and representatives of manufacturers were told that there is a ban, even though I would not suggest a total ban at this stage on the importation of finished cars, but a gradual ban for instance a 25% ban on the finished product, and cars were brought into Barbados in a non-assembled form and constructed into the finished product, immediately again there would be jobs for automotive mechanics, for welders, for people in the upholstery business, jobs created for electricians, and again, Sir, there would be jobs created for the people who paint or spray paint.

8.15 p.m.

I do not understand, Mr. Chairman, why we should continue to support the labour force of Europe and North America when we have in Barbados the expertise to help our own people. I would like to make emphatically clear that Acme Engineering Company which has been constructing buses over the past few years has demonstrated in no uncertain terms that Barbadian manpower has the ability to do almost anything within reasonable demand.

Mr. Chairman, I have beside me a little transitor radio. This radio would retail in any store in Barbados for about $60. It might be surprising to learn that the components that go to make up this transitor radio do not amount to US$5. And what I am saying is that most of these radios are assembled here in Barbados and they are sent out of Barbados to North America and then brought back to Barbados at that price. I would like to ask if it is unrealistic for the Government to look into the possibility of assisting and encouraging our local people to become more involved in the setting up of factories, just as people from North America come in and set up factories and then re-export to Barbados. In 1963 a television company representing Curtis Mathis television was the first company to set up an office in the Caribbean – in St. Kitts – and over the years that company has been selling its products in the United

States market. Today all Curtis Mathis televisions in Barbados, Trinidad and other parts of the Caribbean are being done by Kittitian labour. The company has so increased that it has a big export market to the Caribbean, and I think that with a little encouragement and incentive the people of Barbados should be given the opportunity to assemble some of the commodities that we import into Barbados.

We all know and see every day tourists driving in mini-mokes. What is a mini-moke? Any fourteen year old given the opportunity could put together a mini-moke. Why therefore should we continue to support foreign labour when, if there is a market for mini-mokes, we in Barbados could import the necessary components and engines and assemble these vehicles. There is no reason why small businessmen in Barbados should not benefit from the construction of frames for mini-mokes, it could be done if people were just given a chance to do it.

I want to say again that Acme Engineering Company should be complimented for constructing buses for the Transport Board. I have been told that the cost of a bus body from the United Kingdom is approximately $18,000.That money does not stay in Barbados; it goes to the United Kingdom to the people who manufactured the bus. I understand that the fleet of buses at the Transport Board is approximately 250, and if you multiply that figure by $18,000 you get an idea of the amount of money going out of this country. Acme Engineering has been the stop gap in this matter and bus bodies have been designed and constructed right here in Barbados by our own man power. To my mind it does not matter if the final cost of a bus when manufactured comes to the same $18,000; the important thing is that it has created a number of jobs for people who might not otherwise have the opportunity to be in a job and give them a chance to display their technical skills. So as much opportunity as possible should be given to these people at Acme Engineering to develop industries in this country. And by designing buses in Barbados we can create other jobs. For instance, the chrome finishing for these buses should be done locally because there is a company which does chrome finishes on products made in Barbados. The result of all this would be that we would import only the chassis and provide jobs for persons involved in the welding trade to make the structural frames. We would find jobs for people in the upholstery business, in electrical engineering and spray painting.

Finally, I would like to put a suggestion to the Government regarding shipping, and this is simply the idea of opening Barbados as a port of registration for international shipping. We all know that Liberia has one of the largest fleets of registered vessels although it does not own any ships, and we believe that Barbados has such possibilities and such other places like the Cayman Islands and Panama and this could be a source of income for Barbados if it is made a port for international shipping.

8.25 p.m.

I believe that there is some revenue to be gained here if the Government would consider Barbados as a port of registry for international shipping so as to bring in a few more dollars. I would like the Minister responsible to give his views, and perhaps tell us what the Government's policy is. *(Cheers).*

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I have been, except for the 25 minutes that the hon. member for St. Michael North East spoke, profoundly disappointed this evening when I heard this item introduced by the Hon. Minister, and then more so when my friend, the hon. member for Christ Church spoke on this Item. Mr. Chairman, since 1965 I have had the honour, partly by chance and partly by design, to have participated in the rapid industrialisation of our country. One of the areas in which I think there is no doubt in the minds of all right thinking Barbadians that progress has been made, it is in the area of the Industrial Development of Barbados.

In 1961 there were 10 industries in this country. In 1976 when we handed over the country and the Government to the other side there were more than 183 industries in this country. From a mere $1 million in wages in 1961 we moved to some $33 million in wages in 1975. I do not propose to make politics out of this. I have expressed my disappointment. Since September, 1976 I have deliberately refrained from attacking the Minister of Trade or indeed the activities so far as the Industrial Development Corporation is concerned or the hon. member for Christ Church East who is Chairman. I have not attacked them precisely because to my mind (a) the industrial development of this country, except from the question of style, is not a party political matter in this country, and (b) because none of these two distinguished gentlemen have done any violence to the programmes over which I have the honour to preside and to participate daily in my professional capacity or as a Minister. I worked for the Government both professionally and in my political capacity.

I have had no particular quarrel with them for their carrying on of these things nor was I complaining that this was right or that was right; but I take umbrage this evening because I think that his professional people have let him down. The hon. member for Christ Church East had to come here and tackle around, and in the course of doing what was expected of him, he made a contribution considerably below the standard we have become accustomed to from the hon. member. He purported to speak on the Head dealing with the Industrial Development Corporation.

I am going to touch – because we are in Committee and we have to deal with specifics – I will first make this point. During the debate on the Appropriation Bill I made a statement, which is a statement of fact, that between September 1976 and the period up to these Estimates, after the IDC had spent $5 million, the net return in jobs was 39. (ASIDE: He said 37). I gave him two more. The hon. member for Christ Church East did not deny it because he cannot deny it. The hon. member for Christ Church East knows more of what is happening at the IDC than the Hon. Minister; and I do not expect the Hon. Minister to get involved in this at all. And fortunately, as the Minister responsible he will have to carry some of the blame too.

In this day the hon. member for Christ Church East dared to predict in this House that in the next five years they will produce 1,200 jobs a year. That will hang around his neck like two millstones. If they only produced 39 jobs in two years, how will they produce.....

Mr. SANDIFORD: On a point of order. Is the hon. member saying that having failed to produce those 3,300 new jobs immediately – after failing in that objective – that they now have this new prediction of 1,200 jobs a year over the next five years?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member knows that that is not a point of order.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am afraid that I will have to ask my colleagues not to interrupt me. *(laughter).* I do not wish to dwell on it. I think that the hon. member for Christ Church East, in the same way that West Indian cricketers lose their heads, made some indiscretion which I will not let him forget in due course. It is like the hon. member for Christ Church South Central following the Prime Minister and saying that they will approve 22 industries this year. The hon. member in a reductive frame of mind said it is 18. Today I heard something else; but approved status means absolutely nothing.

Now, Sir, the Chairman of the Industrial Development Corporation said that it takes about two years for an industry to come to fruition. I do not think that it was necessary for any member to go and tell the people of Barbados when they open up a road that we brought it in; but I marvelled at the gentleman from the Other Place, Senator Hinds in his acting capacity opened a factory and did not have the common decency to acknowledge that somebody, somewhere had done something.

8.35 p.m.

He tried to give the impression that he is a revisionist and that the factory had come here as a result of the Barbados Labour Party winning the election. I do not respond to that, but I expect the hon. member for Christ Church East to come into this House and give this House information that is valid, reasonable and in keeping with the high standards that had been set for the I.D.C. and the subject generally. Normally he does that.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: On a point of elucidation, I think the hon. member who is speaking is distorting my speech quite considerably. I did refer to INTEL alone and I make it clear from the record that INTEL came before the Barbados Labour Party came to power.

Mr. TAITT: I am sorry if the hon. member feels I have distorted his speech. I was making a preamble to make a point that there was quite frankly nothing in his speech to distort. Indeed Mr. Chairman, much as I regret to say it there was really nothing in his speech. Seriously, Mr. Chairman, we take no comfort in the fact that Bayer Caribbean Limited came to Barbados through our efforts; we take no comfort in the fact that TRW came to Barbados because of our efforts. Indeed we take no comfort in the fact that all these industries which have been opened so far came through our efforts because that was our duty and our job. The hon. member has three more years or two and a half years, and I expect in those two and a half years that the hon. member will eventually open a factory which has been brought here under his auspices. I take no credit for the fact that I have been involved in the promotion of almost every single industry that is now in Barbados from outside of Barbados because it was my duty. INTEL has said that they will employ 1,500 people to 2,000 people. They said that in 1975, and they said it again in 1976. They said they were going to build a factory at that time for $6 million. I spent many long hours working with them. They are coming but the hon. member will tell you, Mr. Chairman, that it takes a long time for them to set up. Therefore I have sought for my party no praise for what I consider to be our duty to the people of this country and I expect it to be your duty.

We come to the Hilton Hotel. It is a fact that the Hilton Hotel returns are unsatisfactory. *(Asides).*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Does the hon. member need the assistance of the hon. member for St. Lucy?

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, all of us on this side are a team. This is what you might call the manificient seven.

Mr. WARD: If the hon. member would give way, he is now going to speak on the Hilton Hotel. We

would like him to go back to the construction of the Hilton Hotel and how the books got burnt. Let us get it straight from the I.D.C.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member has five minutes more for this part of his contribution. He can come back after.

Mr. TAITT: With all due respect, and in the interest of our time, I think inadvertently the hon. member for Christ Church East did have some latitude and if I may be given the same latitude to finish my speech, then it would save me the time of having to get up again.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If no other hon. member wishes to speak, then the hon. member may carry on.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am coming to the Hilton Hotel, and the hon. member for Christ Church North Central asks me to speak about when the Hilton was constructed and when the books were burnt. I happened to be in New York at the time and I do not know anything about the Hilton but I have investigated to the best of my ability from the records. I wish you to come back with me and cast your mind back to Barbados in 1965. If it is possible I would not ask the hon. member for Christ Church North Central to cast his mind back; he has enough difficulty staying with us. I do not wish him to cast his mind back anywhere, but you come with me, Mr. Chairman .....

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman, that is true, but I will cast my mind back to the licences for cement, the licences for land and the licences for the beef. All these things I will cast my mind back on.

Mr. TAITT: You see every time we start to pour licks on them they come up with that sort of thing, but I am going to take the hon. member outside of here in the public square any time and the two of us can debate the cement.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are straying too far from the subject.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I would just suggest that you give them an opportunity to do what they want to do; one is tall, big and black and one is tall, big and white. Let them have their own row.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I do not get into rows with the hon. Leader of the House. I am going to continue my debate. Just cast your mind back in Barbados in 1965. Mr. Chairman, I am not even going to discuss the political situation and our going to independence or not going to independence. The fact is that Barbados in 1965 was a truly under-developed country. In 1965 we were in the process of finding our way; we were like a number of other developing countries and at that time apart from certain activities which hon. members, not the hon. member for Christ Church East or the Hon. Minister of Health, apart from the shooting which used to go on there, that land was totally without economic use. It was considered at the time when the concept of the Hilton was mooted abroad and within the community, to be a master stroke. At that time the contract was gone into, the contract did not vary in many ways from contracts which were the norm of the day. It gave Hilton a 25 year lease. The hon. member for Christ Church North Central seriously will tell anyone that in the hotel industry franchise contracts by Hilton, by Holiday Inn and all of them involved long term contracts and 25 years in that context is considered a short time.

Mr. Chairman, no one on this side will ever say that the time has not come for a re-negotiation of the contract. Any time the Government can re-negotiate any contract which we negotiated with more favourable terms for Barbados, we are going to stand up and applaud, but we would like the Hon. Minister and the Chairman of the Tourist Board to come to the House, if they must talk about these matters and give us a full picture. Let the Minister for example tell the House that the very first indication to Hilton that the contract should be re-negotiated that we would be satisfied with the returns was from the Ministry of Trade when I had the honour to preside there.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Does any other hon. member wish to speak?

Mr. TAITT: May I ask leave of the House to continue my speech? Unless hon. members say otherwise, I think the Rules permit us to do this. The hon. member spoke for half an hour.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not going to even attempt to explain that. What I am saying is that you have spoken for 15 minutes. You have a chance to speak again, but it is only fair that if any other hon. member wishes to take part in the debate so that everybody will have a chance, that I should ask if any other hon. member wishes to speak.

8.45 p.m.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member who has just sat down has got up and sought to give the impression that he knew what he was talking about and that what he was saying was true. I must say that I find it hard to believe what I heard from the hon. member, since he was in the capacity of a Minister responsible for the IDC; that he sought to prove to this House by saying that $5 million was allocated to IDC and that a mere 39 jobs were provided. Now it amazes

me, Mr. Chairman, because if he was a Minister of any substance he would know that when you allocate $5 million to IDC it goes towards industrial development, that is, building factory space for potential investors, and therefore you cannot set out to arrest the number of unemployed persons in the way that you can say 39 people were employed at a cost of $5 million. What you have to do is to see how the $5 million was spent, whether the factory space and the amount of money which was allocated to IDC has brought any sort of returns, and you will look for returns on the basis that (1) more enterprises have come into the country, (2) that they have brought more money into the country, and (3) more unemployed people have got work.

I have some figures here with me, Mr. Chairman. Between 1974 and 1976 up to the time that we came into power there were 17 approved enterprises with a capital investment of $11,627,000 and the employment during that period up to September 1976 was 974. Since 1976 this Government was able to approve 22 enterprises and as a result 1,245 persons were able to get employment. Mr. Chairman, I shall go a bit further less persons from that side think that we are using their figures or that the enterprises that have been approved were enterprises that were attracted here during their regime. We have got some 14 enterprises now being processed by IDC with an estimated capital of $13 million. We have got now being processed by the Ministry proper some 14 enterprises and the projected number to be employed is 486.

Mr. Chairman, we have to understand what is going on. I hope that the hon. member understands now because I was in the Ministry some 15 or 16 months and I was able to see the figures and understand them, so I do not know how he could see the figures and not understand what was really going on.

Let us understand what is going on at IDC. The hon. member must understand that we have made it our business to look at the previous figures and at the present figures to see whether there has been any improvement. We have been trying to attract investors who will bring money into the country and at the same time create employment for our people. That is the way that this Government and the Ministry of Caribbean Affairs look at industrialisation in this country. It is not merely putting out $5 million and looking for 39 jobs, we are looking to see how much capital foreign investors are bringing into this country to inject into the economy of this country and we have been doing so successfully. What has happened is this, I said last year during the Estimates debate that the time had come when we should look at our trading. The hon. member for Christ Church East got up and he underlined what I said and suggested on that occasion that because I was new to this Chamber, I was not fully aware of what was going on. The Leader of the Opposition got up and made his points and I think he can now understand, and I hope he understands that I was then on the right road, and that is the direction that this Government will be pursuing in the future, because we understand that there are lots of investors who come here and want a certain calibre of people to do the work and have been experiencing difficulty.

Some people apply for jobs in the component field but they have to have some idea of mathematics in order to do that kind of job. People are not mathematically minded and that is why most of the time some of the people who apply are turned down, and I have said that we must train people in the electronic field, let them be accustomed to using a computer so that when such enterprises come into Barbados we will have the trained manpower. I have also said and I will repeat that if we have the trained personnel when their enterprises come into Barbados they will have to pay a proper wage to the workers because they will be qualified, but as it now stands when these enterprises come into Barbados since the people to be employed are not trained and are not qualified they have to go through a basic training course and that in itself lends a setback to production. The time spent training people could best be spent producing right away, and I must say that I am in agreement with what the Chairman of the IDC said during his speech.

The hon. member for St. Michael South West also mentioned handcrafts. I want to quote some figures for him as well, because as I said it is either that he did not take time to look at the figures and know what was going on in his Ministry, or he could not understand what he was seeing, because in handcrafts due to the thrust, the new initiative that was begun as far as handcrafts is concerned we were able to improve and generate new life into handcraft with the result that the sales increased.

8.55 p.m.

Between 1974 and 1975 there were sales of $134,407, and between 1976 and 1977 there was an increase of 33 % over this figure. What we must look at is that in 1974 sales were $84,194 and we were able to bring that figure up to $134,407, an increase of 33%. The hon. member would understand what is meant by an increase of 33%. What we have also been able to do is to break into the Canadian market. So we have been given a very close look at handicraft to see how best we can improve this activity and at the same time generate more employment. There is an unemployment problem in Barbados and what we have tried to do is to encourage more handicraft. For the information of the hon. member I would mention that we mounted Handicraft 1977 which was a tremendous success and brought substantial improvements in the field of handicraft. Some people like to criticise and seek to

justify their criticism by asking pointless questions or making insinuations, but figures speak for themselves. The sales figure of 1974–75 is below that of 1976–77, and no matter what the hon. member sets out to do he cannot erase the figures because they are true and accurate.

Mr. TAITT: I cannot bother to pay much attention to the hon. member for St. Michael South. Every time he gets up in here to speak I am reminded of...

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I do not know if the hon. member is planning to speak for another ten or fifteen minutes, but I would like to inform him that we plan to close the session at 9 p.m., and I would suggest that he hold his fire until tomorrow.

On the motion of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. H. deB. FORDE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress to Mr. SPEAKER and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 10.30 a.m. on Monday, 20th March, 1978.

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

The Question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.

9.00 p.m.

On the Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it now reverts.

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

HEAD 12 – MINISTRY OF CARIBBEAN AFFAIRS, EXTERNAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY (2) INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Head 12 – Ministry of Caribbean Affairs, External Trade and Industry – was called.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, there are a few answers that we must give to the points raised by the other side. Now I will draw to the attention of hon. members that the report of the activities of I.D.C. for the year 1977 has now been handed in, and the basic position is as follows: during the year there were 133 contracts. Of these 79 are regarded as contracts with clear ideas in their heads, well documented and formulated projects. During the year 1st January to 31st December, 36 applications were made for fiscal incentives; 15 of these applications were granted approved enterprise and it is expected that the remaining 9 will be processed. As a matter of fact, since this report was written three of those remaining 9 have been finalised by the Ministry, so that we expect that within this year at least 15 of these enterprises will start up.

As hon. members will appreciate, after you have been granted fiscal incentive, it is a question of getting a factory ready and starting production, and we expect that during 1978 at least 15 of these will start up. Now, Sir, there is a projection that these 15 altogether when they start up in the latter part of the year will bring employment in the range of 1,100 and 1,500 jobs. That is the most conservative projection we have because I do not believe myself in giving the public the impression that immediately things can be done when in fact we know that there are a number of constraints. Buildings have to be built, raw materials have to be rounded up, and we in this country have to depend to a large extent on transportation and documentation which others have to go by, and with the best will in the world, a manufacturer may in Barbados have the money and want to get the raw materials in but be faced with this constraint or airline transportation constraint. All these matters we have gone into both at the Trade Conference in Florida as well as otherwise, and we have been working very hard to iron out the constraints of shipping between the southern and northern United States and Barbados as we have been doing between Barbados and the European Common Market as far as this situation is concerned. So that conservatively we expect that when they start up there will be a net addition of 1,100 to 1,500 jobs, and this does not include the INTEL operations because as hon. members will appreciate the INTEL operation in which it is envisaged that the factory will be built will either finish this year or early next year; so we are not talking about that in this projection that we have in this calendar year.

Now there are a number of other points that I would like to deal with that have been raised and there was some talk about the question of what is an economic hotel in Barbados. I think that the Chairman of the I.D.C., the hon. member for Christ Church East when he spoke said that he had been informed that the Hilton Hotel should have 300 rooms before it can become economically viable. The truth of the matter is that from the amount of money that was spent in the opinion of many people – $10 million to $12 million – on the Hilton Hotel should have brought a greater number of rooms but that is past history that we cannot do anything about. What we have, we have, and what we have to see is that with the existing operation we get our just share and that we are not lacking with charges which are too high in relation to the investment. As I said, I have a lot of comparative data that we can go by. We have not only data from the

hotel next door but we have a hotel like the Marriott operation and other operations whereby we can do a comparative analysis of the expenses of a hotel operation of smaller size in relation to the revenue. We will be going into this exercise. The hon. member for St. Lucy and the hon. member for St. Michael South who raised the question seem to suggest that the Barbados Government has taken the decision that only 300 rooms are economical, but that is definitely not so. We have said that we have done an analysis and in our opinion on the analysis as far as the apartment type operation is concerned, between 24 and up seems to be the ideal type of operation from the point of view of employment, the provision of services and things of that sort. We are not saying and there is nothing to be read into the statement made by the hon. member, that a hotel operation of 300 rooms is the only economic operation. That would be nonsense. I think those were the two major points that were deserving of a reply.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I should not be very long on this item. I am very glad to see that the hon. Minister today has brought the debate on this Head back to the level which I had come to expect from that side on this question of the I.D.C. There are just a couple of points I would like to make lest it should go abroad that suddenly after the other side had taken over responsibility, a number of things have started to happen. I think the hon. Minister will confirm that as far back as 1972 we were expressing some concern about the returns from the Hilton Hotel, and at a meeting in 1974 this matter was discussed in great detail. Throughout the whole of 1975 when the Hilton people indicated that one of the reasons why the return was low resulting from the small number of rooms and their inability to get convention visitors, they made a proposal for expansion of the hotel by constructing additional rooms. In fact what I am saying, Mr. Chairman, is that it is as a result of our interest in getting better returns from the hotel that it was decided in 1975, and implemented in 1976 to expand the hotel by 34 rooms.
10.40 a.m.

The original figure was higher than 34 rooms but the economic constraints of 1974–75 caused the officials in the Ministry of Finance to recommend that the amount of money envisaged should not be spent. The final result was a decision to expand the hotel by 34 rooms, and the point which I wish to emphasise, Mr. Chairman, is that if you look at the Estimates now the amount scheduled to be received from the Hilton shows an increase over last year's amount, and I believe the Hon. Minister will confirm that present projections as a result of the construction of the 34 rooms suggest that the revenue from the Hilton will be in excess of $1 million, I do not know if that is so because we have had projections before from the Hilton people which have not come out according to their projections, and all that we really want to confirm is that this matter has been one of concern to all of us. I think however that when we are discussing the returns of the Hilton Hotel we cannot only discuss the figures in terms of the bottom line figure as you would do if five or six people owned the hotel, but the social benefits which have accrued from the establishment of the Hilton Hotel will have to be considered as well and I do not think that any member of either side would contest that the establishment of the Hilton Hotel in Barbados has brought considerable benefit to the country and has assisted in the stimulation of the tourist industry as a whole. It was the coming of the Hilton which led to the coming of a number of other hotels, including the Holiday Inn.

Mr. Chairman, unfortunately perhaps because he was tired or perhaps he did not have the inclination available to him, the member for Christ Church East gave some information the last time we sat which in my opinion was misleading. He suggested that when he came to the IDC he found an IDC for which there had been no planning. Even the hon. member himself on a different occasion had confirmed that the Industrial Development Corporation as he found it was one of the best run Corporations in the public sector. He also confirmed that a number of the plans which had been set out for the stimulation and development of industry in this country were acceptable to him and to his Government. Mr. Chairman, when the hon. member took over the Industrial Development Corporation in 1976 he found a number of plans which had been clearly set out. The hon. member should have told this House for example that there was an evaluation done on the industrial incentive programme with suggestions for future industrial growth in Barbados. He should have told this House that it was done by an expert under UNIDO Officers, one Harry J. Robinson, who had been brought down here by the previous administration, and in the context of that UNIDO study there was also a comprehensive report on the progress, planning and technical aspects of the industrial estates developed by the IDC in Barbados up until 1974, and projections for the ensuing 10 years. He would also have found that elaborate plans had been made in some great detail for the establishment of an apparel factory that would have employed 500 people using a concept that was relatively new to Barbados.

I respect the right of the other side when they took over to re-examine projects and to come to conclusions about them which may be different from the conclusion reached before. The fact is though that some new and different approach was being tried and quite frankly I was dissapointed that the hon. member would come here in the qest of perhaps the scoring of

a few political points to make what I consider to be misleading inputs into an otherwise high debate.

Mr. Chairman, on the question of handicraft development in this country, I feel that the other side will wish honourably to conceal that the thrusts in handicraft development in this country was brought about in the last three or four years by a special interest, and I am not so immodest as not to bear the credit for it. I think the Minister and the Chairman will confirm that when they went to the IDC they found a handicraft development plan that had been examined and set out in great detail. I personally brought the man Sengupta cutting across all of the requirements which Hon. Minister over there are now discovering they have in the Ministry of Finance which sometimes can be a constraint to development. We went to the Commonwealth Development Fund and asked them if they would help us find an expert in handicraft. Mr. Sengupta came down here and he prepared a survey and a report. We then asked for an extension of his time and then collectively we prepared a comprehensive development plan which I believe both the Minister and the Chairman have found acceptable because as I see it they have started to implement it. I have not complained at the fact that when they are making political speeches outside of this Hon. House that they tend to leave out the inputs that we have made because that is expected sometimes in the political game, but I believe when the hon. member is giving information to this House he has an obligation to give all of the facts. True, perhaps, Mr. Chairman, because he is in the habit of putting his own case for his own client he might leave out a few facts. I feel that in those circumstances it is desirable that we on this side should put in the left-out facts so that the population of Barbados will begin to understand that at least we on this side see industrial development in this country not as a partisan matter. We believe that when they take over from us they are to improve on what they have found discard that which they consider to be unnecessary or defective, but we do not expect them to tear down, and the reason I have not been interfering with the hon. member for Christ Church South Central in his performance as Minister and indeed with the Chairman, the hon. member for Christ Church East, is precisely because their programmes have been very much along the lines of the programmes we had prepared and set up.

Mr. Chairman, for 1976 alone we had planned the Harbour cluster block, we had planned an extension to the Coopers (Barbados) Ltd. building, we had planned the construction of R.K. Industries Ltd., we had planned an ADC food processing plant, we had planned a Wildey reserved factory, we had planned a new factory for the Catelli Manufacturing Company that produces macaroni, we had planned an extension to the Playtex Complex at Wildey. There were the firm hard plans that had been agreed upon and decided upon when the hon. member took over as Chairman of the IDC, and I think it was most unfortunate for him to let slip a phrase which suggested that he went to an IDC where there had been no planning and no forward looking for the development of this country.

I will end, Mr. Chairman, by saying this. How successful this Government, we on this side when we had the Government were in industrial development does not require a Ph.D., it merely requires a drive through this country. We have set up industrial parks, we have brought industrialisation, and we look forward to the people on the other side, the Government, doing the same thing over the time when they have the responsibility. We will judge them as the rest of the people will judge them, I do not believe that they will be able to fulfil the predictions of the hon. member.
10.50 a.m.

I do not believe that they will be able to fulfil the predictions of the hon. member and we will remind him often that he has a commitment to 6,000 jobs in the next five years. I am sure the hon. Minister will regret making this commitment because it is very difficult under the circumstances. We did do 1,000 jobs in 1974, but it has now been shown that when the people in North America catch colds so to speak, we have trouble. The hon. member has suggested that he is turning to Europe for investment. We wish the hon. member luck, but he should not speak in the context that Europe has not been looked at before. Europe as a potential market has always been examined on a continuing basis, and up to 1976, even with the coming of the Lome Convention, it was always felt that investments from Europe would not be forthcoming as the same rate as investments from North America.

The closure of the Canadian office was a matter done after extremely careful thought. Between the time the office was set up in Canada in 1968 and up to 1975, only two industries had come out of Canada. A big office in Toronto for seven years and only two industries. If the hon. member is saying he would not have closed the office I would like him to tell us what he would have done. Even the manager of the office suggested its closure. I hope this throws some light on the situation.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I shan't be long, but I would like to mention that industrial development in Barbados is one area in which both parties must be unanimous. But when you look around the country and see the unemployment, children leaving school and not finding work, no party can afford to be partisan in this matter, and therefore I would like to say that any time the Government can bring in an

industry I will say Hallelujah, because the Salvation of this country depends on industry providing employment and producing exports; and so I wish the Government well in this regard. I do not care who gets the credit, I only want to see people employed and the basis of the economy expanded. I am only sorry that under the circumstances we cannot have more money for industrial promotion. In the mean-time Government has got to look more carefully at the people they send abroad, to make sure that they function effectively and that they are people with the ability and personality to do the job for which they have been selected. I wish Government well in this vital field which is going to affect every Barbadian in this country and I would like to see the Government bring in twenty or forty industries a week if possible and I wish the Minister luck in this area of his portfolio.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Before the question is put, Mr. Chairman, I wish to comment on the structure of the overseas officer dealing with industrial development and export promotion. I think the matter was raised in passing by the hon. member for St. Michael South West, and perhaps in a back hand manner he criticised to some extent the Ministry of External Affairs and its role in the operations of overseas offices.

Mr. TAITT: If the Minister would give way, I believe the Minister must have misunderstood my input. I was not criticising the Minister *per se* but was merely pointing out the arrangements which had removed Export Promotion from the control of the IDC in New York, thus preventing the IDC from concentrating on that aspect of activity and we would watch and see if this new arrangement would work. I was not criticising the Minister as such.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Perhaps with that explanation I can now go on to let the hon. member know what is Government's policy. I do not believe that a small country like Barbados can afford the luxury of a series of overseas offices duplicating their efforts. It is an undisputed fact that the major thrust of the Government's foreign policy should be in the economic sphere, and I believe that less and less the Government will come to consider political aspects of foreign relations as the dominant feature of foreign affairs. Because of this it seems right that the various overseas agencies should as much as possible not be compartmentalized but rather should be adequately coordinated. To achieve such coordination it means that at home base there must be clear policy and clear lines of coordination between the main Ministries responsible for activities under the different overseas offices. It is a mistake to assume that the subject of foreign affairs is only dealt with by the Ministry of Foreign relations. Most domestic issues and policies have an internal impact as well as external. If you take the Ministry of Education for example it is obvious that that Ministry would have primary responsibility for dealing with UNESCO, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization.
11 a.m.

In servicing UNESCO and the foreign aspects of our educational policy the Ministry will not only act through its home-based Civil Servants, but must also keep its external Civil Servants fully informed as to what is going on. When it comes to the area of export promotion and development it must be obvious to everyone that the main problem of unemployment in Barbados and the need to improve the standard of living will finally rest on the extent to which we are able to sell our goods overseas and maximise our opportunities for investment in this country. Therefore, the primary duty of everyone, not merely the people in industrial offices or tourism offices, but everyone overseas must be working together in order to push this aspect of the Government's policy.

Mr. Chairman, when the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was first established, it was established along the traditional lines, since we took as our precedent the Foreign Offices in the Caribbean and also the United Kingdom. We differed from the U.K. only in this respect that our foreign service was not totally a distinct service, but it was a Foreign Service which drew officers from the home Civil Service – if you like to put it that way – and also sent officers back to the home Civil Service as well. Where we erred, in my view, is that it should have been made quite clear from the beginning that both the Industrial Development Corporation Office and the Tourist Office were part of the Overseas Offices of the country.

Mr. Chairman, it is not difficult to say that this means that the Minister responsible for Trade would have less control over the officers in the Missions overseas simply because they were designated as in the Foreign Service. Indeed, in most small and well functioning democratic countries – I can cite Norway and Denmark for instance – these officers have to report direct to their Ministers. They take directions from their Ministers. They are kept informed of what happens in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and they in turn keep the Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed as to what is happening in their other Ministries.

Now, I have detected certain resistance among some of the serving officers both on the diplomatic side and the industrial side as well as on the tourist side to the concept of full co-ordination of the overseas offices of the Government. They have come up in the traditional manner, and they are afraid that some particular Ministry or some particular Civil Servants wants to edge in on what they are doing. Indeed at

times they transmit these fears down to their various Boards or their various Ministries in the hope that this will prevent the Government from having a total policy of Development Overseas Ministries. It will take them some time to adjust; but I will throw out to them the present thoughts going on in the United Kingdom for the re-organisation of the U.K. Foreign Service and overseas offices.

It is no different from the concept which the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and myself in particular have thought about as to how to get our offices functioning properly. It took the United Kingdom to set up a very expensive think-tank to put that idea which I saw as extremely obvious for some time but our foreign offices should keep away from the idea of being foreign overseas. What we need to do now is really to get co-ordination going with support from our officers. For instance the U.K. in some of its offices has already done this, and last year I believe they spent something like £50 million on export promotion and brought in something like $44 billion (US). Now most of this has been done because the Department of Trade and Industry in its export section is fed total information by the people who do political or other affairs. They report direct to their Ministry and they keep their political missions or officers informed; and each one sees it as part and parcel of their job in order to push British exports. Japan is much more aggressive in this respect.

I have cited Norway and Denmark as even going futher; and I find it difficult to understand why there is this hesitancy to move to this co-ordination. Certainly between Ministers there is no misunderstanding on this issue. It is obvious that the officers in charge of industrial promotion who is in New York and who is assigned to the Embassy at Washington, has a primary duty to his Minister and his Board and obviously 90 per cent of his time will be spent dealing with them and reporting to them; but he must be supported by other officers in the part of the Foreign Service; and if they do not do that they will be, in my view, selling Barbados short. We should be kept informed of things that are going on. I myself have insisted that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs must send extracts from the full report down to the Ministries whom they are servicing; and indeed I am seeking now the permission of the Minister of External Trade to send copies to the Tourist Board and the Industrial Development Corporation relevant to them copied to them and copied to us and the Permanent Secretary as well.

Mr. Chairman, we cannot – and this is important – we cannot afford in a country that is so small and lacking in resources the luxuries of duplication and quadruplication from time to time; and one has to drum this into the heads of the persons working this. I see the necessity in this respect – I join with the hon. member for Christ Church East – I see the necessity for the Government as soon as possible to look towards a presence in Europe which will be geared more to servicing the external trade aspects of our affairs, industrial aspects, trade promotion aspects if you like, and the monetary and financial aspects of our affairs rather than the political aspects of our affairs. I would hope that we can certainly within the next callendar year move to the establishment of some office in Brussels and in Europe. I think that the Minister is right when he says that there is no point having a series of promotion missions into Europe if the people who should do the groundwork and follow through are not there.

It will seem that they will have to incur further expenditure under this Head in Europe, and that the accent should not be merely on doing political matters. Political matters are sometimes easier to do because there is a lot of reporting on this; but I would like to see our Missions moving away from the concept that they must send me a report on every political speech made on the approach, let us say, of Mongolia to China rather than looking at whether we can sell our sugar, our textiles or our handicraft somewhere in Eastern Europe or in Western Europe for that matter. I do not think that small countries like ours which happen to be very minor powers should place the accent on political matters at all times. I believe that the accent must be on where our primary interests rest.

I can assure the hon. member that the purpose of trying to coordinate our activities in New York is because I have detected that the officer's time can be better used in some instances in giving support to Mr. Clarke who heads the Industrial Development Corporation Mission.

11.10 a.m.

We find that vital information sometimes is not passed on to him in areas where he could be of more assistance, and we find that there has been a tendency in all of these missions to believe that they are separate and apart. I will remind the hon. member for instance of two notes that he has probably forgotten. When he was at the UN as Charge d'Affaire there are two notes I would like to bring to his attention. He wrote the note back in 1969 pointing out the opportunities that existed for having assistance from Japan and also the opportunities for looking to Japan for investment in Barbados. Now he wrote it in his capacity then as Charge d'Affaire; he did not have responsibility for anything to do with the I.D.C. at that time as far as I know. That note came into foreign affairs and remained in foreign affairs and was never followed up, I can tell him, until last year, eight years after. That is one instance. I will give the hon. member another instance.

The hon. member sent down a note when he was again Charge d'Affaire dealing with the UN Revolving Fund for the development of natural resources in Third World countries. Now that note would have been vital for a programme dealing with the development of natural gas or the oil industry, and obviously the UN had resources from soft funds which could be used for this purpose, but the matter concerned not "Foreign Affairs" if you put that in inverted commas, but it was a matter for the Ministry of Industry in those days, and obviously some officer looked at this in Foreign Affairs, says this does not concern us, it concerns industry, they sent down the bare note, no comment, no follow up and that note lay idle in the two Ministries until the Deputy Prime Minister last year in his zeal to get programmes going asked me to find out some information on this matter.

Now Foreign Affairs even did not keep a copy of the note. We then had to get it back from the other Ministry, because they are not coordinating. I believe that the person who is at the UN getting information of that nature that will affect the industrial development of this country has a duty to give a copy to the man who heads I.D.C. in New York, he should pass it on to the other I.D.C. representatives wherever they be, a copy should be given to us with a copy to External Trade, the Ministry of Finance, I.D.C. and the Natural Gas Corporation. This is the correct procedure, but the hon. member will be satisfied with the effort that he identify. I state this because he did both of these when he was working in the Government. He identified them. There are areas that the Government should have been driving home, but this lack of coordination, this compartmentalisation of each department led to the idea that this does not concern me it belongs to somebody else, and there is no follow up. I believe that he did his best, the other people did not follow through and it is because of this that the Deputy Prime Minister and myself will be insisting that they must get out of this concept that Foreign Affairs is an exotic and esoteric industry somewhere up there in the clouds. It has the duty to serve this other Ministry, and it has the duty to work with them, and they must forget that they are there for only consular duties or they are there to have diplomatic parties or something of the sort. The Government has very little accent placed on these matters. They must service the other Ministries adequately, they must understand that the people working in export promotion and in industrial development are as competent and sometimes more competent officers than they are and have a contribution to make, and they must understand that they have to work hand in hand with them, and it is in this way that therefore with the approval and agreement of the Deputy Prime Minister we have had some of the foreign service officers being trained in export promotion, and the Deputy Prime Minister is given the opportunity to designate any officer whom he wants to go into the missions at any level he wants in order to look at these issues, because we look forward to proper coordination in this field. I hope I have clarified the position. We do not consider that foreign affairs should be any separate Ministry as such away from everyone without participating fully in the drive and effort which the Ministry of External Affairs is making.

The question that the sum of $1,300,000 under Head 12 – Ministry of Caribbean Affairs, External Trade and Industry (2) Industrial Development, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 112 – MINISTRY OF CARIBBEAN AFFAIRS, EXTERNAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Head 112 – Ministry of Caribbean Affairs, External Trade and Industry – was called.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $4,600,001 under Head 112 – Ministry of Caribbean Affairs, External Trade and Industry, stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. members will be aware from the note that this is an increase of nearly $1 million. The reason for this is that we want to step up the construction programme on factory sites under the sponsorship of the IDC, and we are also endeavouring to identify two other areas for industrial parks, one in St. Peter and one in St. George. I am in a position to say that considerable progress will be made in respect of the one for the northern parish of St. Peter and St. Lucy in this financial year because it is our view that the development of Speightstown and its environs is an integral part of the decentralisation which we believe is in the economic interest of Barbados, bearing in mind the problems of traffic, transportation, fishing and other development. So we do envisage an expanded building programme.

We have also secured enough money from the Caribbean Development Bank to finance this programme and we will also be applying to the European Investment Bank for further funds so that over the course of the five years for which we are now planning, and this is the first year, we would have adequate finance from external sources to finance the total construction programme envisaged by the Government for industrial development. There is a token provision of $1 for the building of new offices for the Civil Aviation and Tourism Division.

As hon. members are aware, the Government of Barbados has now bought the Motor Services building,

that part of the building which was built on Government land, so that in effect what we would be buying is the residue of the unexpired lease. As far as the Government is concerned, all of the work has been done to complete that, it has now been vacated and I believe it is purely in the hands of the Crown Solicitor to do the final transaction. The Export Promotion Agency will be moving in there and the Tourist Board will be moving in there. We have had an offer from the Hotel Association to lease a bit of the office space so that they would continue to be next to the Tourist Board, and plans are now being drawn up for the expansion that would be necessary with the Export Promotion Agency occupying the top floor and the Tourist Board occupying the bottom floor, and we have to build for the Ministry of Civil Aviation to move from Bay Street – that space is also needed by the Defence and Security Division – so that some building will have to take place. As soon as the plans are finished and the architects of the Ministry of Communications and Works are working on them – we will then come to Parliament for the specific amount required. We have in fact increased the provision considerably under this Head to indulge in a greater building programme this year.

I therefore beg to move that the sum of $4,600,001 under Head 112 – Ministry of Caribbean Affairs, External Trade and Industry – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to second that.
11.20 a.m.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I am sure that both you and I are very pleased to hear the Hon. Minister speak of provision in this year's Capital Estimates for the construction of an industrial estate in St. George. He says investigation, but I hope that this investigation will be productive. Successive Governments have always relegated the parish of St. George to a very low position when it comes to capital projects, and as the Minister knows only too well, that hundreds of young women leave St. George daily and move across to the industrial estates of Newton and other parts of Christ Church, and indeed the industrial estates in the City, and we have been wondering for a very long time why it is that with the vast amount of land space in St. George we have not been getting the necessary development. This is particularly a matter of some concern to me, because St. George seems to give so much and get so little in return.

I will have a lot more to say about it when the Minister of Communications and Works introduces his Head, which I believe is the next one, but I am hopeful and I will let the Hon. Minister know now that although we are going to agree generally with the policy of this Government that I am not going to be keeping very quiet when it comes to the continuing social neglect of St. George. I welcome the news that they are investigating St. George, and we are hoping that they will construct an industrial estate in that constituency, yours and mine, some time before the next financial year.

Mr. TAITT: I would like to make one input here, Mr. Chairman. I would have thought myself that such industrial development in that part of the country would flow out of at least one of the two cities which we expect to see during the next two years.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I think I had better explain a few things. We have been saying from 1966 that we believe in the concept of decentralisation of economic activity in Barbados, and we have identified as long ago as 1966 three areas, one is in the north, one is in the centre, in St. George, and one is at Oistin. We have been working from the time we entered Government to push ahead with the execution of this concept, and we have done a lot of preliminary work. As I said when I opened that the one on the north with the pre-existing infrastructure is such that that can go faster. We have done investigations in St. George and two things we came up against. One is that there is a large area of Glebe land, a lot of the land around where the proposed town centre would be consists of Glebe land and you, Mr. Chairman, and the hon. member for St. George South would know, the Church is doing a re-development of its own land there and they have hired architects and planners, they have produced a preliminary plan, it can only go through with the total support of the Government, they have had preliminary discussions with the Ministry of Lands, with my Ministry, with the Ministry of Education, I believe. We have seen the preliminary plans and it will need help from the Town Planning Office and it would need help under the Tenantry Act so as to relocate it in a convenient place. This is the Ministry of the Attorney General, and we have told the Bishop that we regard the development of St. George as a town centre and an industrial centre in St. George as the utmost priority, and we have given him the assurance that provided the plan is such that the people are consulted and that the people's interest and their livelihood are not affected and that there will be an improvement in the physical facilities and living conditions of the people, that we will do everything in our power to facilitate it.

Again, our investigations have revealed that in St. George there are other constraints, one of which is water. You cannot have an industrial centre unless you have adequate water, and if you look in the Estimates under MCW you will find that there is a large sum voted for the further development of pipelines for water

so that we can iron out the bottle necks of water supply, so these things have to go hand in hand. I believe the Attorney General's Office is working in its capacity as the Ministry in relation to law and order on the provision of an adequate station for the Police in the centre of St. George in the same area, because the one at Boarded Hall, I believe the suggestion is since it overlooks the total St. George valley, which is the most productive area of the land, that you need a fire station in that area, because that is the best area from the vantage point of proximity and things of that kind. We know we need a court, we know we need a town centre, we know we need a police station, the Ministry of Health is working on the Health Centre, the Church is working upon the realignment around St. George's Church with some 716 acres of land, and we have identified and looked at these areas, so all these things are like a jigsaw puzzle which is being fitted together, and we will move as fast as we can on it.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I would merely caution the Hon. Minister in his Government's communications to the Bishop on what is to happen on lands owned by the Church, for I happen to be a member of that Parliament as well, and the Bishop is not authorised to go speaking on behalf of the Synod. I cannot recall seeing any plans or any of these matters, I would merely caution the Government that they may find that when it comes to the Synod to make certain decisions it may be a different result.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am very pleased to hear the home drum beating, even though I am not beating it myself.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: As far as we are concerned, we deal with the Church as a developer and they have to clear their own internal decision making authority. I just wanted to make it clear that we are in favour of anybody doing a redevelopment scheme and any aid that is needed from Government will be granted.

The question that the sum of $4,600,001 under Capital Expenditure – Head 112 – Ministry of Caribbean Affairs, External Trade and Industry – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

MINISTRY OF CARIBBEAN AFFAIRS, EXTERNAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY

HEAD 13(1) – CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM DIVISION

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, in reviewing this Head, and in moving that Head 13(1) stand part, I think I am in a position to state that this year this Division has performed very competently and very well, and Barbados enjoyed one of its best tourist years in the last calendar year. I have some figures for hon. members, and from the point of view of numbers arriving in Barbados, the situation is that last year we had 269,413 long stay visitors, excluding cruise ship passengers, and one can compare that with the calendar year previously of 224,314, making a new increase of 20.1%

11.30 a.m.

A significant development in this respect is that in respect of the countries of origin the largest increase was from Europe. European visitors rose from 16,784 in 1976 to 22,870 in 1977, an increase of 36.3%. Other areas of significant growth were Venezuela with an increase of 35%, the French West Indies 77.8% and the Commonwealth Caribbean 28.3% and the United States 28.6%. With respect to the French West Indies hon. members will recall that last year I told the House that we have begun, as a result of discussions with the Martinique Air Transport Company, to run a Schedule service to Barbados. With this arrangement people from Barbados are also able to spend time in Martinique. This year prospects are very good but I must inform hon. members that there is increasing evidence that our growth has been effected by a number of factors beyond our control. One is the strike by BWIA which is now beginning to have its effect on the availability of seats, especially from those destinations which BWIA serves and which do not have a designated airline from the country of origin and for which we do not have alternative carriers. This has seriously affected flights to Barbados from the Southern parts of America as Eastern Airlines does not have rights from Miami to Barbados; they have rights from San Juan and St. Croix but cannot fly direct from Miami to Barbados; BWIA is the only authorized carrier with rights from Miami to Barbados. We have been trying our best in communications with the relevant authority to solve the situation. I hope hon. members will not question this as negotiations are still going on between the Government of Barbados and our counterparts in Trinidad regarding a solution to the problem – but there is no doubt that we have been affected *vis-a-vis* the southern part of the United States. In January this year we had an 8.5% increase in estimated long term visitors; in February the increase was 14.9% over last year but unfortunately it is my opinion that from preliminary information coming from the hotels in March the situation is not going to be as rosy because of this constraint. The situation is also being affected by the fact that Easter time is the period when some areas of the Commonwealth Caribbean provide us with large numbers of visitors, but the plane capacity as such that although we are taxing our brains how to get people from Trinidad here at Easter, we have not arrived at a position where we can say we have succeeded.

Steamship passengers have also shown a good growth last year, and what is significant to Government is that we can say that the contribution tax wise has also grown considerably. It is estimated that tax receipts based upon actual figures supplied by the Inland Revenue Department from restaurant sales in 1976 amounted to $4,006,756. In 1977 the amount was $4,868,481, that is if you assume the tax was at 5% throughout the year. That was an increase of $861,725, or a percentage increase of 21.5. I want to draw the attention of hon. members to this fact because that figure bears a statistical relationship to the increase in visitors. The collection of hotel and restaurant tax for this financial year was $6,092,248, so that the contribution from tourism to direct taxes in the last year was of the order of $6 million. We hope in this coming year to do even better, for after all, the demands of tourism on government services are increasing. There are calls for increased sanitation, for instance, and the taxpayers of Barbados cannot be expected to bear the extra burden, and so some of it must fall on the tourist industry itself; in other words, services must derive their revenue from the industry.

I am now in a position to state that that part of the grant from European development fund for tourism promotion will be supplemented by the sum of $200,000 for a study of the demand in Europe for tourism to Barbados and we are now arranging for the services of a consultant. If any hon. member wants to offer his services I can indicate to the successful consultants that we have people here capable of contributing some input. I am suggesting to the overseas people that we make use of consultants in the area. I feel it would add to the quality of the report since it is not to be expected that people can come here for two or three weeks and get a real feel of what Government thinks and intends to do in the field of tourism in the context of our manpower resources.
11.40 a.m.

Hon. members must agree that the best people who can provide for that would be people who have had actual experience in implementation. Now, we are also in a position to state that through IRDC – International Research and Development Corporation of Canada, we have received a grant of $50,000(U.S.) – $105,000 or $106,000 – to do a sub project which would identify by a conference that met here under the auspices of the Caribbean Tourism Research Centre last year, a sub project on the impact study of tourism in Barbados. Thus, the study will look at tourism and try to measure accurately its financial contribution to the economy, its integration with agricultural and industrial development, its contribution to taxation and things of that kind. In that study we have been able to get an agreement with private consultants. There is a private consultancy firm here which has been identified to do a part. The Institute of Social and Economic Research will be doing part. Part will be done by the Planning Unit in the Ministry. All of these things will be put together and a Report will be done.

So we have looked at – I say that because of comments made by hon. members that enough provision was not made for tourism this year. What we must remember is that in addition to the money we have given in these Estimates, there are two additional sources of money which will be spent in this calendar year, but they do not have to be voted in the Estimates. So that is an additional $300,000. In the Ministry and at the Import Licensing Review Committee we are seriously concerned about whether there is a leakage in foreign exchange earnings in the Tourist Industry. The impact study will address itself specifically to that. You will have to convince the Central Bank that there is one. *(Asides.)* All right. Hon. members can be assured that in the Import Licencing Review Committee we are addressing our minds to that problem.

We are well aware of the contributions that the tour operators make and there percentage of that market. We have been analysing that. We are making our study, and this body – ISER – and the other consultants will address their mind specifically to that and to the question of the contribution of the duty free goods scheme and whether our existing Customs rules and regulations obstruct or do not obstruct the duty free trade.

All of this we are well aware of, and in this financial year we should be able to get a Comprehensive Report. I should say in this respect that part of the consultancy service will also be provided by BIMAP. BIMAP has been identified as one of the consultants. So that those are the relevant matters that I wanted to speak on in respect of this Head.

Now, in respect of Aviation, I am happy to report that the Aviation Department has had a good year. Hon. members will know that we have been having a considerable amount of the dramatic negotiations together with the Ministry of External Affairs, and we have succeeded in obtaining permission to land in the U.S.A. We have been working on bilateral negotiations with Canada which had broken down. We are working also on a constant monitor of the air fares all over areas which are regarded as competitive with Barbados. One of the most significant developments that has taken place in the aviation field this year has been the collapse of the IATA price fixing machinery on the North Atlantic run. As a result of that we have had to take steps in Barbados to ensure that the fares which people have to pay from the U.S.A., particularly from New York and Boston and those areas to Barbados

remain competitive with the fares they pay into Europe; because if the differential was so great Barbados would be exposed to the possibility of people diverting their holiday. This is particularly relevant, not only in the winter time, but also in the summer time. We are also going to be having discussions with the German Government this year and the question of an agreement with Germany. We will also have discussions with Nigeria. So that we have an on-going and continuous programme of work with respect to air fares and negotiations. In this Head there are a number of amendments which I have circulated, and I beg to move that this Head stand part as amended.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to second the amendment. In seconding the amendment, I should wish to congratulate the Minister and his Ministry on the performance of this part of his Ministry during the past year. I would like to say Mr. Chairman, that I find that this division is very efficiently run. My Ministry has been in very close contact with Civil Aviation Division and the Tourism Division throughout the whole year, and I have had an opportunity of seeing the quick responses and the elaborate amount of work which this Ministry undertakes.

I think that the Minister is a man of few words and of great modesty and that is why perhaps he has not belaboured the success which his Ministry has had in negotiating with the USA and particularly with the Civil Aviation Authority Board – CAB – for the admission of ICA flights into Washington and Boston. I think that I ought to emphasise this aspect of the Ministry's success. You will recall, Sir, that in 1975 and 1976 an impasse was reached between the then Government and the US Government over this issue. Indeed, it seemed at one time as though no effort was too great in order to get the negotiations going; but with patience, with re-organisation, with diplomatic initiative and with hard work we have persuaded the USA Government that there is no reason why ICA should be treated no differently from other carriers in developing countries; and to that extent I wish to congratulate the Minister on the success of his Ministry in this regard.
11.50 a.m.

Sir, I believe that the opening of negotiations with Air Nigeria will be a significant filip for communications between ourselves and the Continent of Africa and will certainly give a great deal of substance to the foreign policy initiatives which we are now pursuing in relation to the African Continent. I know that the Nigerian Government sets a great store on the deepening of relationships between our two countries and we in turn set a great store on the conclusion of an Air Service Agreement with Nigeria and a maximisation of the relationship between Nigeria and the rest of Africa and Barbados in particular. There seems to me a spirit of goodwill on both sides, and I am hopeful that the officials will be able shortly to conclude a successful arrangement. I should say to the Committee that it will also enable us to trade more with Brazil because I rather believe that the flight will take in Brazil, Barbados, maybe Jamaica and Miami, and Nigeria, and to this extent opportunities will be offered for our business sector to get our goods exported into Nigeria, and also to our importers to look for alternative sources of supply from both Brazil and indeed Nigeria.

I wish to emphasise these two points, although I see a little impatience by the hon. member for St. Michael South West to get his piece in; but I want to emphasise this point once again to underscore the coordination between foreign policy and domestic policy which is so vital if the Government's total impact on affairs must be given a full run, and we see these moves as part of the total Government policy in this regard.

Sir, it is not often that one wants to praise or name people in a laudatory manner in this House, but I must say that I read yesterday of the secondment of the Permanent Secretary from this division to another post. He has performed extremely well in this department and I am sure that he goes to LIAT with our blessing and will do a lot to move it from its tottering position and put it on its feet as part of the regional carrier of this area. I should wish publicly to acknowledge the assistance which certainly from foreign affairs point of view we have had from his guidance and contribution on matters of aviation, and if I may say so as well in the Coordination Committee on foreign policy. I think he has served Barbados well in this regard.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Just one piece of information before we go on. I should have given it originally. Now hon. members may recall that last year while we were in Opposition we took a certain stand in relation to the maintenance contract at the airport with respect to the cost thereof. We have done our cost analysis of the maintenance of the equipment with the contractor and we have been able to reduce the cost of the contract by approximately $300,000 a year, and I think hon. members would agree with me that this is the sort of exercise which should be carried through in all of the Ministries, that periodically one should have a review of the services which are provided by contractors to Government to see whether the original charges can be justified in the light of the services that are contracted to be provided, and we intend to do this. We have got to learn to be cost conscious in our Government budgeting, and I believe that there is scope in other Ministries for a similar type of approach. That was the additional information I wanted to give.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I would not have to speak too much on this particular Head. First of all I would like to join with the Hon. Attorney General in praise of the work done by the gentleman referred to whom we understand is going off to work for LIAT. The Attorney General said he would be seconded and the newspapers seem to suggest that he is in fact leaving. The Minister assures me *sotto voce* that he will be seconded. I think that his going to LIAT will be good for LIAT and it is not often realised that Barbados is a part owner of LIAT 1974, so that he will be able to continue the good work which he has always shown certainly during the time I had the honour to be in the Government.

The Civil Aviation division has functioned in such a way that I think it is almost a *non sequiter* for either side to claim credit for what has happened in negotiations. I could not understand what the Attorney General was talking about the impasse with the Americans because the same persons who were negotiating for the Government then no doubt were negotiating for the Government now, and if there was some impasse it would have been because the Americans were either being intransigent or could not have accepted a point which was valid. I do not wish to get involved in any controversy on that.

I should like in the area of Civil Aviation however to ask the Minister whether he can confirm or deny that the Government is giving serious consideration to or has decided on the purchase of a huge aeroplane to supplement the fleet of Carib West. I do not know what the facts are, but I have been given to understand from fairly reliable sources that persons connected with the Government have been making statements to the effect that Government is purchasing a jet. In this era of constraint I am sure if the Government is buying an aeroplane that the Minister would be able to give this House good and sufficient reason why. I am not sure I wish to deal with the other matters under this Head. I think I will wait for tourism before I go on, but I do hope the Minister will shed some light for me on this question of the purchase of a jet. If we are purchasing a jet, how much is it going to cost, will it be $19 million like the one they bought in Trinidad, or in these days will it be more? Is it a secondhand jet? Is it really a jet or is it an Electra 225? What is it? I would like to hear from the Hon. Minister.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, just one point on this Head. The Minister in introducing Head 13(1) dealt generally speaking with Civil Aviation and Tourism, and I just want to direct the attention of this Chamber for a moment to tourism. Now Barbados has been making a tremendous financial contribution towards the development of the tourist sector in this country. When one considers the amount of promotion which has been involved over the years, one must recognise that the contribution has been a great one. I think on the other hand one has to look now at the kind of contribution which the tourist industry has made towards Barbados. The contribution is seen primarily, I suppose, in jobs which are made available to people because it is generally speaking, a labour intensive kind of activity, and secondly one must recognise also that it makes a contribution as far as providing opportunities for people who are involved in the handicrafts and in certain aspects of agriculture to be able to benefit from it. But, Mr. Chairman, I would like to address the attention of this Honourable House to a very important area which in my view has been neglected.

12.00 noon

I would like to address the attention of this Hon. House to a very important area which in my view has been neglected, and I am suggesting that those people who are in the tourist business – and I believe that the Chairman of the Tourist Board, the hon. member for Christ Church North Central, cannot deny this – that the tourist industry as an industry has not really been making the kind of contribution to community development that one would expect of an industry which has been able to get so much out of public funds to get it to the kind of level that it has been designed to achieve in this country. I think, Mr. Chairman, that we have to look at this very seriously because when one examines the profits that are made in this particular area, and one heard last week the Minister of Tourism expressing his dissatisfaction with the returns from the Hilton Hotel, and if that is an indication of the level of profits which are operating in this community, then it is my considered opinion that we have to be able to, if needs be, pressurise the tourist sector into making a meaningful contribution towards the development of the community, apart of course from the two or three areas that I have identified.

I hope the Minister will be able to make some contribution on it, and I am sure the member for Christ Church North Central who himself is a hotelier might want to take the lead in this particular regard.

The other aspect of this relative to contribution has to do with the work permits. It is true that there is an agreement between the Union which negotiates on behalf of the hotel workers, the Barbados Workers' Union, and the Hotel Association which, generally speaking, covers working conditions, wages and what have you, but I would want to draw the attention of the Hon. House to what appears to be an insensitivity and lack of the human approach as far as a number of people who are involved in the tourist industry are concerned towards the workers, and again I think that there is need to call for a more human and a more realistic approach in this particular regard.

I recall some time ago mentioning that the industry is established enough now that when we think in terms of

providing the kind of facilities, for example, the question of transportation for the worker after eight hours, I made mention of the establishment of a proper pension scheme for people who are involved in industry and who made contributions to the industry over a long period of time, bearing in mind of course that the Government has indicated that it intends to step up the national pension scheme, but this is a matter which the Democratic Labour Party Government had indicated some time ago, but I think when one looks at this one must wonder when this is going to come about, and in the meantime there are a number of people who have reached retiring age and who will have to rely on the National Insurance pension, which we all know cannot really keep them at a certain level. Only last week there were a whole set of items which went up in price, and I think we have to look at this and to impress upon the hoteliers and those people who are involved in the tourist industry that public funds are to develop their business and make the kind of profits they are making, and it is their bounden duty to make some return, show some concern to the community, show they are operating. I think that if this is done we would be in a much better position and certainly the tourist industry would have kind of developed in the way it should develop where people to a large extent feel part of the tourist industry and the tourist industry will become integrated as part of this society.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman, I really did not have any mind to speak on this Head, I was going to speak a little later when the Head dealing with the Barbados Board of Tourism comes up, but since the hon. member for St. Lucy has made a suggestion that I should contribute something to what tourism has done for Barbados, I will say a few things that come readily to mind.

There are so many spheres in which tourism has contributed to the economy of Barbados and the society as a whole, that I can mention a few. For instance, the balance of payments, the employment of labour, as the hon. member has said himself. Let us look for instance, Mr. Chairman, at the airport. We are now building a new terminal building, there would be absolutely no need for a new terminal building if we did not have a tourist industry in Barbados. Let us take another simple thing. Barbadians can get any part of the world very quickly. If we were not in the tourist industry we would not have as many flights coming into Barbados as we do, because the tourist industry has incorporated a number of international flights that come to this island. Let us take agriculture, for instance. I am sure that the hon. member knows that the tourist industry as an industry would obviously use more milk products than any other industry in Barbados. The whole dairy industry would be half the size of what it is now if it were not for the tourist industry. The hotels use a tremendous amount of milk.

Let us take for instance the bonus received on liquor, the amount of rum, of beer, of soft drinks sold in the tourist industry. This is making an impact on the revenue of the Government, and I would like to say too, Mr. Chairman, that the tourist industry is an interesting industry in that it does not provide the population either in the way of noise or anything else that some other industries do. It is a pleasant industry, it is an industry that you find people at their best. You will have a shipyard, but that is a very noisy industry, as well as a dirty one; you have the oil industry which pollutes the water surrounding the country, we do not have that here to any great extent, but there are many aspects of the tourist industry that contribute to Barbados.

Since the hon. member called for answers, I will ask him to give some. What contributions has the tourist industry made to the upkeep of the Barbados Workers' Union? I am waiting to hear from him in a few minutes, Mr. Chairman, but of course he may not want to reveal these figures, but he should tell us exactly how much money he received. Anyhow, the Minister himself has just referred to the fact that the 5% hotel sales tax has yielded $8 million. That is a remarkable sum.
12.10 p.m.

This is a remarkable sum. Another point that is very important is that the hon. member for St. John once said on television that nobody in Barbados could determine where a tourist dollar goes; in other words, he meant to say that a dollar spent by a tourist in Barbados goes to agriculture or to labour or wherever. A great deal goes to caddies; a great deal goes to taxis, to skiing, to gambling and many different spheres; nobody can say how much goes to this or that. What goes as tax through customs duties is very interesting. For instance, the importation of wines into Barbados is colossal figure; but before the tourist industry I never saw a bottle of wine in my house; my father would drink a rum snap. It would be interesting to know what is the revenue derived from the importation of certain commodities for the tourist industry.

So I hope these few remarks would help the hon. member for St. Lucy, and I would like to hear from him at some time what the tourist industry contributes to the Barbados Workers Union, and then we will know the facts of life, for I am sure that the workers in the hotel industry contribute a very large share of the funds of the union.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, it is because of the lack of precision and the disagreement among various experts and the contribution of tourism to the economy of a country that the parameters of the study referred to are as follows. The measurement of direct and indirect employment generated by employment, and understanding of the linkages between the tourist industry and other sectors of the economy, and the estimated economic benefit in terms of net foreign exchange

earnings – these are the parameters of the study which the International Research Development Company of Canada is financing, and that study should be finished by next year. I have already said that I am not interested in a study which is going to take three years to produce and two years to write up; I want something by the next financial year. *(ASIDES)* I have listened to both speakers and I am convinced of the need for the study, because neither of the speakers has produced any data to back up the statements they have made or the criticisms they have levied.

Mr. TAITT: If the hon. member would give way, do I understand the Minister to say that the Chairman of his Board has imprecise information? I have heard it said that the Chairman does not know what he is doing but it is the first time I have heard a Minister say that the Chairman of one of his Boards does not know.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member's intervention has contributed nothing, because it is a known fact that the lack of precise information is a problem that has been identified by all people who have given thought to this matter, and the point I was making is that the hon. member for St. Lucy made the point that there was not a sufficient contribution and the hon. member for Christ Church North Central stated areas which in his opinion there was contribution. I do not see the point of the hon. member trying to get a little political mileage by attempting to wrench my statement out of its context. I have every confidence in the hon. member for Christ Church North Central as Chairman of the Board of Tourism.

On the question of planes. The Government of Barbados is an 80% shareholder in Carib West Airways. Carib West Airways is run by a Board of Directors. I am pleased to say that my understanding of the financial situation of Carib West is that it has improved over the past years under its new management. The accounts are now being processed by the Auditor General and on completion of the audit I will bring the account to this Honourable House. I do not know of any plans for purchasing a jet, but I know that the management of Carib West is concerned about the cost of the lease arrangements they have with the existing operator. But they are carrying out an exercise on cost benefit analysis of purchasing vis-a-vis the basis of wet or partly wet lease, I will regard this as a normal managerial function. If as a result of that exercise the rumour has got around that they are buying a plane, this only shows how in this community rumour seems to be the dominant factor in forming opinion. But in any event, if Carib West was buying an aeroplane, it would have to be guaranteed by the Government and one thing I can assure this Honourable House that the Government will not be incurring any liabilities of guarantee without coming to this Honourable House and getting the approval of Parliament. We will not be giving any guarantees to any concern without reference to the House of Assembly, as we do not believe it is proper to do otherwise.

The question that the sum of $3,020,054 under Head 13(1) – Civil Aviation and Tourism Division – as amended stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 13(2) – TOURISM

Head 13(2) – Tourism – was called.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I do not think that I have to say very much on this Head. I would just like to draw to attention that there is an increase in the amount and to this we must add another $300,000, so that in effect we will be spending on tourism promotion this year $4,300,000 odd dollars. I am sorry that we cannot spend more, but how can we in the context of present revenue? What I would ask the Board of Tourism to do is to make an evaluation of its existing exercise to see whether there may not be some areas of saving.
12.20 p.m.

When you do not have money you have to look for cost savings areas, and we have really increased. I am very pleased with the operation of the Board in the last year in the opening of their agency in the South of the United States of America. I can assure hon. members on this side that after consultation with the Board we have been able to identify a Barbadian for not only the manager's post in Frankfurt, Germany, but we have already managed to recruit a Barbadian who was in the British Army in the capacity of sales representative. He is functioning and I am very satisfied with the work that he is doing; and we will be now seconding someone from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to head the Office in Germany, because I think that it is clear now that in a small country like this, it is good periodically for your overseas officers in particular specialties to get a little experience in other matters; and the person we have identified is a person who has a great facility for language. As I said, he has a German skill, and I look forward this year to an expansion of the area of our operations in Germany.

I regret that we cannot give any more money for advertising at the present moment. It is my opinion that there will be areas within the Tourist Board in which some savings can take place, and with the additional reserves that we have, maybe by next year after these studies are finished we can look at it and adopt a spending programme based upon the information we have gathered as a result of these two studies.

I beg to move that Head 13(2) stand part.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman, in seconding the motion, I would like to make a few remarks about the Board of

Tourism. I suppose, Mr. Chairman, that the Board can be viewed as a marketing agency for the Government with its flexibility to be able to go into certain circumstances quickly and remedy matters etc. As far as Barbados as a Tourist resort is concerned I think that the people of Barbados can be proud of the fact that we have got a product to sell. It has always been a good product, but interestingly enough it continues to be a better product. I say that because with certain areas in the world having political troubles and in certain disregard for tourists Barbados is shining out as one of the favourite places where people can come and spend their holidays, and be relaxed. The situation is that it is not only to go to a resort and have a good room and good food. I think that the tourists want to go to a place where they can feel happy, feel wanted and feel secure. That is the simple feature about Barbados, and whenever I go travelling on behalf of the Board people will constantly refer to how happy and how welcome they feel in Barbados. I do not feel that we should be complacent about this, but we should keep monitoring it and make sure that our people in Barbados continue to extend the hospitality they now extend to visitors to Barbados.

I think that the Barbadian should be very proud of his country. We really have a lovely place to live in; and therefore we should allow visitors to enjoy our shores and encourage their return. As the Minister has said, there are areas where savings can be made. This is always a good suggestion whether it is in a private business or in a big Government Department. You can accumulate expenses which, with a little reorganisation, can be eliminated; but, Mr. Chairman, most expenses of the Board is in marketing, promotion and advertising. Members of Parliament will no doubt hear from Barbadians who come back from overseas that they do not hear enough about Barbados. The truth is that we in Barbados have limited resources, and therefore there is this limited amount that the Government of Barbados will give to the Board to advertise Barbados.

One of the biggest criticisms from Barbadians overseas is they never see Barbados advertise on television. The truth is that we cannot afford to advertise on televison in the big cities of the world. There is always a criticism about any organisation which advertises, because there are literally thousands of periodicals and newspapers and all kinds of promotion that have proposed to the Board. There are all kinds of advertising agents. There are numerous magazines, numerous newspapers, window displays and that kind of thing. Airlines can approach you and ask you to join them dollar for dollar in advertising schemes. Tour operators ask you to do the same thing. The Board has limited funds. Someone will say we should not advertise in this magazine because it does not get to the people whom you want to attract to Barbados. Advertising hours.

In all sincerity our Marketing Department has done a good job in trying their best to advertise with our limited resources in all of the various periodicals and avenues which we think are the best to get to the consumer. There are two types of advertising. There is advertising to the consumer and advertising to the trade; and if hon. members hear people being critical of the Board in its advertising policy, it simply is that there are 1,000 different ways to advertise, and it is impossible for the Board to go into all. We advertise in New York and we advertise in Toronto. We get complaints that we do not put enough into this newspaper or that we put too much into that. It is simply that the Barbados Board of Tourism does not have the funds to go into all of this, and they do their best with what funds they have. Furthermore, there is no complaint from the Board about what the Government is giving us by way of a grant for the simple reason that we realise the circumstances existing in Barbados; and we will make do with what we can get.

However, I must draw to the attention of the authorities that there is a continuous cry from the hoteliers in Barbados that we are expanding too rapidly in the Tourist Industry. They feel, and you can understand it, that when we build too many hotels it will affect them because their occupancy rate is going to drop; but the hoteliers must learn to understand that the Government must find work for people at all levels. We cannot stop the construction of hotels, although the Government should keep monitoring it and controlling it as the Minister certainly does; but we have to continue to build hotels, and the Heywoods project, in my opinion, is very important and we have got to go through with it.

The Government must realise that if we are going to have more rooms, more beds, we have to step up our selling. You cannot go ahead and build a number of hotels with a lot of rooms unless the Board is granted more money to sell these rooms. Lest someone misunderstand what I am saying, the Board initiates a tour, but the hoteliers pay their way, and also the hoteliers distribute more literature than the Board does. So in fact the hoteliers carry their full brunt on overseas tours because they distribute expensive brochures while the Board distributes some as well. So, if the Board initiates a tour overseas, it is not the Board which is carrying all the expenses. We only take the lead, and the hoteliers go ahead with their rate sheets and their brochures and do their selling.
12.30 p.m.

The hoteliers are also involved in that way, so for anyone to think that the Board takes all the responsibility and all the cost of a tour is not correct. In fact, when it comes to planned trips as referred to

when travel agents are brought into Barbados, the hotels carry the majority of expense because the Barbados Tourist Board has not got any rooms to put people in, so when we initiate bringing them here, the airlines bring them free and the hotels have to put them up and the hotels have to feed them. So the hotel industry does play its part in promoting Barbados. I want this point to be understood very carefully and I would like the Minister to bear it in mind so that when it comes up at Cabinet the point can be emphasised. If you are going to build more rooms you have to sell them. It is a simple calculation.

Mr. Chairman, there is no produce in the world better known than Coco Cola; there is no point in even debating it, but Coco Cola does not cease to advertise their product, and therefore Barbados cannot be negligent. I have already said that we have a good product, we have good reason to be proud of it. Right around the world people speak well of it, but we cannot say we have a good product and people will automatically come to Barbados. When I was in the commercial world I used to sell the best refrigerator built, and it was a Frigidaire. I opened my own company with an inferior refrigerator and I sold to the same people I was selling the first one to. I am emphasising the point of selling. We can get countries with an inferior product to Barbados that can take away our business if we are negligent in our selling. *(Asides).*

You know, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for St. Michael South West, the former Minister of Trade, earlier today spoke of how high the debate was as against last Friday. He is the first person to have lowered it down this morning by twisting the remarks made by the Minister of Tourism and then saying that he hears I do not know what I am doing. I want the hon. member to know that he cannot go any lower than me. If he wants to go in the gutter I can go right down there and I know more about him than he knows about me. In fact, my life is an open book, so when he starts to go deep down I will go down there with him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: But not in here.

Mr. WARD: I will not go down if he does not go down; but, Mr. Chairman, if he is going down, we are going down together.

In any event, Mr. Chairman, the point is that the Board of Tourism will continue to market the island to the best of its ability. As I said, if we are to sell more hotel rooms and be able to profit, we will have to have more money, but there is no complaint about what we now have.

There is also another point which I wish to speak further on under another Head when it comes up. If we are going to develop the northern parishes in tourism, namely, Heywoods, we have got to improve our highway construction from the airport to the northern parishes. All is now being funnelled on to Highway I and it is causing traffic congestion in that area. You cannot expect to bring tourists from Europe here, taking some eight hours, and then take one and a half hours to get to Heywoods in St. Peter. I just mention these points because tourism is a very balanced affair. If you do one thing you have got to do something else to balance it. I make these few remarks in relation to the Board of Tourism and trust it will satisfy hon. members.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, just a few words on this particular Head. I am not surprise that there is this difference between the Minister responsible for Tourism and the Chairman of the Tourist Board on this question of the funds provided for the Tourist Board. The Tourist Board is asking for more money and the Minister is saying you cannot get any more money.....

Mr. WARD: Sir, if the hon. member would give way, would the hon. member say where he heard me ask for more funds? I have certainly not mentioned it. I am talking about funds for the future after the Heywoods project is built; I am not referring to anything at the present time.

Mr. SANDIFORD: It is known that the funds requested by the Tourist Board have been pruned. I am saying that the Tourist Board asked for more money and the procedures within Government led by the Minister have determined that you cannot get the amount you asked for, and the Minister said as much, that you should evaluate what you are doing; and you yourself have got up and said that you need more money to promote especially if you are building more hotels. There is a difference and I do not mind how much you try to plaster it over. I am not surprised that you get this difference between the Minister and the Board through the Chairman of Tourism, one from the front bench and the other from the back bench.

Mr. Chairman, part of the problem is of course that this Minister, able as he is, and I am saying that he is an able Minister, obviously has too much to do, and I am telling him that it is from the structure of Government. Our superman here, he is Minister of External Trade, and you have to get some relationship between external trade and internal trade, so he has to have some knowledge of what is going on in internal trade because internal impinges on external trade; he is Minister responsible for Civil Aviation and that also has its repercussions in the field of external affairs as does external trade; but he is Minister of External Trade, he

is Minister responsible for Civil Aviation, he is Minister responsible for tourism and there are a lot of other things like industrial development. In addition to that he is Deputy Prime Minister which means that as far as Government is concerned he is Leader of the Government. In addition to that he is not only Minister of Tourism but Minister of tours as well, all of these things rolled into one.

I am not sure he is Deputy Leader of the Party. I think his Leader ensured that that would never happen long ago; but as far as that is concerned, it is clear there is too much on the plate of this particular Minister and it goes back to the structure of Government, and he is getting it on all sides, because it is clear that he cannot devote the amount of time either to civil aviation or to tourism or to external trade or to industrial development, or dare I say to leading this House. He cannot split himself in all these ways unless he has support staff. He can do it if there is the necessary support staff, but that is not there because he has come up against a restraint to satisfy external lending agencies from which Government is seeking support that the public service cannot be expanded. I appreciate his difficulties and when the Chairman has to stop and explain carefully to the Minister and beg him in here that when he goes to Cabinet not to forget to put a particular point of view, I understand what the problem is. He is an able Minister and I know that he has some problems. How he is going to deal with that, I do not know. In fact he himself knows that in spite of his brave words here today that he has a problem with the Board of Tourism as well. We have listened to certain programmes on Night Ride and all other types of rides which we have heard on television, and he has had some problems, and how these Ministers restrain the back bench Chairman I do not know. He has the problems and he can deal with them.
12.40 p.m.

When he has to go from one particular place, industrial development down on the harbour, and then Civil Aviation in Bay Street, and then something else, he is not only touring overseas but he is doing a lot of internal touring as well, and I would only like to say that as far as this Government is concerned with all its checks and balances a certain amount of expenditure is still involved, because the Minister is jammed in on all sides by the Minister for Internal Trade. Under Caribbean Affairs, the trading aspects of Caribbean Relations, he is hemmed in again by the Minister for External Relations. Whatever you do you find him hemmed in on all sides, and this net that is around him is there to ensure that never again.....

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, if the hon. member will give way, I am not sure the hon. member is speaking on the Head, but he obviously after several years as a Cabinet member, and as a student of Government, I would hardly expect the hon. member to make any sort of statement that because one Minister may be dealing with one aspect of the subject it means that he is hemmed in by another Minister who is dealing with another aspect of the subject. The hon. member must understand co-ordination of Government, he must understand that there is no such thing as compartmentalisation in Government, he must understand that the Minister is a capable Minister, so what is he complaining about? I never heard the hon. member giving this lecture to the former Prime Minister who had so many Ministries that he had to run back to recharge his batteries, he was so worn out. We are performing quite well, so why the concern?

Mr. SANDIFORD: I will tell you why the concern. I want to see tourism and industrial development and external trade and all the responsibility around them given adequate attention so that they can play their full part in the development of this country. It is concern for national development, it has nothing to do with the competence of the Minister. I recognise that he has become a competent Minister, but even now he is being hemmed in by the Minister of External Affairs, the member for Christ Church West, even now he would not allow the Minister to answer for himself.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order. Let the hon. member specify what is the hemming in he is talking about. What they are trying to do is to create dissention in Cabinet, but it will never happen. Now that the member for St. John is here, let him proceed to give a lecture on which Minister has too many subjects and use the position of the hon. member for St. John, as the former Prime Minister, as an illustration. Let us look at the fact that he had 27 subjects to deal with when he was there. Let him look at that fact and say whether or not he thought that prevented the economic development of Barbados at the time.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I would just like to tell the member for Christ Church West that I am not hemmed in by anybody, but my concern is with the tourism portfolio, we want to see it as one of the economic sectors of the Government. The Chairman is asking for more money and he is asking for consideration of a lot of things, and I am hoping that the Minister would get sufficient time to devote attention to this particular area. While I am on this subject, I wonder if either the Minister or the Chairman responsible could tell me whether there was any problem in the printing of brochures for the Board of Tourism's promotion drive, whether there has been any difficulty between the Board and the overseas persons who produced these brochures. I am wondering if I could get some information on this.

Mr. WARD: Quite frankly, Mr. Chairman, I do not know what the hon. member is speaking of. Perhaps he could give us more information.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, my contribution to this debate will be relatively short, but before I begin let me say to the hon. member for Christ Church North Central that I have no intention of going anywhere with him for the Government, and as far as knowing things about me, everybody knows about me, so that is nothing new.

On this question of tourism, I am a little concerned and I will question the Minister about the development of new hotels with less than 24 rooms. I am sure the Hon. Minister will know about this. Most of our small hotels cost in the region of $40,000 per room, and we are talking of half million dollars for a 10 room hotel, and a million for a 25 room hotel. The whole point is that the more rooms and the bigger the hotel you encourage, the more small Barbadian development you squeeze out. One can only borrow so much money, and when we had responsibility for the Government we had a policy that no hotel of less than 25 rooms could obtain the benefit of the Hotel Aids Act unless it had a 51% Bajan shareholding.
12.50 p.m.

We wanted to keep small property ownership for local entrepreneurs and the only reason we did not plan to ban ownership of small hotels by foreigners altogether was that in case a local owner wanted to dispose of his hotel and only a foreigner wanted to purchase it, the local owner would not lose the opportunity. It is also well known that we also try to ensure that all business which grew up as a result of the hotel industry was protected by local ownership, such as boutiques, hair-dressing salons, motor rentals, restaurants etc. These were the areas where we thought it would be financially possible for local people to participate in the tourist industry. I would be interested in hearing from the Minister how he proposes "not to encourage the development of small hotels."

The Minister also spoke about part-time hotel management. Clearly he must be talking about those persons who own small hotels where perhaps the husband or wife has another job. What is wrong with that? It seems to me that this is the kind of encouragement we should foster rather than saying we are not going to encourage small hotels in certain areas. There are small black people in this country who will never get the chance to participate in the hotel industry except as waiters if in fact hotels of ten rooms or so go out of vogue.

The hon. member for Christ Church North Central spoke about advertising. I would like to hear from the Government what is Government's attitude to the kind of advertising in the New York Times that Barbados has Las Vegas style gambling, and I would like to know if Government has done anything to stop that kind of advertising or whether they consider it as proper advertising of what is going on in Barbados. It is true that in some hotels the only reason why they are described as casinoes is because the rooms are too small, but I have been told on more than one occasion that there are people who come down here and are able to gamble continuously twenty-four hours a day. I am further disturbed that the amendment to the Land Transfer Act would appear to enable foreigners in particular in the tourist industry at the level of gambling. *(Asides)* It is not bunkum as the hon. Attorney General is saying, for I can tell him where the place is.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The hon. member is talking foolishness.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I object to the hon. member saying I am talking foolishness and I ask that he withdraws the remark.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Let me say that the hon. member is talking words that do not make sense.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am asking you to rule on the hon. Attorney General saying I was talking foolishness and I am calling on you to ask him to withdraw the remarks.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not find the word offensive; carry on.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, you say you do not find the word offensive. Very well, I accept your ruling and I will say that the hon. member is the biggest fool I have ever seen.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The hon. member's offensiveness does not bother me. The hon. member got up to insinuate.....

Mr. TAITT: I am not insinuating anything, I am stating a fact.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Apparently the hon. member only gets a little bit of pounce when the hon. member for St. John is in here. The hon. member is insinuating to this House and reflecting on a vote of the House on the Property Tax Act passed in this session and is making remarks about it. I suggest he is reflecting on a vote of the House and in these circumstances cannot make reference to the Act.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am not reflecting on any vote in this House; I am speaking on the area of gambling. Is gambling a vote that was passed in this House?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are talking on tourism, not on gambling.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, is gambling not part and parcel of tourism in this country? Are you saying this is not so?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Am I to understand that the hon. member is complaining about gambling as part of tourism in Barbados? He knows very well that the hon. member for St. John has always accused me of being a gambler long before there was tourism on this scale in Barbados. There was always a race track in Barbados. The hon. member for St. John knows that Joy Edwards was the biggest gambler and he himself used to play a game called pee-wee. So what is all this fuss now about gambling? Apparently you have to stoop down and play dice now not to be in gambling.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw to attention that it is 1 o'clock. We started at 10.30 a.m. and I move that you now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question that Mr. CHAIRMAN report progress and ask for leave to sit again, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the motion of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, seconded by Hon. H. deB. FORDE, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the Sitting until 2.00 p.m.
1.00 p.m.

RESUMPTION

On the Resumption:

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Government Notices be now taken.

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

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker. on behalf of the Minister of Finance I beg to give notice of the following:—

Resolution to approve the guarantee by the Minister responsible for Finance of the repayment by the Barbados Mortgage Finance Co. Ltd. to the Commonwealth Development Corporation of the principal sum equivalent to £2,025,000 sterling and of interest thereon.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply to which it now reverts.

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

HEAD 13(2) DEBATE RESUMED

Mr. TAITT: Yes, Mr. Chairman, when the sitting was suspended I was making the point that I hoped that the Minister would be able to indicate if the Government is aware of this type of advertising in the New York Times, and if the Government has a policy under which anything has been done to discourage that type of advertising which, as it appears to me in the New York Times, is false.

Mr. Chairman, there was also a question mooted some time during the last year that there was a proposal for a moratorium of the benefits offered under the Hotel Aids Act with a view to deterring the construction of more hotel rooms. I am very glad to hear the Chairman of the Board of Tourism indicating that perhaps he is not interested in seeing a cessation of hotel construction. I believe that there is some merit if such a proposal were offered and is being considered; but it would also be a depressing thing if the No. 1 industry in this country started in effect what would be a winding down. It would be calling for a virtual halt to the continued expansion of the Hotel Industry, and indeed it would create even more difficulties in the general financial situation in the country partly because of a slowing down in the construction sector, and also because the Hotel Industry has got to have a replenishment rate of its plant.

One of the fortunate things for Barbados is that throughout the energy crisis the Barbados Government did not have to take over bankrupt hotels as did the Government of the Bahamas or the Government of Jamaica; and indeed in Puerto Rico, Antigua and other places; and I believe that this has happened because the Tourist Industry in Barbados has been diffused because of the type of ownership and the type of hotel business that we have. We have a number of well managed large hotels, and a number of well managed small hotels. Those hotels deserve to prosper, especially now that the American economy is showing some signs of picking up, and provided

they get adequate technical and financial assistance from the Government. Equally, Mr. Chairman, there are badly managed large hotels and badly managed small hotels. I do not believe that they deserve to be propped up by the Government in any way.

Now that the recession in the United States seems to be on its way, although it is not going as fast as some people have predicted, it would seem to me that we should be in a position to capitalise on further expansion during the next few years. Mr. Chairman, an authoritative study is supposed to have been done by the CTRC on this business of a moratorium; and at first when I read the study I was under the impression that the person who did the study was a person of wide experience. I have subsequently discovered that in fact the author of this study is just relatively fresh out of university, and has had no experience in the business of running a hotel. A well meaning young man, I am sure, but a person who has no experience – personal experience – in tourism. Indeed, only persons who themselves know something about this crucial industry upon which so many livelihoods depend in Barbados can really speak with authority – something that the Minister himself was saying under another Head today.

We have too many people who are prepared to accept theories and statements made by persons who have not really experienced development in the respective fields in the particular developing countries. I must say that I have to agree that the amount of money that is being spent on tourism promotion in Barbados is not enough. The word is bound to come that we are under economic contraint and we cannot afford to spend this money; but, Mr. Chairman, it is precisely in difficult times such as these that this Government should be acting boldly and decisively rather than drawing back and saying we cannot do better.

If they do not have expertise within their ranks it is nothing to be ashamed of. If you do not have expertise you should go out and buy some. That is the same whether it is tourism or any other field. Let me say that on this side, if they come in here and say that they are engaging someone who knows how to plan tourism, and they are giving that someone a decent budget, we will support them. Mr. Chairman, Jamaica is now spending something like $8 million (U.S.) a year on tourism promotion. Part of their problem was of course that they stopped when about eight years ago they had a good thing going. They backed off of tourism because of cost. The result is that now they are spending something like $8 million (U.S.). In the Bahamas they spend something like $10 million in their tourist promotion. We in Barbados spend, I believe, about $1.5 million in our promotion.

There is no point anyone saying to me that the Democratic Labour Party Government did not spend a lot of money either; because quite frankly, if it had been up to me, I would have spent twice as much as we spent in tourism promotion. The fact is that if you are familiar with what is involved in the competition for the tourist dollar, you cannot get it and you will not get it. Indeed the same thing applies to the kindred problem of industrial development. If you do not spend money for promotion you cannot expect to get the kind of results which other people get from spending money. The difference is not only in revenue. In fact, Mr. Chairman, tens of thousands of persons are turned away from Barbados during the winter months. It seems to me that the answer is that we have to spend more money towards filling the new rooms in the summer season rather than turning away people in the winter.

2.10 p.m.

There cannot be merely a difference in revenue and foreign exchange. The country needs them as well, but the main difference is a matter on which this Government has said such a great deal and I have to say done so little about jobs for people. I would like to hear when the Minister proposes to do something for these people who are coming out of the Hotel School. There has to be some kind of planning for people who go to the Hotel School and graduate from the school finding employment in the hotel and related industries. There are a number of people who go to the school and graduate. I do not know if what the hon. member for Christ Church North Central has said some time ago is valid; I am not prepared to get into that, but there are people who graduate from the Hotel School of whom it can be said they have a special skill and they are having extreme difficulty finding work in the industry. I hope that the Minister will tell us his intentions in the face of the apparent halt of development.

Mr. Chairman, I believe I have asked all the questions I wanted to ask under this Head. I know time is running away and so I will wait for the Minister to respond before I say anything further on this Head.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I welcome the opportunity to reply to a number of points raised by the other side. In so far as the hon. member for St. Michael South is concerned, it is fairly obvious to me from the tone of his speech and the content of it that having nothing to contribute under this Head he decided to deliver an attack on me and an attack on the distribution of the Ministries in this Government. Let me remind him of one thing; the constitutional prerogative of distributing Ministries is the responsibility of the Prime Minister and the Government in power. It has nothing to do with him or the Opposition.

Mr. SANDIFORD: On a point of elucidation, I said, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister is an able Minister. If he

considers that an attack, I am wondering what I should have said about him. I said he was able and competent. I cannot see how that can be termed an attack.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: There is such a thing as a back hand compliment and the hon. member has specialised in the skill of giving back hand compliments. The basic position is that the Ministries under my portfolio are all integrated and if the hon. member had done a study of the distribution of Ministries in other countries of the world, he would have seen that the modern tendency first of all is to bring aviation and tourism together because of the fact particularly in small countries that 80% to 90% of your visitors come by way of airlines and there is an intimate connection between your transportation capacity, your hotel capacity, the cost of your transport and your competitive position. If the hon. member had done any study at all he would have recognised that the subject of tourism is usually placed either under the transportation ministry or in the department of trade. If he had done any study he would have realised that in a place like the United Kingdom the Board of Trade is responsible basically for both transportation and tourism, and in so far as an undeveloped country like Barbados is concerned, the question of visible and invisible cannot be separated; so if the hon. member had probed a little deeper he would have recognised that placing of tourism which is the chief source of our invisible income together with industrial development and export promotion, all we were trying to do was to coordinate the policy of export trade visible or invisible. The truth of the matter is that the hon. member has not devoted any study to this area at all. He is at sea when it comes to this area.

In addition to that he would have seen that the Government has made provision in this year's Estimates for the physical bringing together of the two divisions of my Ministry. We hope to have the complex of Trade, Tourism and Aviation at Fontabelle within easy reach of one another. If the hon. member's Prime Minister and his party had so little regard for the financial state of Barbados that he wanted to pack it with only half-way ministries, that was his affair. When the previous Minister of Tourism and Information was Minister, he only worked haf day; he had no work to do at all. I work a full day. I have always been accustomed to working a full day and I will continue to work a full day. The hon. member for St. Michael North Central when he was Minister of Health never came to work before 11 o'clock; he was down in his office practising. I have never been back to James Street since I left there. We work full time, so that the hon. member is talking pure nonsense when he talks about load of portfolio. The trouble in Barbados is that what we need is a certain number of Junior Ministers, and I do not mean Parliamentary Secretaries, because one of the problems you have is that everybody wants to see a Minister. When you tell them to see a Parliamentary Secretary they do not understand what is a Parliamentary Secretary; they feel if they see somebody other than a Minister that you are fobbing them off and putting them to a lesser functionary. But look at the modern trend; there is a collection of subjects under a Minister with Portfolio and he is assisted by Ministers of state.

Look at the Foreign Office in Great Britain; look at many of the Ministries. The hon. member cannot deny the fact that this Government has saved money in ministerial salaries. Some people say we are foolish to have done it, and there is no gratitude for it.

Now, Sir, the other point that the hon. member has raised is that I am not able to give my time to the various subjects. Well the proof of the pudding is in the eating; let us look at actual performance. The hon. member is in no position to deny statistical evidence which is brought here to show in the year 1977 Barbados achieved one of the highest levels of increase in tourism for a very long period of time. He cannot deny that fact. I have also brought statistics to show in respect of client contact in the year 1977 in respect of authorisations and approvals of fiscal incentives that Barbados did better in 1977 that it did for many years previously. He must look at performance. The other area I have brought here is to show the hon. member that under export promotion we were able in the short period of one year to create a whole new structure in accordance with our conception of the need for emphasising the concept of export promotion in Barbados, get the legislation through, get it set up, fund it and do all the negotiations. What nonsense is the hon. member talking about people not having time to devote? If I had the ability to grasp matters in a short space of time that others take two years to grasp, that is not my fault. If I am willing to work 18 hours a day, that is not my fault; I am just one of those kinds of people. Unfortunately for me I had to do it for many years and I will continue to do it, and I must say that I have been able to get the majority of people in the departments to regard a day as not necessarily being eight hours, but it must be regarded as a time span within which to perform what you have to perform. These are matters that I want to bring clearly to attention. Do not talk about too many subjects; look at performance, and the proof of the pudding is in the eating.

The hon. member had no case and that is why he had to indulge in these remarks suggesting that nothing was being done when the facts are there and are clear. A number of other questions have been raised.

On the question of the hotel itself, I said, and I maintain that it is so, that we did an analysis of the hotels which were in trouble in Barbados, that is those that were in default either to the Development Bank or to the commercial banks. They were appealing to Government for help and we found that there was

unmistakable evidence that hotels of a certain size were the ones who could not withstand the competitive nature of the industry, today.
2.20 p.m.

We found that there was evidence that hotels of a certain size were the ones which could not withstand the competitive nature of the industry today either because of the fact that the pattern of visitor flow has changed or individual visitors coming as it were in the past to tour operations, or because of the fact that the services which were provided at those hotels were not what the visitors wanted. You can look at the records of the Development Bank and see what are the defaulters, and I said and I maintain that it is the correct policy that having regard to the fact that most of the money we get now to lend hoteliers for construction comes from the Development Bank, there seems to be a statistical relationship between six and a certain size, and the terms of the lending was geared to that, so therefore as a matter of policy if anybody comes to us and says they want ten rooms, I say the best thing is to explain to them that this is the position and they can do the feasibility studies. Many hotels of ten rooms were built by people who did not make a feasibility study, and they were done at a time when the tourism growth was high.

All over the world now the tendency is for a greater proportion of business via the integrated operation of charter airline companies who are dealing with the tour operators either on a single charter basis or a complete charter basis, and the tour operators have a certain type of percentage. We will give them encouragement, and we have started to do it already, we make sure that when agents from the airlines come here that they deal with the smaller establishments, so it is not to say that we do not have any role to play.

Mr. TAITT: If the hon. member will give way, it is extremely difficult for the smaller Barbadian to participate in the hotel of the size of 24 rooms and above. If the Minister would speak to this and tell us – I am not quarrelling with his analysis, I am merely saying that if the smaller Barbadian is to participate in the industry, and their employees, that there must have been some policy going along which permits the small Barbadian to participates as owner. They are not all able to participate at that level, and as he knows, you cannot borrow money especially in this country at that level.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I really do not understand the hon. member when he says it is extremely difficult. There is a new hotel in Dover which is owned by five Barbadians and it costs $1.2 million. Each of them was an employee before. Obviously what all of us have to learn is that the cost or the high capital cost today that we have to decide upon this and we have to co-operate and do more financing. We just have to do it, so we look for an existing establishment that is not doing so well and we buy it out on a value based, not on any fancy value, on a value based on economic return. Rio Guest House in St. Lawrence is up for sale now and nobody will come forward and buy it because it has eight or ten rooms, and everybody is saying a tour operator is not interested in it. We have had small people joining in the industry and there is still scope for the boarding house type of accommodation.

In addition to all this there is still scope for the condominium, but there is a demand for a certain type of accommodation which arises from the fact that the method of getting visitors, the whole promotion of getting visitors here is dominated by tour operators, and this is not only Barbados, this is a world wide thing. In Cuba the Government is a tour operator, and that is the sort of competition we have to deal with now. In addition to all this the Government in its transportation policy has made it positively clear that as far as ground tour operations, as far as operation by buses is concerned, that is reserved for Barbados. This is a positive and definite stand taken by Barbados so as to implement its policy that everybody in Barbados will be able to participate in the industry.

I do not know that there were any other points. I maintain we are trying to get visitors in Barbados. When you add that together with what the Government of Barbados spends, what is spent indirectly by way of deduction from the income tax, that a tremendous amount of money is spent not only by Government but by tour operators, by hotels themselves, and we have reached the stage where we have to monitor and analyse where we are not calling on other taxpayers to provide an undue amount of contribution to this.

Mr. TAITT: If you will give way, the other areas that were used for comparison, I think there was some kind of output, so that the comparison is not with the provision but with the actual money put in promotion. I am not sure if the Minister is saying that he is satisfied that the amount of money we are spending now is sufficient. If he is saying that, all right.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: One of the things with advertising agencies is that it is in their interest to make believe that the more money you spend in advertising means automatically more business, but there is a point you reach. Take the Bahamas, for instance. Despite the amount that the Bahamas spent in the last three years in advertising and promotion the Bahamas have not yet been able to achieve a growth rate in any of the years of 5% full occupancy, or less than the 20% we have. The trouble with Jamaica is that they had to spend the

money to repair their bad image abroad. We do not have a bad image yet, and we are trying to see that we do not have a bad image abroad.
2.30 p.m.

I will tell you something further; if we spend more we will be wasting money, for unless you match advertising with planned hotel capacity, you are wasting time; I do not believe in wasting money.

Mr. TAITT: If the hon. Minister will give way, I said you should spend more money so that we will be able to fill hotel rooms not only in the winter but also in summer.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: One of the things that I find as strange is for people to get up and say they want to spend more money without an analysis of what they are now spending. We went through this and I am trying to get further discussions with the Tourist Board to improve our summer performance. We had some improvement last year and this year we hope to do even better because we expect a bigger source of visitors to our market to be Europe and Venezuela. But I am not going to say "Give $6 million to tourist promotion." when we do not know how it is to be spent. After we have studied the matter then we will have the facts to make an intelligent decision on how to spend the money.

On the question of gambling: I saw the advertisement and immediately got in touch with the Gambling Committee and asked if they had authorized backgammon or blackjack or whatever it is, and they said there was an application for this. When I went into it I found that the Amateur Athletic Association and Lawn Tennis Association are permitted by the Gambling Committee – not only in this administration but previously – to use hotels in the winter season to raise funds under the terms of a permit for gambling for charitable purposes. As I understand it, the Amateur Athletic Association or the Lawn Tennis Association have certain nights at the hotel – just like you have crab racing or bingo for charity, and taking that with the various slot machines they formed an advertising package. And you know what advertising agents are. I objected to it and they told me they would amend it, and they sent me back a draft and asked whether it was acceptable.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I would like to know if the Deputy Prime Minister is prepared to give this House the assurance that it is not the Government's policy to have casinoes. Is he prepared to give that undertaking to the people of Barbados?

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The Government has repeatedly said that it is not going to have casino operation in Barbados. Having brought in the gambling machines into Barbados and not having enough courage to send them back out hon. members on that side find themselves in a dilemma and want to use the Government as a whipping post as though we brought the machines into Barbados.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: If the hon. member will give way, have you gone through the files and found that the Democratic Labour Party gave permission to anyone to bring in one armed-bandits?

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: What I did find is that the files have abundant evidence that they were brought into Barbados prior to September, 1976, that they were in operation and that there was a doubt whether they were legal or illegal; and the then Government wavered and wondered what to do about them. If you had enough courage to grasp the nettle...

Mr. TAITT: If the hon. member will give way, I think the hon. member is in a position to see the file where when I was Minister I put the gambling machines on licence and never issued one after that.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You might have put them on licence, but the fact is that they came into Barbados legally or illegally, licence or no licence. If the hon. member wants to make a political issue, let him do so. The basic position is that a Gambling Committee has been appointed, the Government of Barbados has said what is its policy, it has passed the House of Assembly, and we will submit ourselves to the judgment of the electorate. The only thing we are concerned with now is that they make a greater contribution to the revenue of the country.

I think my remarks answer the main points raised by hon. members and I beg to move that the Head stand part of the Schedule.

The question that the sum of $4,038,594 under Head 13(2) – Tourism – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

HEAD 113 – CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM DIVISION

Head 113 – Civil Aviation and Tourism Division – was called.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman in moving that this Head stand part, I would like to give hon. members a sort of status report. Most of the money is for the continuation of the programme of the airport building. As I understand it, the target date for

completion is April, 1979, and hon. members who pay regular visits to the Airport will be in a position to see that not only are the columns going up but the beams also and the work is progressing at a satisfactory rate. We hope that with the increase in physical space at the new terminal building we will be able to have many more facilities at the airport. The government is now studying certain proposals for the shopping facilities at the airport. I can say that it is the aim of the Government to provide as many shopping opportunities at the Airport as possible. In the mean time a Committee has been appointed to study the use of the old terminal building and a preliminary report has already been filed. This report is to be studied in the light of changes in demand for space at the Airport. It is very obvious to us from our analysis that air cargo is going to increase as a means of transportation of goods both from and to Barbados. Accordingly, it is envisaged that much greater provision must be made for cargo space, and it may well be that in the final analysis, taking into account the need for increased cargo space, considerable area of the existing terminal building area may be utilized in that respect. We also last year extended the existing cargo shed to cater to this increased demand. As hon. members are aware, during the course of this year we will have the report of the Shannon Authority on the promotion technique that is needed to thrust Barbados forward and promote the Island as having a free port zone.
2.40 p.m.

We have most of the legislation that is necessary. We have the land available to us. All that we need is to get expert advice on how to get it promoted abroad. With Cabinet's approval the Ministry has decided to have that study done this year. The only other area that I would like to inform hon. members on is that there will be an ironing out of the bend that one encounters when you leave the Spencers and the Charnocks Road. There is a terrible bend there, as hon. members will be aware, if you are going in the St. Philip direction, and the Cabinet is already in agreement with the acquisition of the necessary land to straighten that road, so that the access road between the new terminal building and Gemswick Corner, or the area going to Gemswick, or Penny Hole, as I like to call it, that area will definitely be straightened out. We hope that the project will be completed by April, 1979, and that the full development as envisaged by us at the airport will take place.

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

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

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

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS

HEAD 14 (1) – DIRECTION AND POLICY FORMULATION

Head 14 (1) – Direction and Policy Formulation – in the sum of $7,681,166 was called.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I just want to follow the example of other Ministers with respect to giving a broad outline with regard to the activities of the Ministry during the past financial year and the projections for the future. The Ministry of Communications and Works, as is well known, is a service ministry, and the Ministry which has to carry out the duties of a number of client Ministries all over the island. I think that we can say with some sense of satisfaction that we have done a very good job; and I should like to say – of course it has always been my policy that you should pay tribute where it is due – I should like to compliment members of my staff, administrative and technical, for the very able, considerate and whole hearted support which they have given me during the past year under review. I look forward to and hope with expectancy that the support which they have given will be given in the years to come.

Mr. Chairman, under this Head, or under the whole gamut of Communications and Works, not entirely taking this particular Head under consideration, but on review of the entire Head of Communications and Works, I am happy to say that the Ministry of Communications and Works has come from far behind and has come forward to the satisfaction of the Government, and to my own personal satisfaction as a Ministry which is deserving of support and praise by the entire country. In saying this, not only should I like to say that I enjoyed the support of my administrative and technical staff, but I enjoyed the full support of my Prime Minister and members of my Cabinet. I suppose that this is a situation which previous Ministers of Communications and Works did not particularly enjoy, and therefore the problems in this Ministry were due to their failure not to have so enjoyed that confidence.

I should like to say at a very early stage that I deplore the fact that the Member for St. Michael North Central is not in his seat at this moment; because I believe that he of all people had a particular interest in this particular portfolio; and he brought to bear a devotion which was lacking until he came, even though he was excessive in carrying out the duties of that Ministry.

During the period under review the Ministry was able to build and construct over eight miles of tenantry and subsidiary roads. It has been able to install a considerable amount of water mains throughout the length and breadth of this island; and hopefully in the

new financial year we will set about the construction of a new four-million gallon reservoir at St. Stephen's in the parish of St. Michael; and also the construction of a steel water container of one million gallons in the area of Lodge Hill. The Waterworks Department will also lay an additional 16 inch water main from Hampden in St. Michael, going on to Rising Sun in the parish of Christ Church, to supply water, and to keep up to date the supply in the area of Christ Church South and the surrounding areas. We have in mind plans which will lead towards the eventual satisfaction of the entire island by way of the supply of water.

On the question of the area of Cave Hill and Lodge Hill in St. Stephens, I should like to say that it is unfortunate that they had a build up of housing development in that area without any consideration of the actual supply of water in that area. In our development plans for the future we would want to create the infrastructural arrangements for the area before development rather than for them to be followed after development. The last Government failed miserably in the sense that it did not seek to create these arrangements before the construction of houses in these areas.

I was amazed and appalled to discover that even the question of the introduction of bus services in the areas of Wanstead and Husbands that it was only after I came into office that we had to provide bus services for the people in that area.

2.50 p.m.

There was a constant bickering between the Minister of Communications and Works and the Ministry of Housing as to whose duty it was to provide a bridge in that area which was strong enough to sustain the weight of a fully laden bus. I thought that as Government to Government and Ministry to Ministry that it was stupid and unwise to be taken up with a lot of argument with respect to who should construct or rehabilitate a bridge, and I set about very anxiously to have this bridge reconstructed to take the load as was recommended to me by my technical division. I would say, Mr. Chairman, that by and large in the Ministry of Communications and Works we have been doing a considerably good job. We have been able to instal something like 764 new street lights in this island from September, 1976, to December, 1977. We have done this all over the island and have not restricted our activities to any special area, and as I have said repeatedly on the floor of this Parliament, as Minister responsible for Communications and Works, I will not see matters of this vital nature as matters for political consideration but rather to be taken overall in the interest of all people concerned. That attitude which I have adopted from the very early coming into being of my administration will continue to characterise not only my own policy but that of the Government as a whole.

I would also like very briefly, and although this is coming in the form of the Annexed Estimates, I will come back to what I am dealing with here, to mention the question of the Post Office as well, also to do with my portfolio. Certainly it would not be amiss for me to make mention of it here as well in passing. The Post Office for the first time will not be breaking even but certainly will be coming considerably out of the red and in the fullness of time, hopefully in the next financial year will be able to break even if not exactly to make a profit. I, would say largely that the Ministry of Communications and Works with the onerous duties which are placed upon it is endeavouring to carry out its very onerous responsibilities.

The Deputy Prime Minister has mentioned to you just a short while ago that we are embarking on certain arrangements with respect to the improvement of highways on Highway 7 between the Airport and Oldbury in St. Philip whereby we hope to straighten those very difficult and dangerous bends in order to have better manoeuvrability for people going on from the airport to St. Philip, St. John and St. George and wherever it is convenient to get them from that area. We are also examining, and the Prime Minister mentioned this to you originally, the question of another road which will lead to Top Rock in Christ Church on to Rendezvous in Christ Church and help to take off some of the burden of traffic on Highway 7 as well. Equally so we are working on the plans which are already prepared for the construction of part of the ring road leading from Wildey on to Chapel Gap, and it might be very good and necessary for me to mention here that at that point of Chapel Gap east of the existing Chapel Gap or Four Cross Roads, we are hoping to have a roundabout which will make the flow of traffic easy and eliminate the difficulties which are now experienced in that area. We are also considering as we all will know the question of the by-pass in Speightstown, St. Peter, and also the question of the building of the road from the Harbour Road on to Spring Garden and right on to Paradise in St. Michael. These are parts of the overall development which we are going to carry on and which we will continue to do.

We are also considering a number of areas with respect to Highway improvement all over the island, but the main thrust for the new year will be with respect to infra-structural arrangements for developmental purposes, and to that end we have set ourselves.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to say on this matter that quite recently from my Ministry was issued a notice to workers with respect to the introduction of a four day week. That matter was adverted to by me on the floor of this House just a short while ago when I introduced a supplementary Resolution. The hon. member opposite did at the time say that it would seem as though we are constantly underestimated. I do not know what he meant

by under-estimated because it was some time in November, 1976, a matter of weeks after the assumption of office, that we discovered we were in trouble for money to pay the workers at M.C.W., and we had to come forward with a supplementary provision for over $1.7 million. So it was not a question of this Government underestimating the provision for M.C.W., but rather a situation which we had inherited, because the supplementary provision which I came for was just over $900,000. I was faced as Minister responsible with a number of alternatives, one of which was to lay off some of the work force. Indeed if I brought you up to date on the question of the work force, you will see a complete escalation in numbers of people employed in M.C.W., between 1974 and August, 1976, from something like 1,700 to 1,800 to over 3,000 people. A situation like that could not be maintained forever, and I am sure that the people came into the office and were told the notices which were sent to them said that they were temporarily employed. I want to say in passing that in 1973/74 the people who were dismissed from M.C.W. in the region of 470 came in as temporarily employed people and they fully well knew the situation under which they were employed.

I want to assure the Leader of the Opposition that all I have is here with me and all I am concerned with is the period of dismissal and the manner of employment of people at the time, and that is what the evidence will prove. As a matter of fact I have the evidence here to prove and I will bring it forward to you in the fullness of time if required to do so because the Opposition seems to have a knack of getting information which is not in their best interest, but certainly if they want to have this it is going to be forthcoming and there will be no failure on my part to give them this. We have seen a very serious escalation of the employment practices within the Ministry of Communications and Works.
3.00 p.m.

In other words, Mr. Chairman, the ruling party of the day thought that it was easier to find employment for people even though it was not possible to do so within the Government Service, rather than to create the atmosphere whereby private people would be able to provide that form of employment. That was not the system of far-sighted and progressive politics, it is not; nowhere in the world is it so. This Government does not see it possible to do so. *(Asides).*

I want to reply briefly to what I have just heard. It is better to have four days a week, Mr. Chairman, than to have no days at all. It is better to have part of the national cake than to have no part of the cake at all. It is better for members of Parliament to continue to exist without pay increases than to have pay increases when in the fullness of time they will have none at all. People in Barbados must awaken to the fact that the days of doling out are over, and people must stand on their own feet and apply this seriously to their responsibility. It is cheap politics, and I repeat, very cheap politics to cause people to think that they can get something without working for it.

A former Minister of Communications and Works used to tell the people at MCW, "you do not have to stand up there for people to see you idling, go one-side in the intervale and hide," and that was because they did not have the courage to tell the people exactly what the facts are. I said last week, and I will repeat here for the benefit of this Opposition, that I prefer to go out of Parliament honourably than to remain with the dishonourable and to accept situations which I do not regard as proper, but I want to say this now. I hope the members of the Opposition have just seen the outcome of the French General Elections, cheap politics get you nowhere. *(Asides).* I will tell you, Mr. Chairman, the heckling from the Opposition is considered as very cheap to me and therefore it only fortifies me in my determination to tell them what I have to tell them rather than the other way round. I think they will be on their best and more secure ground to keep quiet and hear the type of medicine I will dispense.

The position within MCW continues to be not what it should be, but I want to say further, Mr. Chairman, that although we find ourselves in a very bad situation in MCW by way of over employment, that the situation in MCW is not without hope, in the sense that since the advent to power of the Barbados Labour Party and my period in MCW that production has gone up by no less than 20%. It will continue to go up and I will continue to take serious and unpopular measures for which I was praised by the Leader of the Opposition, I will continue to take those measures which are necessary and vital, and I want to tell the Opposition this, do not defend it, because the workers are already satisfied that it is better to have four days than to have no days at all, and therefore there is no point in trying to satisfy it. I am not going to be so cheap as my friends in the Trade Union and elsewhere to say that increase in wages has nothing to do with the question of the balance of payments, I am going to come out here and say exactly what the position is.

The Government can only afford so much for the running of each Department within Government, the Government can only afford so much for the running of MCW, and when that amount is reached that is the limit and we can do no more than that. MCW is just a Ministry of the Government and it does not encompass the whole of Government, Government has other areas to provide for, and unless MCW is frugal and very careful in the execution of its duties, and unless it keeps within the guidelines and the limits which are set for it, it will not be able to carry out its functions, and that is what I seek to do.

I have said before, and I will repeat again, if you take the area of the Post Office, for years the Post Office has been seriously in deficit, the Post Office has started to look upward, and I feel very strongly and I can see very clearly that the Post Office will go forward and will succeed, and in a year's time it will break even if not come out clearly in the white. I believe that all the Departments within MCW will also succeed.

Mr. Chairman, the area of the workshop at MCW. I regret very much that the member for St. Michael North Central is not with us today, because.....(Hon. F. G. SMITH: You sent him out). Mr. Chairman, I am not going to get into any squabbles with the Leader of the Opposition, and I do not know that I have the right to usurp the functions of the Presiding Officer to send somebody out. It is certainly unbecoming for a member who has been a member of this Chamber for so long as.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order. The member who was sent out was called a Communist in here, and he called somebody a Fascist and he was sent out. That is all I am saying. He was called a Communist by the Prime Minister, and you know it.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition just rose and reflected on the decision of the Chair when he spoke..... *(Asides).*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! I will not have this shouting across. The hon. members must behave themselves, behave like hon. members who have been trained, please.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: .....when he spoke about the hon. member for St. Michael North Central being sent out after refusing to withdraw the word "Facist", and I respectfully submit that such a reflection on the Chair is out of order and the hon. member ought to be asked to withdraw it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We will come back to that.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: The reason why I made mention of what I said just now was because the member himself did mention to me at some time or other the question of the workshop at MCW, and I want to make mention of that area because that is a very sad single area at MCW.
3.10 p.m.

There is a lot of unpleasantness in that department with which I am not happy and the hon. member for St. Michael North Central during his time at MCW paid a lot of attention to that area. Unlike the hon. Leader of the Opposition who was there and did nothing in his time, that member certainly made a tremendous contribution while he was there. He did progressive work and sought to get improvement in the staff structure in the workshop at MCW. You have tremendous idleness in there and Government is losing about 50% of what it is paying out for work within that department of MCW. I am happy to announce, however, that the Ministry was able recently to secure the services of Mr. Archibald Montgomery through British Overseas Aid, to assist with the administration and regularizing of the system at the workshop at MCW.

To revert back for a moment to the question of the Workers who were put on a four day week, I would like to say briefly that as soon as the financial position of the Government permits, or other work becomes available, the workers will go back to their normal position because we will be able to syphon off from MCW a number of people and deploy to those departments where Government is embarking on new areas of development. Those people will certainly get first priority in consideration for work in those areas. I am very anxious, and all members of this Government are anxious that the situation should not continue as at present.

I should also like to mention the question of transport. Government has embarked on the plan for taking over all the bus routes in this Island. We now have a bus fleet of something like 249 buses. This was the result of the enlightened policy of this Government to bring in such additional units – 40 complete and 20 chassis with the bodies to be constructed by Butcher at Grazettes. But this amount of buses by themselves cannot satisfy the requirements for the complete takeover of the entire Island bus service, and we will therefore have to get an additional number of buses, in the region of 50, in order to satisfy the requirements for the total take over. The bus concessionaires, Rocklyn and Elite, were unable or unwilling to come to terms with the Government with respect to the amount which they were asking and which we were willing to pay for the rolling stock they were asking. As a result of this failure – for our calculations originally were based upon Government's ability to purchase not less than thirty units from the private concessionaires – as a result of this failure and the fact that we had not purchased enough units to take over the entire system, we found ourselves in a very critical position in not being able to take over all the routes. As a result, the entire transportation system has not been taken over. However, in the 1978–79 Estimates provision is made for twenty-five additional units in order to supplement what we have. This by itself will not be able to carry us through, but we are still prepared to treat with the private concessionaires if they are willing to treat with us in a reasonable way. These new units which we hope to bring in will be the chassis and Butcher in Grazettes will be building the bodies. We are quite satisfied with the arrangements we have had with Butcher and we are quite prepared to carry on with them and even seek to promote business further afield for them. We

have sent the buses into a number of areas all over the Island – as far as Sargeants Street in St. John – and no parish or constituency is left unattended by the service of the Transport Board. I have insisted that the buses go into the areas of St. John and St. Lucy very frequently as well. In your own constituency I believe that is very well serviced, and it will be no failure on my part in making sure everything is done to satisfy the requirements all over the Island. We have been able to strengthen the management facility of the Transport Board. We are also seeking technical assistance by way of a traffic manager to help us in running our traffic department. That is an area that is very weak and we will need assistance for that. We have also provided for a traffic engineer at a salary which I believe will be suitable to attract a proper type of person, and I believe that in the fullness of time such a person will be appointed in order to assist us with a preventive maintenance operation.

I will say that in general we are moving forward, and with a careful approach to the problems which lie ahead and with the understanding of all concerned, including this Parliament and the nation, the Ministry of Communications and Works will continue to do what is expected of it.

With these remarks I beg to move that the Head stand part of the Schedule.

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

3.20 p.m.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, when the former Government was defeated I was appointed Shadow Minister of Communications and Works. *(Cheers)* What that means to me I do not know; because it does not send me home with a better pension and gratuity; but I am prepared to defend the issue here today. Mr. Chairman, I would be failing in my duty if I did not say that the present Minister of Communications and Works has done a very, very good job. *(Cheers)* He has done a very good job with the funds at his disposal; but, Sir, in this case I am going to render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's. Therefore I am here to give constructive criticism.

Knowing the problems we have with the economy of this country, I would not for one moment, come in here and flatter any person; but I am going to give facts. Now, Sir, I repeat with the exception of what occurred only a few days ago, reading from the newspapers and hearing it over the various radios and so on, and listening attentively to the Minister today, I am going to deal with that point firstly.

Having worked at that Ministry for approximately five years as a Parliamentary Secretary, I am going to say here today that you have workers who have been employed there for 25 or 30 years or more and they are still called casual workers, for what reason, I do not know. Now, these people have their families to maintain; and with the reduction from five to four days – the Minister will correct me if I am wrong – they are going to lose approximately $12 to $14 a week. Some of them have wives, and they have their children to send to school.

Sir, only a few days ago I took up the newspaper. I am in sympathy with wage restraint; but only a few days ago I took up a newspaper and I found that a large number of commodities have increased in price, namely rice, butter, soap, toothpaste, Milo, table butter, Lux flakes, Tide and Breeze, only to mention a few. All of those have gone up, and you are telling the man at the bottom of the ladder that instead of working five days, he must work four days. Mr. Chairman, I am no financial expert, but I am hoping that somebody will reply to me about what I am going to say about it today. This is how I have assessed it. Negotiations are going on. You are obligated to give those casual workers, regardless of wage squeeze or no wage squeeze, an increase of salary.

Now, what are you doing at this particular time? You are telling them you are working for four days instead of five. What is going to happen now? When the negotiations are through and you decide to give them 10, 15, 20 or 25 per cent increase, you will have carried them back to the same wages that they are receiving at present. *(Shame)* That is what that new regulation means. Now you are saying that you are saving a million dollars; but it is my opinion, having worked up there for five years, that a 20 or 25 per cent increase on their wages will not come to a million dollars. Therefore when you pay that million dollars out – or however much it may be as an increase – you are giving casual workers their own money. I think, Sir, that that is political gimmickry.

Now, Sir, are we going backwards or forwards? In the year 1968 on the 11th of March we came into this House and passed legislation demanding the plantocracy of this island to employ the agricultural labourers for not less than five days. *(Asides)* Please allow me to talk. I do not wish any advice. That was done on the 11th of March, 1968, when the planters of this country would give the people two, three days. When rain fell they were not employed. Under the former Government legislation was introduced in this House compelling those people to give agricultural labourers five days a week. What are we doing in here today? We are making legislation for the private sector. We have come here now, looking at the lowest class of worker, people who cannot buy food, and we are saying that instead of five days work you must have four days.

Mr. Chairman, when you think about that, I am saying that that is a retrograde step. Do you know what

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am dealing with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Communications and Works for which I had responsibility and for which I had Instruments to operate. If you want to know something – because you said I did not have the confidence of the Ministry – I have in my house now a silver salver given to me by the members of the staff of the Ministry of Communications and Works, contributed to by all the people up there, for the good work I did there. If you ever come to my house I will serve you a whiskey and soda out of it, whenever you come.
3.50 p.m.

If this is the reaction of people who did not believe in me but who gave me a silver salver when I was transferred, I would be very surprised at that. But let us go on.

I am prepared to give way to the Minister if he can produce evidence where I personally signed any note to lay off four or five hundred people.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, am I to understand that the hon. member does not accept responsibility for his Ministry? Am I to understand that I must see his signature on a file saying that something is wtong?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I have always taken full responsibility. I am only asking you to quote from the files showing where I signed anything.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Is the hon. member denying that over four hundred people were laid off from the Ministry of Communications and Works during his terms of office?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am not denying that. What I am saying is that I would like you to tell me from the files when they were laid off, by whose authority and whether it was drawn to the Minister's attention. I am prepared to take responsibility whether it was drawn to my attention or not, but I am asking you to show me from the files that I ordered the lay off.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, as far as I understand there is something called Ministerial responsibility whereby a Minister is responsible for the actions taken in his Ministry. But the hon. Leader of the Opposition seems to be saying he will not take responsibility for the action of civil servants. Is he suggesting that the civil servants in his Ministry acted but he will not take the responsibility?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: If it is a fact that four hundred people were dismissed during my time when I was Minister, I would have to take the blame. All I am trying to do is to trace how this came about.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member said not long ago that he was given a silver salver; the reason must have been because he is a nice boy.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Thank God I am still a nice boy. All I am saying is that I have to take the responsibility; if they were laid off I have to take the blame; all I am trying to find out is when were they laid off, was the department running out of funds, what was the reason, and was it drawn to my attention. All this should be on the files. I am listening to hear from the Minister the circumstances concerning the lay offs in 1973 and 1974 for which I as the Minister must inevitably take the responsibility, but let me hear the circumstances.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, unfortunately, this debate seems to have reverted to the years 1973 and 1974 which are past. But today we are concerned with 1978 and the situation which we are facing today. We heard that the Ministry of Communications and Works has taken upon itself to reduce the work week of a number of workers employed in that Ministry. Now this Honourable House was given the benefit of a presentation by the shadow Minister of Communications and Works on this particular matter, but there are certain points I would like to reiterate in connection with this wicked act which the Government has committed as far as the work week is concerned.
4.00 p.m.

Now Mr. Chairman, I want to emphasise that a reduction in the work week effectively means a reduction in the pay of these workers. If you were to look at Appendix C in the Schedule for Personal Emoluments, you will see that generally speaking, these people are people who fall in Category 2, and so are earning $2.00 an hour. This would therefore mean that their pay is being reduced by $16.00 a week and over $64.00 a month. This is the kind of sacrifice which these people who are now suffering as a result of the decision taken by that Government – this is the kind of suffering which they are forced to undergo.

And this, Mr. Chairman, as I said before is wicked as far as these people are concerned; because these are the people who as we all know, have very heavy commitments. They have large families. A number of them are trying to repair their houses or to build a house. They have got to provide for the kind of expenses which today people with large families have got to undergo, in order, as it were, to keep their heads above the water; and one cannot understand why the

Government is, as it were, taking it out on these people who, generally speaking, are not in a position to help themselves.

Certainly, as far as those who are members of the Trade Union movement are concerned, we will do our best to assist them. We in the Trade Union movement cannot and will not allow this kind of wicked and inhuman act to go unnoticed without trying to deal with it as it should be dealt with. If the Government wants to save money in any particular sphere, why not look at the high grade Civil Servants and introduce some kind of reduction there? But you see we are in the kind of situation where whenever there is economic difficulty it is these people at the bottom who have to carry the burden on their shoulders and make all the sacrifices; and this is what the casual workers are being called upon to do today - to carry the sacrifice for the incompetence that the Government has demonstrated during its term of office.

That is the situation that has affected these workers to such an extent that when one talks to a number of them now – I am sure that if members on the Other Side were brave enough to have a conversation with them since this particular decision was made known, they would be satisfied as to the strong feelings that these workers have on this particular decision. Some of them have come to the Union and indicated very firmly that this is going to mean a lot of suffering for them and for their families.

I want to know really what the Government intends to do. Whether the Government will allow this situation to continue. Whether the Minister and the Government would be so insensitive to the sufferings of these people, and to the welfare of these people who will be affected by this decision. As has been pointed out, this decision has come at a very funny and peculiar time from the point of view that just last week the Unions involved with the Public Servants have begun negotiating with the Government; but almost at the beginning of the negotiations we see the Government taking a decision to reduce the number of working days a week. The circular is dated the 14th March, 1978.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of elucidation. I said it in this Chamber two weeks ago.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I am saying that the circular was dated the 14th March. That was only last week.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, on a further point of elucidation. The highest power in the land is Parliament. It is not what the circular says, or the newspaper says, but what the Minister says in Parliament.

Mr. GREAVES: The people concerned knew only last week. Right at the beginning of negotiations we get this kind of decision being taken by the Government. There is no doubt that there is a strategy behind this. I think that the Minister has said very clearly what the strategy is – accept four days or no days at all.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I will not allow the hon. member to get away with that. I never said anything of the kind. During the whole debate on the Estimates the hon. member has been getting away with that kind of thing. I said nothing of the kind.

Mr. GREAVES: He said that it is better to get four days than no days at all.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: What I said was, that considering the alternatives, this would be the best solution.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I am saying that this is an act of intimidation as far as these workers are concerned: because you can imagine the situation when people are locked in negotiations and you get the Government coming in and making this kind of decision. The only intention can be to demonstrate or suggest to the workers either to accept what we are offering or suffer the consequences. I am satisfied that that is the right interpretation.

As I said, this particular matter is a national matter. It is one which is going to touch the entire country because people are affected every way. As I said, Mr. Chairman, if we are in this situation of negotiating, this is a bad decision; and one which is calculated to create a whole set of problems. If one further examines the situation where there is talk about unemployment, are we to regard this as any particular measure to improve this situation?

4.10 p.m.

The Minister of Communications and Works in making his introductory remarks referred to a period in 1973/74 when he said the Minister of Communications and Works employed between 1,700 and 1,800 people and by 1976 the employment figure had risen to about 3,000. Now I think Mr. Chairman, that this is a commendable effort on the part of the past administration to assist in solving the unemployment problem and relieve the difficulties of a number of unskilled people who had difficulties in finding jobs because if one were to take into consideration the particular circumstances at the time,

the general world economic situation and the way in which it affected Barbados, then one could see very clearly that the Government pursued the only course open to it, that is to offer jobs or opportunities for jobs in the public sector which would enable people to have money to spend and hence keep business activity going. Here we have a reversed situation where the economy is in trouble, where we need to stimulate the economy, but you have now gone and reduced the earning of a large number of people who can ill afford this kind of reduction. This is a very serious situation on which I am warning and cautioning the Minister. *(Asides)*. Whether you regard it as a threat or not is a matter for you, but I think this is a matter which could lead to serious problems in this country, taking bread out of the mouths of people in the way you have done, rather than trying to ensure that people get more money so that they can stimulate the kind of economic activity which is very important. *(Asides)*. Mr. Chairman, if I can be relieved of this heckling.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You still have three minutes, really. Carry on.

Mr. GREAVES: I will come back to this but I want to move on to just one other aspect with the Transport Board, and I want to demonstrate an even more wicked act on the part of the Minister of Communications and Works. I have, Mr. Chairman, a testimonial from the Minister of Communications and Works which was given to a gentleman, he would know the man, on 8th March, 1976. At that time the hon. member was trying to win a seat in St. Andrew. The gentleman lives at Boscobel, St. Andrew. The letter is addressed from Pilgrim Place House, Christ Church, and it is dated. Now, Mr. Chairman, I am not reading from this testimonial, I am alluding to it.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: No, no. I am involved in that matter and sufficient is said on it involving myself that this document should be made a document of the House.

Mr. GREAVES: I have not said anything yet. I only said I have a testimonial.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I take it that this is a document that you are reading from. It is very much out of order and you would have to make it a document of the House.

Mr. GREAVES: I am not reading from it.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I am still rising on this matter. We have heard in this House that it is a document which purports to be a testimonial. What I am concerned about is that this document is to be made a document of this House. Too much is said of it for it not to be made a document of this House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have so ruled.

Mr. GREAVES: If I said that I have a document and I have not started to read from it, do you want me to read from it now?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I did not really want to get into this document business, but I have my simple approach to it. The hon. member for St. Lucy took a piece of paper and started to read "Pilgrim Place House, Christ Church". That would be now more than at the time when the Hon. Prime Minister took up some cheques which were given to George Moe and Cameron Tudor and all he said was "The hon. Cameron Tudor" and the then Speaker called on the Prime Minister to make it a document of the House. I am therefore submitting in that context that the hon. member for St. Lucy must make it a document of the House. If he does not make that a document of the House, I have a letter from a boy to him and I will make it a document of the House.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I take it the hon. member's time has expired.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Yes, it certainly has.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: You will not come back when you hear the letter from the boy.

Mr. Chairman, I will be very short. I should like to thank the hon. member for St. Philip South for the very wise and humane contribution which he has made to this debate, and I would like to assure you that his facts are correct, and if I could very respectfully say so, his opinions show that his heart was in the right place, and the conclusion which he draws and the conclusions which he asks Government to accept are also accepted by the Government. The conclusions which he asked us to share with him were that the reduction should last for a short period and I would like to assure him that the Government does not intend that work in his relatively small area of M.C.W. should be on a four day basis forever. We are even aware of the dangers of the transformation of the no production Friday to a no production Thursday, and the House is fortunate in having the wisdom of the hon. member for St. Philip South to assist it in these difficult situations because we are in a very difficult situation. A number of workers concerned is rather less than 1% of the work force of Barbados. It is not a very large number of persons. When we first took office it became clear to us that the economic non doctrine so carefully enunciated

by the hon. member for St. Lucy had prevailed at least for a time at the Ministry of Communications and Works.
4.20 p.m.

The total number of casual workers there at that time something like 2,700 and we were advised that the work actually being done by those 2,700 people could have been carried out more efficiently by a work force not exceeding 1,400. We rejected altogether the concept of dismissing half of the MCW workers. We took some ameliorating steps, but we ruled out any question of using the criterion of efficiency alone in determining the size of that Ministry's work force. Nonetheless, there are a number of good reasons why it is undesirable to maintain a staff of persons working at only half pace when they could be working at full pace. It is well known that any representative of the Union should know that it is highly demoralising for workers to be in an over-staffed working situation. They acquire more bad work habits, they are very difficult to absorb in other areas, it is actually very difficult to place MCW workers with construction firms who may be suffering a shortage, but we are contemplating transferring or offering the possibility of transfer to a number of these workers to go to work in the sewerage scheme when it starts, and the next circular would undoubtedly be to invite the casual workers at MCW to register for employment which by its nature is temporary, because it will be terminable. It will be higher paid at the sewerage scheme, but I have some doubt that we will be able to make the contractors accept the MCW workers in the numbers that we think the long service which they have given the Government might entitle them to, because long service has unfortunately come to mean in the words of the contractors themselves, the same phrase that I used earlier, "bad work habits".

The Supervisors do not always give the Government as a whole – I am not speaking of one party – the support that we can reasonably expect. I would not say encourage, but they are permitted to take long lunch breaks, get to work late, engage in bad time keeping, stand up and watch each other work. It is not the fault of the worker if these things are allowed, it is the fault of the system as a whole. If the amount of road to be repaired is only so much, and there is only so much material available, it is in the nature of things that a gang of 13 men with enough work for four, that some of them will have to be idle, and this is the situation in which we have found ourselves at MCW.

I regret that this playing politics with the MCW, except for one or two hon. members – I expect for example the hon. member for St. Michael South West and certainly the hon. member for St. Philip South to smile and to laugh. They cannot control their joy, their glee, their enjoyment at what they are describing as the plight of the MCW workers. When there was talk of reduction of wages the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. member fot St. Lucy, the Assistant General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union, were rolling with laughter on the Opposition benches. Yet they try to give the impression that they love these poor workers at MCW more than us, and we have these terrible painful decisions to make. *(Asides).* I hear it being shouted out that that argument is the same argument as was used by Barrow. I suppose he means the hon. member for St. John, but that does not make it a bad argument merely because the hon. member for St. John used it.

The economic situation in Barbados, Mr. Chairman, depends on many matters outside our control. I had to say, and I will repeat for the benefit of the hon. member for St. Philip South, that if these under developed countries get worse they have to get worse in Barbados and by the Government maintaining an overstaffed MCW. The economics of the hon. member for St. Lucy merely reveal that he does not know what he is talking about, no Government can cure unemployment by itself trying to employ the people out of taxation. There is no way that that can be done, you cannot tax a community in order to cure unemployment, unemployment is cured by extending the productive base of the economy.

Instructions, Mr. Chairman, have been given that the MCW must shift its thrust from these operations towards construction projects, and the list of construction projects has been put in evidence before the House by the Minister of Communications and Works. It is better to try to complete the Spring Garden Road, fill in the swamp, do Deacons Farm and Brighton, allow the establishment of warehousing facilities and some industry to create more jobs than to pay 13 people to stand up on the roadside trying to do the work of four, and this is what we are trying to do.
4.30 p.m.

We are trying to carry out a crash programme of serious construction work so as to absorb the MCW labour force, and this is why I say that the present reduction can be regarded as a short term reduction while new projects are coming on stream – heavy road construction projects and other activity of a productive nature which when carried out would leave a residue of permanent jobs. But there is nothing more impermanent than a road gang throwing a little gravel and tar on a road and making sure that it would have to be repaired in another three months. If you want to repair a road in Barbados that is not resting on rock, you have to dig out five or six feet of soil and then fill with rock. But there is not the money in many cases to do this, and you will find that if you spend $5 million to try to repair roads to the highest standards, you will maintain

a work force of no more than 900 persons. So while people with short term views cannot see beyond their noses and to them this type of thing may appear to be a palliative, persons who have a better understanding of the role of Government will recognize that a Government cannot cure its problems by over staffing.

This problem of over staffing has been made worse at this time of the year because of a peculiar situation. It is normally expected than in February and March the work force among casual labourers at MCW would decrease with people going to work in the sugar crop. Special arrangements are made for the casual workers to help reap the canes but this year, for some reasons known to the Government and some not entirely discernible, very few of the casual workers have gone to cut canes. This has had certain reactions. Some plantations, especially in the north of the Island, have had to make applications for work permits for Vincentians. A few permits have been granted so far – I signed eight and I am told others are pending.

Mr. TAITT: Will the Hon. Prime Minister tell us how many Vincentians he proposes to bring in to reap the sugar crop? To me it is a very disturbing situation that in this time of unemployment he is giving permits to bring in people to cut canes.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. ADAMS: The hon. member is not disturbing me and he is not more worried over the situation than I am. It is easy to say there are many people unemployed, so let them cut canes. But I would suggest to the hon. member to look at an article in the New York Times which said there should not be Barbadian and Jamaican migrant labour picking fruit and cutting canes in the USA, and a man from Pennsylvania wrote to the papers saying he wished to get his apple crop in but he didn't want any New Yorkers to put their hands on it. So that gives some idea of the problem involved with the matter of migrant labour.

But I am dealing specifically with the Ministry of Communications and Works and the fact that there are a number of persons who normally go to cut canes every year as part of the Agricultural work programme in this country but who have refused to do so this year, and the Government has information that they were advised against doing so by some supervisors at MCW. Government has evidence that there was a deliberate effort made to stop certain workers at MCW from entering the sugar harvest this year. They were told things about what the Government intends, such as not rehiring them, but the fact is that less workers than formerly have entered the sugar harvest and this has placed added problems on MCW. Faced with the difficulties of over staffing, and faced with the problem of workers remaining in the MCW work force when they were expected to be working in the sugar cane crop, the Government found itself on the horns of a dilemma, the Government reduced the work force at MCW or returned to the bad old days of padding the Government's pay roll, and we took the decision not to send home anybody but to distribute the available funds among all the workers. It might be argued that it would have been better to lay off some workers and keep the others; that was the policy of the Democratic Labour Party. We took the course of spreading the available funds among all the casual workers at MCW. This is common place with unions in Great Britain.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, with due respect to the Prime Minister I am saying the Prime Minister does not know what he is talking about and this is not the case as he is saying.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, perhaps the hon. member can tell us how many people were laid off in the sugar industry during the course of the last ten years.

Rt. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am saying what the union put forward as a proposal for severance pay for persons laid off. When the sugar factories closed down in this country some years ago the union talked about severance pay; it never told the industry to keep people on the pay roll. When workers were laid off from MCW five years ago the Union's voice was not heard. What we are trying to do is to distribute what money is available among all the workers. We know it is a hard situation at the present time. At the Sanitation Authority we had to put an end to working on Saturdays, and there may be other areas where other decisions will have to be taken.
4.40 p.m.

The hon. member for St. Philip South is perfectly right when he says that the lowest paid workers at the Ministry of Communications and Works can expect some small increase this year. I do not know when it will come. Maybe if the Union will agree between now and Easter, the Ministry of Communications and Works workers may be able to get their pay cheques, and despite the four days scale will receive very much the same as they would have got when it was five days. If you are really concerned about people not carrying home less money, think of the policies which have been expressed often to give some assistance to people at the bottom, although there will be a freezing higher up.

I gather from what the member for St. Lucy said that he would like to have the higher paid Civil Servants sent home. I suppose it reflects the position of the union, and the deep fundamental selfishness of the Barbados Workers' Union. That is the union, not Frank Walcott. Not only does it not care about the national interest of the country as a whole, but people who are

not members of the Barbados Workers Union. I have no intention to put higher paid Civil Servants on a four day week. People in the lowest brackets will get some small increase. If that is not a case of sacrifice, I would like to know what it is. I would not like to send home people in the way that the hon. member has suggested. The hon. member for St. Philip South has analysed the situation correctly, perfectly and adequately, and hon. members will do well to be guided by his view of the situation as expressed in his speech in here.

There is something which I will take seriously. We are in such an inflationary situation that we have had fixed in our minds that prices are skyrocketing. In 1973 prices did go up rapidly partly due to imported prices and partly due to Barbados itself. I will ask hon. members to take a look at the most recent publication of statistics for December, 1977 where Table 35 has for years and years shown the most fundamental items in Barbados, and I will give hon. members some idea of price movements during that time which reflect not only the policies of this Government, but to some extent the policies of the previous Government. Flour which cost 45 cents a pound in 1974/75 was reduced to 38 cents soon after we got into power. Corn meal which had risen by 5 cents a pound in fact costs the same now as in 1975. Between 1974 and 1975 it rose. Sugar has gone up in order to facilitate wage increases in the sugar industry. Condensed milk is the same as in 1974.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Prime Minister continues to say now despite the fact that the document dealt with 1977.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am thankful to the hon. member. Rice which costs 64 cents a pound was reduced to 41 cents and it has gone back now to 42 cents. It was reduced just before the General Elections; but even the 1 cent a pound that has gone on on rice will have a beneficial effect in the long run because we will take a portion of that and put it into a general fund. Onions cost 72 cents a pound in 1975. We now control them at 45 cents a pound.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of elucidation. I think that the information which the Prime Minister is quoting might be misleading the House. The position with onions is that there is a peak price for onions when they have to be imported. Onions remained at about 30 cents even in the most difficult years.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I cannot help the hon. member. This is from the Table of the total amount of onions imported.

Mr. TAITT: During 10 months of the year the onions produced in Barbados was sold in Barbados.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am not getting into that argument. I have had an opportunity of seeing the weekly prices of onions at 11 selected supermarkets. An analysis was done by Senator Trotman and it came to my desk every single week. I make a study of these selected items. I am worried about the cost of living and keeping down prices just as much as anybody else.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister can talk again but I think that right now he has reached his limit. There is a time limit for each member, and when his time is up he stops speaking.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like at this point..... *(Asides)* Let us have some order please.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, let us have some guidance. From the time the Rules were changed to new rules, I believe that there is a Rule saying that the time limit should not apply to the Prime Minister. *(ASIDE:* Not during debate on the Estimates). I do not mind sitting down. The Deputy Prime Minister can deal with it just as well as I can. He has just returned to his seat.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Before you begin to speak, earlier I ruled that a letter being read by the hon. member for St. Lucy should be made a Document of the House. I would like to know from the Clerk if the letter has been forthcoming. *(pause)*. I must therefore rule that the hon. member for St. Lucy was misleading the House on that occasion.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, you had asked me to sit while you made a ruling. Does the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister wish to speak?

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I was speaking before.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I do not mind giving way to the hon. membber, but not on that basis. Do not let him say that he was speaking before.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I had actually got up when the hon. member was not here. The price of onions in 1975 was 60 cents a pound, in 1976, 60 cents and in 1977, 40 cents a pound.
4.50 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, English potatoes in 1975 were 32 cents per pound, 36 cents in 1976 and the average for 1977 was probably about 38 cents, because the last quarters it was 36 cents and for one quarter of the four quarters was 45 cents. Cooking oil in 1974 was 80 cents, in 1975 it was 85 cents and in 1976 it was reduced to 78 cents, and the fourth quarter of 1977 it had to go back up to 86 cents. Whole chicken from 1974 was exactly the same price right through to 1977.

Fresh pork in 1974 was $2.75, in 1975 it was $2.20, in 1976 it was $1.90 and it is running between $1.90 and $1.99. As I understand it there are some people who are selling it even at $1.80 a pound. Split peas have remained constant right through.

When we say that it is a fact that the level of wage increases has caused an increase in the cost of living in the last three years, it is not that we do not have any evidence to prove it, because the evidence is there. I am very glad to see that there has been an improvement in the standard of living of the recipients of it, but at the same time what we have been emphasising is that unless there is an increase in productivity to pay for these, it means that the money to pay for these wages either has to come out of increased taxation or you have to borrow. I do not see why on these simple economic facts there is such a pretended division between this side and that side, because I believe that the hon. members on that side really understand that the points of view we are putting forward are the points of view which are correct.

The hon. member for St. Lucy said it was the function of the Government to stimulate the economic activity in the country. By having a deficit on current account that is the stimulation of the economic activity in the country; but where we may disagree is that our contention is that if you are going to incur a deficit you must try and spend the money thereby on productive sectors which in turn would add a greater stimulus to the economy. We have been saying for a long period of time, and I think the other side understands this too, that it is not the correct thing to do to make work, to have overstaffing in certain areas of your government expenditure when that self-same staff can be employed in house building and other productive areas, something of lasting benefit. To pay out wages for people to repair a road that you know has not been properly repaired, where you know it costs per yard more than it should cost, you are not doing anything to the total capital of the country, and this is the whole strategy we have been trying to devise.

I am sorry that the hon. member for St. Lucy used the word "wicked" in relation to the hon. member for St. Andrew because he knows that charge cannot stick. There is no Minister who is more concerned about the general running of his department than the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works. He saw it as a challenge from the first day he was appointed. Every effort he is making is an effort designed to ensure that levels of employment are maintained, that the community as a whole gets a proper value for the money that is spent in that department. I do not think hon. members recognise the fact that in 1974-75 a sum of $1,315,000 was voted under this Head for subsidiary roads, additional roads, highway improvement, highway rehabilitation, Wildey Industrial Road, private tenantry roads, ring road, Oistin by-pass and Speightstown by-pass. In 1975 the amount actually spent was $784,129.75. I want these facts to stick in. In 1975-76 a sum of $2,101,000 was voted and $1,608,802 were spent. In 1976-77 a sum of $2,452,000 was voted and $2,964,000 were spent, but a supplementary for $1 million had to be passed, and this year we estimate that we will spend $2,600,000.

Now hon. members must understand what percentage was there of the revenue between 1974-75 and 1975-76 or 1977–78. Commonsense will tell you somewhere that money has got to come from somewhere. You moved from $784,000 to an expenditure on this same Head of $2,964,000. It has to come from somewhere, and let us look at it the other way around. Can we in our heart of hearts today say to ourselves I know you have increased the expenditure by that amount, have I got as much yardage or footage of road done that I used to get in 1974-75? I challenge anybody on the other side. We know that cement and things like that have gone up and I challenge anybody on the other side to stand up in here and say that they honestly believe that the total amount that was paid out in wages between these periods of time has resulted in an equivalent amount of work being done on any unit of measurement. We have never been afraid to face this issue of productivity. The Minister has done everything in his power since he has been in power to explain that there has got to come a time of reckoning where if you are employed, it is the taxpayers' money for whom he is responsible. The Hon. Minister is the person responsible to the taxpayers and the electorate to see to it that for every dollar that is spent on wages some measure of production is added. Now this action cannot be taken in isolation from the history of employment in the Ministry of Communications and Works.

I am sorry the hon. member for St. Philip South is not here because he knows that I used to sit down in Local Government with the hon. member when Local Government used to be responsible for some of these roads, and the hon. member knows that the whole pattern of employment in relation to certain types of road workers was that as soon as the crop started in this country there used to be a laying off of road workers. We have reached the stage in this country when there was a shortage of labour that you never used to lay off, but in any event people used to go off voluntarily.

5.00 p.m.

We had reached the stage in this country when there was such a shortage of labour that you never used to lay off, but people used to go off voluntarily, and

the amount going off voluntarily was sufficient to ease the strain upon the vote, and as the Prime Minister has said, and we have just checked the facts, normally 250 go off on their own, but this year for some peculiar reason even with the increase of wages for cutting cane, only 50 decided to go off, despite the fact that it was explained to every member of the staff that if they went off they would not lose one iota of benefit, either pension wise or being taken back on. All of that was explained. Why is it that all of a sudden there has been this big change from the pattern of behaviour before? On this issue the facts surrounding the decision to explain to the public are very clear.

I also want to mention one other point. I notice now that it is very popular for everyone to get in on the act of this question of wage restraint. Never have I heard anybody on the other side concede that the Government has always said that the wage restraint does not apply to wages below a certain level. They never concede that, and secondly, they never concede that the Government has always insisted that the wage restraint policy does not prevent any employer or employee from negotiating increased levels but if the increase is based on productivity. I challenge any member on the other side to deny that that is Government policy. We have always insisted on two points of wage restraint. One was that below a certain level of earnings it did not apply, and secondly, that it is perfectly permissible for an employer and an employee to work out a scheme of increased wages based upon increased levels of productivity. Every opportunity we get we will explain this. Nor has any hon. member ever conceded that the Government has always said, and the Government is taking positive steps to ensure that there is also a restraint on prices and other incomes in this country. We keep saying that they are all tied together, productivity, prices and incomes, none of the others on the other side when they get up to talk will ever concede this, they are trying to put the issue on the basis that the Government is saying that all the other wages in Barbados are frozen, but thank God we have a lot of machinery that we can bring these matters out too.

I do not want to steal the thunder of the Hon. Minister, but the Hon. Minister has explained the programme of work. In addition to that we have calculated – and I see that the hon. member for St. Lucy in his other capacity is now out going into the house building industry, and I am very happy to see the Union doing a development scheme, because I believe that it would be contributing to an area where we need not only Government expenditure and Government expertise, we need other governmental expertise. I hope that the hon. member's organisation will invite the Ministry of Communications to quote, because what we are trying to do is to ensure that as much work as can be done by the Ministry of Communications and Works they will be able to do it. I know certainly that Statutory Corporations have been asked to invite MCW to bid. The Natural Gas Corporation in building its new headquarters will have to invite MCW to bid, I hope that the Union will invite MCW to bid. I really cannot understand the smiles over there, are the hon. members out there conceding that MCW should get a play?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: We are conceding that if you are going out to the highest bidder MCW would win. (Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: And that was so when you were there).

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That is part of the problem, because the hon. member is saying as an ex-Minister of Communications and Works that MCW would be the highest bidder. In other words, MCW's costs are higher than the private costs. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: It is a fact). Is not the hon. member then agreeing with us that it is necessary for us to ensure that the money we are spending that we should try and get better standards of productivity in relation to labour and in relation to supervision? (Hon. F. G. SMITH: I agree with that). The hon. member is agreeing with us then, so why fight us? Why did they not say that what we are saying is untrue when they readily concede on the floor of the House that the cost at MCW is way ahead of the cost of private contractors?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: With a private contractor there is not all this delay, but at MCW there is a big palaver to get rid of somebody. This was one of my problems as Minister, that you had to go through the big rigmarole to discipline a worker, so there is a collection of factors apart from productivity which affect the cost.

Hon. H. B. St.JOHN: I will only tell the other side that this decision was a decision arrived at after a tremendous amount of planning on the part of the Minister and on the part of his colleagues, and we genuinely feel that the time has come when we need a breathing space to analyse the productivity, to analyse the organisation at the Ministry of Communications and Works so that we can ensure that we are not contributing to the inflation in Barbados by the methods that we employ in the Government sector, because it is the Government sector that acts as the leader as far as the prices are concerned. I am sure that hon. members on the other side agree with us that we would all like to see this $2 million and over will be used to get more roads done, because there are a lot of roads which still need to be done.

5.10 p.m.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, the last speaker and the one before him made a number of interesting

statements, and some interesting conclusions can be drawn. But I would like to take up the Leader of the House on the challenge about wage restraint. It is a very good public relations gimmick to stand up and issue a challenge and then make statements not on all fours with previous statements made. I understand the technique; the Prime Minister used the technique of praising the hon. member for St. Philip South since the telling blows the hon. member made could only be dealt with by not resisting them but by drawing them to his breast. When the Prime Minister first made his statement about wage restraint it was a flat statement; only subsequently did he make any modification to the statement. And I have never heard any one on that side say anything about prices or productivity until today.

Secondly, the hon. Leader of the House quoted some statistics and it is very interesting that they need to trot out statistics to support a particular point. This House voted $1.3 million under this Head in 1974–75 and only spent $784,000, but to hear them talking you would think they had a bottomless pit of money. At its peak they only spent $784,000. I do not know what the figures mean to the hon. member reading them but it had a different meaning for me. The Prime Minister said that the lowest paid workers would get some small increase and that if the Union agreed now he would get the pay packet before Easter. This is only a technique, because I have been informed that the next meeting of the Union and the Government will be after Easter.

But I want to talk about the attitude of the Government in its approach to this problem. The Prime Minister said it concerned only one percent of the work force employed. Let us assume that the work force is 100,000 people. One percent of this figure is 1,000, and if you take the view that this figure represents families with an average of five persons, then there are 5,000 people affected by this callous act. Five thousand people in Barbados is a lot of people; but the Prime Minister comes in here and says only a few people – 1%. I would like to tell members on that side that on Sunday I saw a man who works at MCW and who has been there a long time; and that man was almost incoherent when he started to discuss what was happening to him. The Prime Minister said that it was a temporary measure and that he hoped to transfer those people to the Sewerage Scheme. This means that those persons who were hoping that finally they would get some work when the Sewerage Scheme started would have to wait while the transfer occurs in the shift from MCW to the Sewerage Scheme and the building of the Spring Garden road. Mr. Chairman, could not this transfer be accomplished without starvation of the workers involved? If the hon. Minister is so certain that these persons at MCW will be shifted over to these projects, can this not be done without suffering? I have no doubt the Minister cannot like doing this and I will not pretend that he likes it. But they must face the fact that it is a spiteful thing as seen by the workers. The worker who normally took home $100 a week now gets $80. So when we say this is a wicked act we do not mean that hon. members are wicked *per se;* we are only saying that it is an act that can only be seen as wicked by those affected by it.

The Prime Minister talked about over staffing at MCW and the difficulty in getting people to cut canes. I think they said about 150 or 250 people usually come to cut canes, but the Prime Minister says that so far he has signed for eight persons from abroad; so one has to assume that 242 other persons from Barbados have found work in the sugar crop. I would find it a strange policy that one permit should be issued to cut canes, because you will recall that in 1975, I think, when it was decided that no more persons would be allowed in to cut canes, the sugar crop was reaped and Barbadians were better off. I do not understand why it is necessary to give a single work permit for cutting canes, and I have not heard anybody say that we have to get additional people to cut canes. And what is strange is that now suddenly the same supervisors who could not induce the workers at MCW to work now have the power to cajole and convince these same workers not to cut canes. I have another possible explanation – Is it that these persons at MCW have now got a certain attitude brought about by present friends? Is it possible that they are afraid, rightly or wrongly to leave certain for uncertain? The people of whom I speak feel uncertain about the Government's word. No matter who tells them they would get back their jobs, people who are Dems are not going to leave their jobs at this time. 5.20 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, if you yourself used to work for $100 or $120 a week and you saw the possibility that if you went into the crop and came back you might not get back your job, I believe that you too would be reluctant to leave. Government's word is not accepted now apparently as the Government's word used to be. I would suggest to the members over there to examine this and see whether it is not true and if it is true, see if they should not do something to make people accept their word a little more than they now apparently do.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to turn away from the two hon. members over there and look at one other aspect of the Ministry of Communications and Works as we look at Direction and Policy Formulation. I think that in this House a supplementary came for the acquisition of buses. I recall that the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance had some very cruel words to say to me through the presiding officer. He accused me of economic sabotage when I did not reveal who was the second bus body manufacturer in Barbados. I think that

he is now aware that there is now at least one more; but I had suggested that the Government ought to take a serious look at not bringing in Leyland buses from overseas. I have no doubt that the Minister is satisfied that he made a right and correct decision. I have no doubt that the Government will defend that decision. It would be passing strange for them to get up and say we made a mistake; but one thing they cannot say is that the bringing in of these buses has assisted the economic development of Barbados and in the granting of more employment in Barbados. The buses have come, but if we had had those buses built at the Grazettes Industrial Park we would hardly have got them any later because the Leyland buses did not arrive here when they said they would arrive.

I have to agree with the hon. member for St. Michael North East who said that the bus bodies and other components built by the company in Grazettes are equal to the best in the world and better than most in the world. I think that that was a bad stroke to have brought those buses in, and I said so then. Of course when the Hon. Leader of this House is expecting us to join with him on certain matters, when we come in here and we give good advice – I remember the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister suggesting that I should be hanged merely because I sought to give him the kind of advice which I now, even, offer in retrospect.

Mr. Chairman, I see that Note 17 says "Provides for expenses in connection with the standard bus fare system." It would seem to me that there must be an amendment because he no longer has a standard bus fare system. One of the things I would like to suggest to the hon. members over there – I do not know. I have never been told the reason why the Minister of Finance considered it desirable to raise busfares in this country. I still feel that it is a bad economic decision. I am not making a political point. I am saying that it was a bad economic decision. One of the reasons for having a single fare in any country is to give those persons who live away from the city an equal advantage in the business of finding employment and travelling to employment.

I say to the Minister that there is some difficulty among many of the people who live in Barbados in terms of having to catch two buses; and in the present economic circumstances there is added economic pressure because of the bus system. Picture the worker at the Ministry of Communications and Works who has to take two buses now with a reduction in his weekly pay. The Prime Minister says that it would be temporary. The Lord knows that we wish it was never necessary because the people of this country are under a kind of pressure which they cannot take very much longer. The hon. gentleman who is now our distinguished Speaker in this House once said in here that a hungry man is a dangerous man. He went on to say that a starving man is a serious man.

Mr. Chairman, I was minded when I looked at the Advocate Magazine of this weekend at the back where Edward Stoute writes about old Barbados – it is already a document of the House. I borrowed it from in here. There are two paragraphs which I found very interesting. They are talking about Tuston and Halley and they said: "He was succeeded by Halley. Halley was a shrewd and unscrupulous man who figures largely in the history of Barbados." Later on it says: "At this period the colony was suffering very severely, and this period is referred to as the starving years." Those were years back in the 17th Century. I would never like to see us reach that point in Barbados again.

I hope that the hon. gentlemen over there and the distinguished lady will realise that when we make inputs as they affect the ordinary people of this country and we are not seeking, as was suggested by the Prime Minister and the Leader of the House to make political points. We cannot be glad and happy that they have had to take this measure. We are saddened by the fact that they have taken it, and if we seem to be difficult it is merely because when you were campaigning you gave the people of this country the assurance that once you got into power things will be all right. They are not, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I believe that the time has come when I should move that you do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again. I beg to move.

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

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 5.45 p.m.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the sitting accordingly.

5.30 p.m.

On Resumption:

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the suspension was taken, the House was in Committee of Supply, to which it now reverts.

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

Mr. SISNETT: Mr. Chairman, before the Minister makes his reply, I should just like to ask one question on transport, and it is merely whether the Minister could give the House any idea when the Government will be taking over the remainder of the buses, especially those owned by the Elite Bus Company. My reason for asking this is that only a week ago I witnessed a very unfortunate incident with one of the buses run by the Elite Bus Company. It was just around midday after a slight rainfall and this bus was in the Bank Hall region, and riding behind the bus I noticed the driver did not have much control over the bus and for some time it was zig-zagging and criss-crossing and eventually the bus landed on top the sidewalk. I followed this bus and after the driver got it back on the road I discovered that the bus had some structural defect, and after travelling for a while I overtook the driver and asked him what was the problem, and he told me that as soon as the rain falls for any considerable time most of the buses criss-cross the road like this; so I advised him in the interest of the passengers that he should not continue with the bus but rather he should report the matter to the proprietors of the Elite Bus Company. He advised me that they were all aware of the problem and that if he had done such a thing they would say he was not interested in working. I took that task myself of calling the Elite Bus Company and advising them, stating exactly what I had seen and in the interest of the passengers and pedestrians that it was a danger to have such a bus on the road. The driver thereafter showed me a few defects on the bus that he himself had complained about for a number of months, and I thought I would put this matter to the Minister and find out how soon would the Government be willing to take over or least look into the complete taking over of the remainder of those buses run by the Elite Bus Company for the safety at least of the passengers, and at the same time assure those workers with the Elite Bus Company of their jobs.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, if I may start at the point at which the hon. member for St. Michael North East finished, I would like to speak first of all on this question of the transport services and in particular to recall for the benefit of this Honourable Chamber and of the Minister in particular the fact that when in 1977 he rushed to this House and in very speedy terms indicated that he was taking over the buses by such and such a date, maybe the 1st June I believe, very soberly I warned him not to set himself deadlines. I warned him that a realistic assessment of the situation would not enable that take over to be achieved by that particular time. As in other things I was reminded, if not on that occasion on other occasions, that I was not in Government, that the Government has all of the answers and they know what they are doing. We are almost one year gone now and we have certainly not seen any take over of these buses. The negotiations seem to have gone underground. Why there is a delay I do not think the public has been fully advised. All we know is that we had a full statement that Government would be taking over by 1st June, and twelve months have almost gone and that particular objective has not yet been achieved.

I think this country, certainly this Parliament, should be given some authoritative explanation as to the factors involved in this failure of the Government in its transport policies, because this was a major proposal of the Government and it must rank as a failure of implementation at one level or another or at both levels, and I think we are entitled to some explanation. Is it that the Government has been stalling because they cannot find the money to pay the private concessionaires? Whatever it is I believe that this House and this country are owed some explanation on this.

I also advised the Government out of my experience as a member of the previous administration that instead of the flush of enthusiasm, the talking about large and grandiose projects which are to start within a few weeks and a few months that they should soberly assess the situation in the country and come up with realistic proposals and projections. I warned both from the Opposition benches and in my public utterances that the economy was in need of tuning and that certain measures would have to be taken which only could be taken through budgetary measures. Again this advice was not heeded and the Government went merrily on its way, gloating in the fact that they were now the Government, they had the reins of power and they did not want any advice coming from the Opposition benches.

Now the story is different. We are being told that the country is in a very difficult condition, most strenuous, and it takes strenuous remedies in order to deal with and correct the situation. What we are talking about is the direction and policy formulation of the Ministry of Communications and Works. Now the matter

goes deeper than that. It is not only the direction and policy formulation of the Ministry of Communications and Works, it is the direction and policy formulation of the very Government, because it is clear that the Minister of Communications and Works in this matter is merely the tool of Government policy and he has not very much leeway. If there is a productive project at Spring Garden and he has no money with which to continue that project, work slows down, there is a crawl while his particular RIE or whatever request it is for additional funds gathers moss and dust on the tables of the Ministry of Finance.
5.55 p.m.

That was admitted in here. It was held up in the Ministry of Finance and the Minister of Communications and Works can do nothing about it because at the higher levels it is being examined, more questions are being asked, and in the meantime if there are no materials the workmen have nothing to work on, and the whole project slows down. That is but one example in that Ministry, and I am establishing the point that the Minister of Communications and Works is a great tool in this particular matter. In fact, I would like to call him now on this occasion, he is the hatchet man in the Government, he is now being called upon to fire and dismiss, to lay off as well as to put on a reduced working week, Mr. Hatchet Man. I am certain that he does not like the appellation, nor does he like the task he is asked to perform, he is in the role of the sacrificial lamb in this particular matter. His is the responsibility now to tell those workers no more five days per week but four days, and we have to look at this in human terms because those are the only terms that mean anything to those workers who are at the bottom of the economic ladder in this country.

In the budgetary proposals and financial statement of last year there was given out, let me call it generosity, by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Minister of Finance, something called a tax credit of some $60 for income year 1976 to be granted to the taxpayers with gross incomes less than $6,000 per year. Before the words of that promise had died away there came the many increases in taxation in that budget which would affect the ordinary man in this country. Before that budget was actually finished, and then, Mr. Chairman, on top of that, the year is not even ended yet and the cost of living continues to go up. My colleague, the member for St. Philip South, indicated a range of items, publication of which came into the newspaper, the Advocate-News, a few days ago, and these are items which will affect the cost of living for these workers in the lowest categories of Government workers. We cannot get away from it, Mr. Chairman, there is a problem for those workers. They are finding difficulty as it is in meeting the problems and providing food, clothing and shelter for their families. It is most difficult now, and on top of that when the cost of basic items is going up they will be asked now as a result of this reduction in the work week, even more to tighten their belts, and this can only make the particular situation more adverse.

In these human terms we cannot escape the fact, and the Government cannot excape the fact, that it is trying to deal with a problem which is a very serious one and for which they will certainly have to answer. I regret ... (Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Come out of the sun). I will come out of the sun, I hope you do not have to stay out in the noon day sun, you are the hatchet man and this is what they have given you.

Mr. Chairman, this particular problem we are dealing with now is all the more serious when we consider that the Government has outlined a number of productive projects which unfolded before the eyes of the workers in this country, particularly those in construction, the plethora of projects on which work would be found for those who had no work, because construction work was to be one of the major planks for the Government to reduce unemployment in this country, and far from getting this expansion in projects we are having a reduction, so what we are having really are some fine words but performance is far from what is to be desired. This is the problem, the direction and policy formulation of the Government that is at stake, and it is that charge that the Minister has to answer on behalf of the Government.

I have been making some notes here. I believe, as I recall it, when we dealt with the second reading of the Appropriation Bill it was said that the Government did not have at its disposal the technique as was available to private enterprise of dismissing persons if one major aspect of their production costs went up, but if we need anything to underline the very grave and serious economic situation in which this country finds itself, it is this reduction in the work week. My colleague, the member for St. Michael South West has dealt amply and very soundly with this particular problem, but to say that only one percent of the work force will be involved is not really speaking to the problem in all its dimensions, because in addition to the workers' incomes being reduced you have to take into account that those workers have dependents, and this will affect a large number of people, including those dependents. I believe that to date we have not been told the number of persons involved. The Government has not yet said how many people this circular went out to, how many people will be involved, and the Minister must get up in this House and tell us how many workers are involved. (Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: If he feels so inclined).
6.05 p.m.

The Minister must get up and tell us. I am requesting it, and it is his duty. The first words that should come from his lips should tell us how many people will be affected by this decision, and I challenge him to get up and give this information. We want to know, because these workers will not forget it. They cannot retaliate now, but their retaliation will come at the right time. These workers know that their standard of living will be reduced, their capacity to provide for their children will be reduced, and they will know at the right time, when the next polling time comes around, how to deal with the Government that has caused them to suffer so severely. These are the terms in which we are looking at this particular matter.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order Mr. Chairman, the hon. member seems to be quarrelling about the Government's giving workers at the Ministry of Communications and Works a four day week. I did not hear a word from the Union when the last Government laid off 400 or 500 people from the same Ministry, but now they are questioning our humanitarian approach to the present problem.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister of Sport.....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I am happy to be Minister of Sport; I produced Haynes and Greenidge.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, the Minister made the point as if this was the first and only action taken as regards these workers. This action of a 4-day week comes after he has been sending home a large number of people.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, what is the hon. member on? A point of order? He is making a speech.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member for St. Michael South please continue.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to get this matter in its true perspective. I suspect, and I challenge the Government to deny this, that the real reason is that perhaps conditions might have been laid down by external agencies, orders given to the Government to reduce its labour force in order to benefit from any monetary injections into the economy of this country. I challenge the Government to state whether any instructions or warnings or information have come from anybody like the International Fund for Reconstruction, that any assistance to the Government would be contingent upon a reduction of the work force. Something along these lines seem to have escaped because it was admitted by the Prime Minister that if the public sector was over staffed, help might not be forthcoming from the outside. So I challenge Government to state whether negotiations have been going on in secret with the International Monetary Fund or other financial institutions about assistance for this country and that one of the conditions indicates that there might have to be a reduction in the public sector.

We are glad to see that there is some shift or effort into the productive sector and we note also the blandishment about the workers on the 4-day week. Of course we take our policies from Britain. In its darkest days Britain had to go on a 3-day week in order to deal with an ailing economy and falling pound, and we can see where the present policy indications come from. Is it that the position in this country after the management of the economy by the Barbados Labour Party administration has been brought to this particular situation that we are now imitating.....

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order Mr. Chairman, I though that after the hon. member had made his second reading speech he would not persist in statements such as this. In his second reading speech he admitted that the falling off of the economy started with the days of the world economic crisis. What is he going back on now? They ran the country into problems which we now have to correct; is he afraid to admit that they have to be corrected?

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I am charging that if there was any co-ordination in the Government, if indeed the intention is that the workers should go on to the sewage project scheme, I am saying that there should have been greater co-ordination in the scheduling of these projects, and if that is so, there is a lack of planning and co-ordination in Government as far as employment policies are concerned and the problem of dealing with the workers. I would be glad to know how many workers are involved, and whether any instructions or intimations have come from the International Monetary Fund that a work force in the public sector should be reduced, and I would also like to know about the delays as far as the take over of the buses are concerned.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman I am always worried about catch phrases and slogans.
6.15 p.m.

We heard about this open Government, and yet today for the first time this House and the public knew that Barbados had had to give work permits to Vincentians to work in the Sugar Industry. The sugar producers never said it. The Government never said it. We hear it today for the first time. The Government controls T.V. and there are the other news media but we never heard that work permits were given and more

were under consideration. Open Government! Well God help this country.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Work permits have nothing to do with the Ministry of Communications and Works.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The Prime Minister said it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will not have it the subject of the debate.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: What was said was that workers from the Ministry of Communications and Works could go into the sugar industry; and we were told that the workers were not going into the sugar industry which necessitated giving work to non Barbadians. I am not going to dwell on it. I am just mentioning that this open Government has not told the people of this country that the necessity has arisen because workers from MCW were failing to take up the option which the Government had given them and they were forced to issue work permits. Now is this open Government? Is it fair to the public? They control T.V. and they have "Issues and Answers". They have Ministers speaking. They have everything on T.V.. they have a Press Secretary and a big Press corps. Now we are hearing that work permits were given to at least eight and that others are pending. (*Aside:* You gave thousands). That was known; but we have heard it today through a sideline to the great regret of the Prime Minister. Let us move off from here.

The Minister of Education will not get any play tonight. You have these Speech Days to talk of what you are going to do, and the Minister of Health chooses the opening of schemes and health seminars. Anyhow, Mr. Chairman, let us go home. I heard about the ring road. The ring road was started by the Democratic Labour Party. *(Aside).* You know the part by Cable and Wireless where they started the ring road? It seems that you do not read your files. Do you know that a survey was done as to what to do with the bridge by CBC? They talk about a ring road and that they are going to build a road from down by Fontabelle. That was started by the projections and planning done by the Democratic Labour Party. If that Government was more honest to give to the Opposition what they planned and were planning rather than trying to say that they did not find anything, this country would move on; but you keep opening seminars, opening buildings, opening industries; and to the unenlightened Barbadian you would think that these things sprang up overnight. All that we are asking you to say is that you may have changed to this or that, but it was there. You did not start any ring road. You did not start any Spring Garden Road down by the harbour. That was started when I was Minister, although you say that I did not do anything when I was Minister of Communications and Works. I will tell you something about this country that you do not know about it.

I agree with long term employment and that that is what the Government should look at; but with our employment patterns, in Barbados, provided the economic situation is right, any Government should seek to provide short term employment which is absolutely necessary and vital. So that when we got into power in 1961 we started a crash programme. I am not saying that you should have a crash programme year in and year out. I am not saying that that should be the pattern; but no Government in power can in a wholesale way condemn the provision of short term employment. When you have a labour force unemployed of 15, 20 or 30% you at least have got from time to time to provide bread for these people so as to alleviate the hardships. So the Government must not only make up its mind, as the present Government seems to have done, that it will never provide short term employment. While the grass is growing the horse is starving; and you are paying money in public assistance whereas if you had some comparison you might find that you could find money in this present economic situation, although it might be tight. With the present employment pattern I am saying that we should not determine once and forever that we are not going to provide any short term employment for the people of this country. I cannot agree that you should not spend money for short term employment in a situation where the unemployment rate is increasing and people are carrying a great burden with children starving, wanting clothes, wanting school books and wanting shoes.

The Government however has its aim on long term planning which takes time; because when you are planning a road or a building or a sewage scheme it will not come in six, eight or nine months. I am not saying that you can do it now; but do not let me hear about economic theories. I know something about economic theories myself; but from time to time it may be wise to give serious consideration to the provision of temporary employment to alleviate the pressure which is now placed, as the Minsiter can tell you, on your social services. I agree that in the present economic situation that is out; but I am laying down a broad economic theory that for the temporary alleviation of hardships, and with our employment pattern, the provision of short term employment is the approach which should be adopted in this country.

I think that enough has been said about the four day week; but to my mind there can be no justification for putting people in this country at this time on four days a week. For one thing, on the eve of the negotiations it is wrong. The Government should have waited until the negotiations were finished to the level of an increase for the lower paid workers was

settled, and then in terms of the allocation to you, take your step. You are prejudicing the negotiations. You are trying to bluff people that even if you give them 20% you have taken off a day by not giving them; and now that they only carry home $80, if you give them a 20% increase they will carry home $100 and they are better off.

I repeat that this is the wrong time because it prejudices the negotiations. I would expect that a Government which criticised the Democratic Labour Party Government as a dishonourable Government to have waited until the negotiations were finished before implementing the four day week; and you hear the Minister say that the people who are getting four days instead of five and who will carry home four days wages instead of five are happy and please. Well, Barbadians must be the most illiterate group of people that God ever created and gave two feet to. I cannot see how a man could be pleased to work for four days instead of five when he is willing to work for five, and you are giving him four with the same responsibility. In spite of the fact that he has been accustomed to work for five, and has patterned his life and working for five, you are only giving him four; and you are going to get up in this House and tell me that these people are happy? You might as well tell that to the Marines. Any Barbadian in your Ministry that says so should be fired. I say that without any fear or repercussions. Any man who tells you that he is satisfied with four days instead of five, with a reduced pay packet that he must carry home does not have any sense and he has no right working with you. Send him home. He has no sense of responsibility. He must be stealing or breaking houses or robbing people or winning on the onearmed bandits. If he was getting five days a week as a Minister and his salary was reduced by a day, or if the member for St. Michael South West gets a day less with his standard of living, can he come in here and tell me that he is happy?
6.25 p.m.

I know it is two minutes, but I am coming back. I will deal with another aspect of this Ministry. Let us be frank and fair. I was about to ask a parliamentary question about this bus fare thing, but it was never asked. With respect to the printing of these tickets, I heard that they were printed by the company that printed the Barbados Labour Party's manifesto. I may be wrong, and I want to know. I also understand that the tender from this company was not the lowest tender. I want the Minister to tell me who were the tenderers, what were the figures and how much the particular printers of these tickets charged or tendered for to be able to print tickets for the bus service. That is a straightforward question and not embarrassing to anybody. The questions are therefore who were the tenderers, what were the figures put up by each tenderer for the tickets, to whom it was awarded and the name of the company, and if I may be misled, whether that company was a company that printed the Barbados Labour Party's manifesto in 1976.

My colleague, the hon. member for St. Michael South said that if you took over the buses, then you could do away with the subsidy to the concession; so the longer we delay in taking over the buses the longer the subsidy continues, so you would be saving money if you did this. (Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: You have to have it anyhow.) If you took over the buses, do you still have to pay a subsidy?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member's time is up.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I will have to come back.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman.....

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I want to know how many times.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let me inform the hon. member that before he be allowed to make another contribution, I must see if there is any other hon. member who wishes to speak.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I have to reply to a number of points raised by hon. members and to answer a number of allegations made. As far as the bus tickets are concerned,.....

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, I would like to ask a few questions so that when the Minister gets up to answer, he can answer all.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member has the right, as all hon. members have the right to put down questions whenever they want and they will get the answers to which they are entitled.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, I think the Minister is out of order. I think if I may use the terms.....

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: What is the point of order?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will decide as Chairman. What is the point of order of the hon. member for St. Michael South West?

Mr. TAITT: That the Hon. Minister's reflection on the authority of the Chair when he raises the question that there is a time for asking questions. During the

Estimates, when there are Estimates, the Minister has to come here and answer all the questions we ask him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please be seated.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for St. Michael South Central made mention of the fact that he had put down a question on this subject of bus tickets. I take it that he as a long standing member of this House will understand and appreciate that it is certainly not proper, having made this matter the subject of a question in this Parliament.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order, I have asked no question on bus tickets. I want the answer from you now.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: That is what the hon. member said, that he asked a question. If the hon. member is willing to make noise and confuse himself, I assure him he will not confuse me. As far as I am concerned, I am going to remain calm and collective and say exactly what I have to say. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central is very low on the Order Paper as far as my reply tonight is concerned, and therefore he will wait and bide his time on that if at all he is to get a reply, and he would know exactly the form in which the replies should come. As a matter of fact, I am going to deal more specifically at the moment with one or two questions as very seriously put to me by the hon. member for St. Michael South. I have not found sufficient merit in the points raised by the other hon. members to actually give them a reply. It is going to be as simple as that. The hon. member for St. Michael South has asked me a few pertinent questions and he is certainly entitled to a reply. The hon. member for St. Michael South West put forward a question about the people in M.C.W., being affected and used the form of multiplier. I take it on the basis of his multiplier that 5,000 would be affected, and since he is certainly aware of the numbers, therefore his multiplier would have to be an error, the mere fact that he could say that as a result of the people laid off 5,000 would be affected.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of elucidation, when I spoke about the 5,000 I was responding to the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance who said that it was 1% of the work force, and I said that assuming the work force is 100,000 persons, then 1% is 1,000, and if you have an average family of five, that would be 5,000 persons. That is what I said.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, assuming that the hon. member's deductions are correct, it would obviously mean that Barbados has a population of something like half a million people on the basis of the number on which he has calculated.

To reply directly to the hon. member for St. Michael South, the number of people affected by this short week is 1,070. I am further to inform this Honourable House and the country largely that this Government and this Party take no orders from outside. We are our own bosses and our own masters, and we make our own decisions. It is because we are our own bosses and our own masters and want to keep it this way, that we have decided to resort to the policies which we are now initiating and will continue to initiate.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I wonder on a point of elucidation if the Minister would just briefly give way.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Minister does not give way. Be seated.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I would wish that the hon. member would hold his points and make them at the end. He has asked a question about the buses and said that when I came in here I informed the House that I was going to take over the entire bus service in this Island by the end of June, he warned me against indecent haste of making such a decision as he thought it was rash, and he went on to make a lot of allegations on this matter. He said further that I am just carrying out the orders of somebody else and I think he went on to refer to the Minister of Finance. I suppose it is well known and only a person very untutored in the art of Government would not recognise that all Ministers of Government have got to depend very much upon the question of cash flow of any country's position and therefore you have got to co-ordinate your plans to suit the Ministry of Finance.
6.35 p.m.

Therefore you have got to co-ordinate your plans to suit the Ministry of Finance, and to say that I am taking my orders from the Ministry of Finance might not be very wrong, because I have to set the pattern in every form, and therefore that statement is a *non sequitur*. He went on to say that I would be regarded as the hatchet man in the Ministry. I do not mind that epithet, it might be a good one. If by being that I can do something to assist in rectifying the very bad situation which this country has fallen into, well I am satisfied with it, but there is one thing, I would never be regarded as the bag man in this House or this Government. I am subject to the will of the people and I am prepared to carry out the functions of the people as they have expressed on the 2nd September, 1976.

Now, I am going to read, before I go any further – and this is in answer to the hon. member for St. Michael South Central – I am reading here from the debate of the House of Assembly on Friday, 19th March, 1976, page 6441, and this is what the hon. member for St. Michael North Central had to say. "As regard the road programme, when I took over the Ministry I found that most of the money which had been voted in the last year's Estimates had not been spent. I observed that the number of casual workers was about 750, today it is 2,750, although I must admit to you that we have not been able to spend all the money voted for last year in the Estimates which was very small, and I hope that I would be able to carry on this programme at the current rate, and if necessary increase it."

At the time when this debate took place we had not reached the point where we had so involved ourselves as would force me to come back here late in the year after the elections for a supplementary vote of $1.7 million. The Ministry must work within the framework of the financial position of the country, and the amount which is voted for them to carry on, and if you are unable to do this you are going to be in very serious trouble.

The member referred to the question of the bus concessionaires and what is the position with respect to the negotiations. I do not know if he was listening very carefully to me when I outlined the programme of my Ministry overall when I reflected on this, and I spoke about the need to have the whole system coming under Government control and the problems which we encountered. I also said at the time, which he referred to, when I spoke in this House on the question of the takeover of the buses, that the question of the takeover would very much depend upon the Government's policy to negotiate successfully with the owners and the two private concessionaires. Up to now, I am afraid to say that this has not been so, we have not succeeded, up to this moment, in getting the private concessionaires to agree with the figure which we consider to be reasonable.

When we decided to bring the buses to this island, and this is briefly to the hon. member for St. Michael South West, when we decided to bring the buses here he kept a lot of noise about bringing the buses that we could allow the buses to be built here, and all the rest of it. I am to say that even though the first chassis came in here with the first two completed buses that came down, that up to this day Butcher's Manufacturing Company still has four buses for MCW. This is no reflection on them, I regret very much and I am a sad man that they were not able to build all the buses for us. They admitted their incapacity to build the buses for us at the time, and they knew our problems, but only the members on the other side are completely oblivious to the problems of transportation. *(A VOICE:* Tell us about the bus tickets now). My friend so much believes in cheap politics that all he wants to hear is about bus tickets. He has just spoken but he cannot help for these cheap politics, that is his style and his method, but I am not going to worry with this.

Mr. Chairman, you represent a constituency that suffered very badly at the hands of the private concessionaires, and all over this island this has been the problem. The hon. member for St. Michael North East asked me when we are going to take over the buses, but we will do this as soon as possible. The problem he mentioned here this afternoon is a problem which he has drawn to my attention, the people who are still being served by the private concessionaires are having terrible problems to commute, and we are going to move in, but it take times to do that, and we can only do this when the buses are available to perform the functions which we have to perform. I said very early that the fleet at the Transport Board at the moment is 249. In order to satisfy the whole Government's requirement we are going to need in the region of 300, and we have provision in the Estimates now. If the member had stopped keeping noise and looked carefully at the Estimates he would have seen that provision is made in the Estimates for the purchase of 25 additional buses.

The British Government has given us assistance wherever possible in the form of credit and technical knowhow. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition made mention just now about a subsidy, that if the Government takes over we would have to pay a subsidy. I have never heard such nonsense. As a result of the Public Utilities Board making certain awards to the concessionaires in this island, and the Transport Board is one of those concessionaires, bus fares were standardised, and when the Government came in we were subsidising the bus fare at 25 cents, which was later raised to 35 cents, and therefore you had to subsidise both concessionaires, so if you are taking over all the routes you will still have to subsidise the Government buses in the same form as you are subsidising the private concessionaires, so if the hon. member who is an Attorney-at-law.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of explanation. This means then that the subsidy here sets out that it includes the Transport Board, Mrs. Rock, as well as Elite. What I am saying is that if you own the whole transportation system in Barbados you may give a subvention to the Transport Board or you may use this same Head, but I am still waiting, Mr. Chairman, to hear about the bus tickets.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is again confused, because this Head of subsidy covers subsidy for all the buses in the island. The Rocklyn is out, they are not involved, the Elite to a lesser extent.
6.45 p.m.

But regardless of what you do, if the Transport Board is going to run the same amount of buses on all the routes, they would be entitled to the subsidy which the private concessionaires are getting. The purpose of this money is to pay the difference between what the normal fare should be and what the Government has standardized the bus fares at. One hon. member made mention of the fact that bus fares were raised and suggested they should not have been and brought up a question of commuters working 4-days a week and how they would travel. I do not want to elaborate on the question of the 4-day week, but you have to face it. If a man is working 4-days a week he is not going to spend bus fare for 5 days. What kind of a stupid argument is that?

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order Mr. Chairman the Hon. Prime Minister obviously misunderstood the argument I was making, and is therefore misleading the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order, please be seated.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, with this brief review I have made I do not think I need to give any further information.

I beg to move that the Head stand part.

The question that the sum of $7,681,166 under Head 14(1) – Direction and Policy Formulation – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

RECOMMITAL OF HEAD 11(2) – MAGISTRATES COURTS – $119,206

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the explanatory note to Item 9 be amended and circulated to read "Includes expenses in connection with the payment of fees for medical witnesses, performing post mortem examination, Liquor Licence Justices, wages for janitor and cleaning mortuary after post mortem examinations."

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, what the hon. member was pointing out a little while ago is that there is no such law as the Advertising Act, but rather the Advertising Regulation Act, 1956, which is under – the Head we just past.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: I wish to thank the hon. member for pointing out an obviously typographical error. There are a number of amendments which have been circulated, and hon. members know that at the appropriate time we have to move that the amendments which have been circulated be accepted and the Estimates in consequence amended. That is a motion I propose to move. I also propose to move that to be inserted in these amendments which are circulated is an amendment to insert the word "regulations" between the words "advertisement" and "act".

On the motion of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, the amendments to Heads of the Estimates which had not yet been debated and had already been circulated to Honourable Members were incorporated in the Estimates.

HEAD 14(2) – PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Head 14(2) Public Buildings – was called.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $2,085,836 under Head 14(2) – Public Buildings, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 14(3) ROADS, CAR PARKS AND BUS STANDS

Head 14(3) Road, Car Parks and Bus Stands – was called.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $8,080,814 under Head 14(3) – Roads, Car Parks and Bus Stands – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I would like to know how soon we are going to have the new Road Traffic Act. In this connection I have suggested a way in which you can provide employment. If you make every vehicle in this country have a certificate of fitness before it is granted a permit, we would be able to provide employment for a large number of young people in this country. You could set up deposits throughout the country and create employment for mechanics.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, under this Head I want to appeal to the Minister concerned on the question of paying attention in conjunction with the Ministry of

Education to having signs placed in certain areas where there are schools. For example, out there in Kings Street some little child is going to get killed. The Harbour Road has also become a virtual free way. I suggest that a sign be placed at the corner of Richmond Gap. There are literally thousands of children coming from the St. Leonard's Secondary School in that area, and the cars and buses are passing like on a freeway. I hope the Minister will do something about this.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I would like on behalf of the constituents of St. Michael South to draw to the attention of the Minister the condition of the roads in the Dunlow Lane area. The people ther are having a lot of difficulty and would like that particular road system repaired and I would like the Minister to bear this in mind.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, in 1974 I saw the hon. member making an inspection of that area with the then Minister of Communications and Works trying to get that road done. That was since 1974, and he now comes in here asking to have that road done. Why didn't the hon. member have the Minister fix the road then instead of barbergreening people's yards?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: If I had done all the roads what would the Minister of Communications and Works be left to do now? You used to call me Minister of tarred roads; you are Minister of subsidiary roads now. If the DLP had done everything there would be nothing left for you to do.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I would like to inform the hon. member for St. Michael South that the point raised by him may be good publicity for the consumption of the constituents, but the point could have been made by way of a telephone call.
6.55 p.m.

The question that Head 14(3) as amended stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 14(4) – VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT WORKSHOP

Head 14(4) – Vehicles and Equipment Workshop – in the sum of $2,762,118 was called.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 14(4) as amended stand part.

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

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

HEAD 14(5) – DRAINAGE AND SAFETY

Head 14(5) – Drainage and Safety – in the sum of $1,011,800 was called.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 14(5) stand part.

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

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

HEAD 14(6) – TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIT

Head 14(6) – Telecommunications Unit – in the sum of $21,385 was called.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 14(6) as amended stand part.

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

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

HEAD 14(7) – ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS DEPARTMENT

Head 14(7) – Electrical Engineers Department – in the sum of $212,792 was called.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 14(7) stand part.

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

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I have risen to point out that my copy of the Estimates does not have in Head 14(5) or Head 14(6).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am sure that the Clerk will attend to that for you.

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

HEAD 14(8) – WATER RESOURCES – AS AMENDED

Head 14(8) – Water Resources – in the sum of $9,499,776 – was called.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 14(8) as amended stand part.

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: In seconding the motion, Mr. Chairman, I hope that hon. members will note that we are putting resources of $9 million for water resources development. Obviously pipelines will have to be laid and more employment will be created in the laying of pipelines. I hope that hon. members will note that there is another department under the control of the Minister of Communications and Works which has a big Capital works programme.

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

HEAD 14(9) – PORT MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Head 14(9) – Port Management Division – in the sum of $654,882 was called.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 14(9) stand part.

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

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

HEAD 114(1) – CAPITAL – MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS

Head 114(1) – Capital – Ministry of Communications and Works – in the sum of $11,548,544 was called.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 114(1) stand part.

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

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

HEAD 114(2) – PORT MANAGEMENT – AS AMENDED

Head 114(2) – Port Management – as amended – in the sum of $4,494,881 was called.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 114(2) as amended stand part.

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

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again. *(Pause).* Very well Sir. I understand that hon. members want to leave this place in a hurry and they prefer to finish. So we can continue.

HEAD 15(1) – DIRECTION AND POLICY FORMUALTION

Head 15(1) – Direction and Policy Formulation – in the sum of $6,123,691 was called.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 15(1) stand part.

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

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

HEAD 15(2)– SCHOOLS (PRE-PRIMARY, PRIMARY AND SPECIAL)

Head 15(2) – Schools (Pre-primary, Primary and Special) – in the sum of $6,795,087 was called.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 15(2) stand part.

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

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

HEAD 15(2) – SCHOOLS (SECONDARY)

Head 15(2) – Schools (Secondary) – in the sum of $12,790,417 was called.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 15(2) Schools (Secondary) stand part.

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

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

HEAD 15(3) – ERDISTON COLLEGE

Head 15(3) – Erdiston College – in the sum of $233,424 was called.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 15(3) – Erdiston College stand part.

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

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

HEAD 15(4) – TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL

Head 15(4) – Technical and Vocational – in the sum of $520,066 was called.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 15(4) – Technical and Vocational stand part.

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

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

HEAD 15(5) – COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITY – AS AMENDED

Head 15(5) – Colleges and University – as amended – in the sum of $8,144,149 was called.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 15(5) – with the amendments as circulated stand part.

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

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

HEAD 15(6) – HOUSECRAFT CENTRE

Head 15(6) – Housecraft Centre – in the sum of $70,615 was called.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 15(6) stand part.

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

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

HEAD 15(7) – HOTEL SCHOOL

Head 15(7) – Hotel School – in the sum of $159,467 was called.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 15(7) stand part.

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

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

HEAD 15(8) – SCHOOL MEALS DEPARTMENT

Head 15(8) – School Meals Department – in the sum of $6,124,462 was called.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 15(8) stand part.

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

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

HEAD 15(9) – AUDIO-VISUAL EDUCATION

Head 15(9) – Audio-Visual Education – in the sum of $107,328 was called.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 15(9) stand part.

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

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

7.05 p.m.

HEAD 15 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (10) INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS

Head 15 – Ministry of Education and Culture (10) Industrial Schools, was called.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $150,952 under Head 15 – Ministry of Education and Culture (10) Industrial Schools, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 15 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (11) LIBRARIES

Head 15 – Ministry of Education and Culture (11) Libraries – was called.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $216,767 under Head 15 – Ministry of Education and Culture (11) Libraries stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

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

HEAD 18 – MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND LANDS
(4) PARKS AND BEACHES

Head 18 – Ministry of Housing and Lands (4) Parks and Beaches – was called.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,921, 658 under Head 18 – Ministry of Housing and Lands (4) Parks and Beaches, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

7.15 p.m.

MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND LANDS

HEAD 18(5) – NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $2,419,657 under Head 18(5) – National Housing Corporation – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

HEAD 118 – MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND LANDS

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $7,759,373 under Head 118 – Ministry of Housing and Lands – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

HEAD 19(1) – DIRECTION AND POLICY FORMULATION

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,184,520 under Head 19(1) – Direction and Policy Formulation – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

HEAD 19(2) – LABOUR DEPARTMENT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $72,547 under Head 19(2) – Labour Department – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

HEAD 19(3) – WELFARE

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, there are some amendments to Head 19(3) which are as follows:

Page 116 –	Item 9	Delete the figure "2,276,060" under column Other Expenditure and insert the figure "2,384,482".
		Delete the figure "330,390" under column Increase and insert the figure "438,812".
	Total Other Charges – Charges	Delete the figure "19,939,220" under column Other Expenditure and insert the figure "20,047,642".
		Delete the figure "785,870" under column Increase and insert the figure "894,292".
	Total Recurrent –	Delete the figure "20,052,368" under column Other Expenditure and insert the figure "20,160,790".
		Delete the figure "848,598" under column Increase and insert the figure "957,020".
	Total Expenditure –	Delete the figure "20,060,368" under column Other Expenditure and insert the figure "20,168,790".

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

HEAD 17 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND NATIONAL INSURANCE (9) THE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL

Head 17 – Ministry of Health and National Insurance (9) The Psychiatric Hospital – was called.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,968,418 under Head 17 – Ministry of Health and National Insurance (9) The Psychiatric Hospital – as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 17 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND NATIONAL INSURANCE (10) QUEEN ELIZABETH HSOPITAL

Head 17 – Ministry of Health and National Insurance (10) Queen Elizabeth Hospital – was called.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $11,091,174 under Head 17 – Ministry of Health and National Insurance (10) Queen Elizabeth Hospital, as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 17 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND NATIONAL INSURANCE (11) NATIONAL INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

Head 17 – Ministry of Health and National Insurance (11) National Insurance Department – was called.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $93,392 under Head 17 – Ministry of Health and National Insurance (11) National Insurance Department, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 117 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND NATIONAL INSURANCE

Head 117 – Ministry of Health and National Insurance – was called.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $11,231,821 under Head 117 – Ministry of Health and National Insurance – as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 18 – MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND LANDS (1) DIRECTION AND POLICY FORMULATION

Head 18 – Ministry of Housing and Lands (1) Direction and Policy Formulation – was called.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $235,083 under Head 18 – Ministry of Housing and Lands (1) Direction and Policy Formulation, as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 18 – MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND LANDS (2) CAVES AUTHORITY

Head 18 – Ministry of Housing and Lands (2) Caves Authority – was called.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $39,772 under Head 18 – Ministry of Housing and Lands (2) Caves Authority, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 18 – MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND LANDS (3) LANDS AND SURVEYS DEPARTMENT

Head 18 – Ministry of Housing and Lands (3) Lands and Surveys Department – was called.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $214,016 under Head 18 – Ministry of Housing and Lands (3) Lands and Surveys Department, stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 17 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND NATIONAL INSURANCE (2) COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

Head 17 – Ministry of Health and National Insurance (2) – Community Health Services – was called.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,103,607 under Head 17 – Ministry of Health and National Insurance (2) Community Health Services, as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 17 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND NATIONAL INSURANCE (3) ENVRIONMENTAL SANITATION

Head 17 – Ministry of Health and National Insurance (3) Environmental Sanitation -- was called.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $6,598,027 under Head 17 – Ministry of Health and National Insurance (3) Environmental Sanitation, as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 17 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND NATIONAL INSURANCE (4) NUTRITION

Head 17 – Ministry of Health and National Insurance (4) Nutrition – was called.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $166,319 under Head 17 – Ministry of Health and National Insurance (4) Nutrition – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 17 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND NATIONAL INSURANCE (5) AMBULANCE SERVICES

Head 17 – Ministry of Health and National Insurance (5) Ambulance Services – was called.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $269,642 under Head 17 – Ministry of Health and National Insurance (5) Ambulance Services, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 17 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND NATIONAL INSURANCE (6) THE GERIATRIC HOSPITAL

Head 17 – Ministry of Health and National Insurance (6) The Geriatric Hospital – was called.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,201,106 under Head 17 – Ministry of Health and National Insurance (6) The Geriatric Hospital, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 17 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND NATIONAL INSURANCE (7) OTHER HOSPITALS

Head 17 – Ministry of Health and National Insurance (7) Other Hospitals – was called.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,267,095 under Head 17 – Ministry of Health and National Insurance (7) Other Hospitals, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 17 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND NATIONAL INSURANCE (8) LAZARETTO

Head 17 – Ministry of Health and National Insurance (8) Lazaretto – was called.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $61,960 under Head 17 – Ministry of Health and National Insurance (8) Lazaretto, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 15 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (12) ARCHIVES

Head 15 – Ministry of Education and Culture (12) Archives – was called.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $40,094 under Head 15 – Ministry of Education and Culture (12) Archives, stand part of the schedule.

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

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

HEAD 15 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (13) CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Head 15 – Ministry of Education and Culture (13) Cultural Affairs – was called.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $145,757 under Head 15 – Ministry of Education and Culture (13) Cultural Affairs, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 115 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Head 115 – Ministry of Education and Culture – was called.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $8,800,400 under Head 115 – Ministry of Education and Culture, together with the circulated amendments, stand part of the Schedule.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division

HEAD 16 – MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (1) GENERAL

Head 16 – Ministry of External Affairs (1) General – was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $4,078,628 under Head 16 – Ministry of External Affairs (1) General, as amended, stand part of the schedule.

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

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

HEAD 16 – MINSTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (2) CONTRIBUTIONS

Head 16 – Ministry of External Affairs (2) Contributions – was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,942,000 under Head 16 – Ministry of External Affairs (2) – Contributions, as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 116 – MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Head 116 – Ministry of External Affairs – was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $315,070 under Head 116 – Ministry of External Affairs, as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 17 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND NATIONAL INSURANCE (1) DIRECTION AND POLICY FORMULATION

Head 17 – Ministry of Health and National Insurance (1) Direction and Policy Formulation – was called.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $4,531,618 under Head 17 – Ministry of Health and National Insurance (1) Direction and Policy Formulation, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

Delete the figure "851,098" under column Increase and insert the figure "959,520".

Summary – Delete the figure "20,593,789" against Total Expenditure 1978–79 and insert the figure "20,702,211".

Delete the figure "840,158" against Net Increase and insert the figure "948,580".

Page 116 – Explanatory Notes – Delete the figure "2,100,000" against Child Care Board in Note 9 and insert the figure "2,208,422".

I beg to move that the sum of $20,168,790 under Head 19(3) – Welfare – as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

HEAD 19(4) – YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $164,766 under Head 19(4) – Youth and Community Development – as amended, stand part of the Schedule. The amendment is a change in the Summary, delete "Increase" and substitute "Decrease".

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

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

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

HEAD 119 – MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, there are some amendments to this Head.

Page 118 – Item 1 – Delete the figure "130,000" under column Estimates 1978–79 and insert the figure "180,000".

Delte the figure "1,220,000" under column Estimates 1978–79 and insert the figure "1,270,000".

Capital Notes – Delete the words "for equipment" from Item 1 and insert the words "improved security at the National Stadium. Provision is also made for the purchase of equipment".

Analysis of Expenditure – Delete the figure "1,175,000" against Construction and Improvement to Property and insert the figure "1,225,000".

Delete the figure "1,220,000" and insert the figure "1,270,000".

I beg to move that the sum of $1,270,000 under Head 119 – Ministry of Labour and Community Services – as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

ANNEXED ESTIMATES

HEAD I – POST OFFICE

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $2,254,065 under Annexed Estimates – Head I – Post Office – as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

Clause 1 was called and passed.

Clause 2 as amended was called and passed.

Clauses 3 and 4 were called and passed.

The Schedule was called.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Schedule as amended be the Schedule to the Bill.

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

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

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to grant the sum of $100,000 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1977–78, Part I – Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1977–78, No. 34, which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass. The object of this Resolution is to tidy up the financial situation of the Parks and Beaches by way of grants to pay wages for the casual staff until 31st March, and this Resolution is necessary for the purpose of ensuring that there will be sufficient funds to cover the wages of the workers for the last two weeks before the end of the financial year.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, seconded by Hon. H. deB. FORDE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of a number of Resolutions and the Appropriation Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.
7.25 p.m.

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, notice was given earlier today of a Resolution to approve the guarantee by the Ministry responsible for Finance for the repayment to the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company Limited and Commonwealth Development Corporation the principal sum of £2,025,000. The object of this is to facilitate the takeover of the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company in full by the Government, but there is obviously outstanding an amount of money which is due and owing, and the Government has the guarantee that the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company will repay the balance due. The discussions have been very amicable and the Government will be taking over the whole of the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company. I think this is in consonance with hon. members' views that this is an area in which Government should have 100% control.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, just one brief point. I hope that after the Government takes over the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company there will be a smoother drawing down of funds by the National Housing Corporation. I wish to say that those people who have been allocated houses in Lodge Terrace, Wildey and Oxnards and have not been able to complete the transaction, it is not the fault of the National Housing Corporation. Our legal work is up-to-date; it is that the Mortgage Finance Company has been slow in sending down funds and we have been unable to complete the transactions. I think there needs to be a meeting between the Ministry of Housing, the National Housing Corporation and the Ministry of Finance and I would hope that after there has been the take over of the Mortgage Finance Company we will not have the excessive delays which held up the housing construction programme as before.

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

RESOLUTION TO SUPPLEMENT ESTIMATES 1977-78

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, we have already passed in Committee a Resolution for the sum of $100,000 to be granted from the Consolidated Fund to be placed at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates for 1977-78, and I beg to move that the Resolution be now agreed to.

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

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ANNUAL ESTIMATES FOR PORT DEPARTMENT

A Resolution to approve the Annual Estimates of the Port Department for the year ending 31st March, 1979 – was called.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I do not know if I need to go into any details on this matter. I beg to move that this Resolution as amended, do now pass.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 11th April, at 12 Noon.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, earlier in the day I indicated to this House that this will be the last occasion in which I would be taking part in the discussion of Estimates. I had my first opportunity of dealing with the Estimates in 1957, that is over twenty years ago, and after serious consideration I have decided to take certain steps. I would like to go on record as saying that this exercise has always given me great pleasure. I hope that history will record that whatever my conduct may have been, either as a Minister or member of the Opposition I have always looked on this occasion as a matter of great importance to the country since the exercise concerns the expenditure of large sums of money on behalf of the people of the country. I would like to thank my colleagues, both on the Opposition bench and the Government bench, for the great pleasure and happy memories afforded me since I first started in 1957, and I would like to assure them that even as John Citizen I shall be looking forward as a private person with great interest to future discussions of the Estimates. I hope that in the general Parliamentary discussions which have taken place over the years I have made a contribution, however small, in the area of public finance.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, speaking on the motion for adjournment...

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to say this. The hon. Leader of the Opposition knows very well that if he wanted to speak on the motion for adjournment he should have given notice to the Chair. I did not stop him, and having heard him I will hear the hon. member for St. Michael South.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very briefly, I am just wondering if the Leader of the House can give us any information as to whether when we return it will be Budget time or whether we will get an early Budget.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The hon. member apparently thinks I have more powers that I really have. I am not in any position to give the hon. member any indication of the date he is asking about, but I am sure the customary procedure will be followed and hon. members on the other side will have some notice of the date so that they can prepare themselves.
7.35 p.m.

Sir, having heard the Leader of the Opposition, I was a bit at a loss as to whether the hon. member is going to be with us again before the date that he speaks of, and of which I am very uncertain. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: It will be). Well, perhaps the hon. member is only giving us a little advance notice of his present intention to do a certain act in the future.

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 11th April, 1978 at 12 o'clock noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly at 7.40 p.m.