

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1976 – 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 16th May, 1978.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.20 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour W. C. B. HINDS, J.P., (Speaker); Mr. R. St. C. WEEKES, J.P.; Hon. L. S. CRAIG, (Minister of Labour, and Community Services); 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); Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD, M.A.; Mr. E. E. GREAVES, B.A., Ed.M.; Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, LL.M.; Hon. Miss B. A. Miller, (Minister of Health and National Insurance); Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, (Minister of Communications and Works); Mr. J. G. ODLE, B.Sc., (Chairman of Committees); Mr. M. C. C. WARD; Mr. V. L. JOHNSON, M.A.; Mr. B. M. TAITT, M.A.; Hon. L. R. TULL, M.A., (Minister of Education and Culture) and Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the 11th April, 1978. Confirmation of these Minutes had been deferred.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes for Tuesday, 25th April, 1978 be taken as read and be confirmed.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: If there is no objection, the Minutes of the 11th April stand confirmed. The Minutes of the 25th April have been circulated.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes for Tuesday, 25th April, 1978 be taken as read and be confirmed.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: If there is no objection, the Minutes of Tuesday, 25th April stand confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay –

Statements showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for nine months ended 31st December, 1977 and for ten months ended 31st January, 1978.

An Account of the Transactions in Rum in the Several Districts of the Island for quarter ended March, 1978.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the member for Christ Church South Central, the Leader of the House, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of a parcel of land situated at Chalky Mount, St. Andrew.

Mr. L. SISNETT entered the Chamber and took his seat.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Michael South West, his question re financial problems for small business in Barbados.

Mr. TAITT: To ask of the Minister responsible for Industry:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that many, if not all, small businesses in Barbados are having grave financial.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Would the hon. member please take his seat? (*Pause*). The hon. member for St. Michael South West, his question re small businesses and their financial problems in Barbados.

Mr. TAITT: To ask of the Minister responsible for Industry:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that many, if not all, small businesses in Barbados are having great financial.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the member please take his seat. The hon. member is committing a wilful contempt of the procedure of this Hon. House. I say "wilful" because I have given him a second chance to begin to read his question and for the second time he has attempted to read what is not before the Chamber, and I have been instructed that he bears the same copy in his hand as has been handed before me. He will not now be allowed to read that question.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker,....

Mr. SPEAKER: You will not be heard under the circumstances. You can bring a substantive motion against the Chair. Please take your seat.

The hon. member for St. Michael South West, his question with respect to drug importers and stockists.
12.30 p.m.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I have grave difficulty in putting the question which I submitted to the Clerk of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is out of order; he will take his seat.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker I crave Your Honour's indulgence. The hon. member for St. Michael South West was asking a question, and, as I understand it, he is finding some difficulty in putting his questions, and I would think that members on this side of the House would like to know what are the difficulties. I am not challenging Your Honour's ruling but only seeking clarification.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is extremely distasteful for the Chair to have to make it known on every occasion that what a member submits to the Clerk as a question is not in every instance a fit and proper question to be asked in this Honourable House. The Standing Orders made ample

provision for the Clerk acting on my instructions to put these drafts from hon. members into proper parliamentary language. In this instance I have been at work for a considerable period over the week-end to make sense out of what the hon. member for St. Michael South West had submitted, in an attempt to accommodate him. I find now that after the Clerk and I have done all this he still rises on each occasion attempting to read from his original draft which was found to be completely out of order. I warn him again he has attempted a gross contempt of the procedures of this Honourable House. Let this be a sufficient warning to him and any other hon. member who is so minded.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: You will not be heard; you will take your seat.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir, you have said that I have no sense.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I wonder Sir, if I can...

Mr. SPEAKER: Do you rise on a point of privilege?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: No, Sir, but I think the hon. member for St. James and the hon. member for St. Michael South West will appreciate that I am not rising in any partisan spirit. If I may say so, it is a pity when members rise on a point of privilege they think that it gives them some additional authority to address the Chair. The rules of privilege are quite clearly set out. I am sure the House will hear the hon. member for St. Michael South West if he wishes to make a personal statement that does not contain controversial matter and submit it in due course. I am equally sure that debate will not proceed comfortably if people rise on points of information and then nobody gives way and then start points of order and points of privilege without first seeking Your Honour's leave as the rules go by. I am sure that any hon. member can be heard in here on a point of personal explanation so long as it is within the rules relating to controversy, if his conduct is called in question and if, without controversy, he wishes to explain.

RESIGNATION OF Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The first Order was called — Letter of resignation of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the letter re the resignation of Mr. Frederick Gladstone Smith from this August Assembly, the member for St. Michael South Central, be accepted in its form.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, if you have accepted the motion, I beg to second it.

Mr. SPEAKER: According to the Standing Orders, I am merely to direct that the letter be recorded in the Minutes at this time.
12.40 p.m.

I hereby declare the seat of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central to be vacant.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the letter be submitted to His Excellency the Governor General.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: You have made an application for a motion to be received in respect of this resignation.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I must confess that this formality is rather foreign to me. I have never had the privilege of being in Parliament and seeing a member resign.

Mr. SPEAKER: Members do not resign everyday.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, it is as follows: "The Hon. House to His Excellency the Governor General" — I am told that I am to read the last paragraph. "Now therefore, the Hon. House of Assembly in accordance with the provision of Section 5(3) of the Representation of the People Act, Cap. 12, hereby requests Your Excellency to issue a writ for election to fill the said vacancy.

"Dated this 16th day of May, 1978".

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

Mr. SPEAKER: I have been advised that copies of this Address have been circulated, and hon. members who wish to make a contribution are entitled to do so now.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, this is my fourth term in this Hon. House of Assembly; and I think that I can state without any contradiction that I am the only person in this House here today who has been given that privilege by the electorate of this country. I have enjoyed at all times the debates in this House regardless of if the standard was low or high. I have tried at all times to make myself feel at home and happy in this House of Assembly, realising that I have been sent here by the people to represent their interest.

In dealing with this matter of the resignation of Mr. Frederick Smith, I say here today that it is a very sad occasion for me to speak on the resignation of a former member of this House whom I have at all times

considered my brother parliamentarian, a sincere friend and above all, one of whom I can say that we were inseparable friends. As you are aware, the former member, Mr. Frederick Smith rendered yeoman service to the community. He was never a wolf in sheep's clothing. He did his utmost at all times to render efficient service on behalf of the people of Barbados; and therefore I say, Sir, that his departure from this House is a loss to this country. I have no doubt whatever that other members of the House of Assembly on the other side, while they might not have been able to see eye to eye with Mr. Frederick Smith at all times, that they too will agree that he has rendered inestimable service to the community.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Frederick Smith was a member who would express himself freely at all times; and you will remember, Sir, that on a few occasions you might have had to draw the Standing Orders of this House to his attention; and while it might have appeared that in some cases he tried, in the opinion of members of the Government, to hit them below their belts, I would say that he did so with no animosity and with no ill will, and at all times with the interests of Barbados at heart.

Mr. Frederick Smith held various positions. You will remember, Sir, that he was the first Attorney General after we became independent in this country. He was also a Minister, and I had the opportunity of serving with him in the Ministry of Communications and Works, he as Minister and I as Parliamentary Secretary; and I would like this House and the people of Barbados to know that at no time did Mr. Smith in any way carry what I would call the snobbish approach or attitude carried by most professional people in this island.
12.50 p.m.

Some of them, as you know, are very snobbish, but I can say about Mr. Frederick Smith that he possessed the finest qualities, qualities which I would go to the extreme and say were actually unique, and I know that we will miss the former member for the solid contribution he has made in this Assembly. As a member of the former Government he represented the Government, and as Leader of the Opposition he represented the Opposition at all times, and I can vouch that he will be missed from this Honourable House of Assembly. With his intelligence and training as an Attorney at Law, he has always given of his best. I remember working with him, but we did not work as Minister and Parliamentary Secretary; we worked in that Ministry as two brothers. He would discuss all aspects of the Ministry with me before he arrived at any decision and I would say, Sir, in speaking here today that I speak with a heart full of grief to see that he made up his mind to retire a bit prematurely. I was aware that he would resign and on the occasion when he made up his mind to resign, I regret I was not here and therefore I am not fully aware of the pros and cons of the matter and it is not my duty now to deal with that, but I want to say

that, speaking for myself, I have lost a friend and a brother from this Honourable House of Assembly, and I know that there are many things which we who are here must emulate from the former hon. member. I am not saying that any of us has reached 100 per cent perfection, but I will still say, Sir, that there is a lot for us to learn, especially with his departure in the way in which he found himself being actually called upon to do it.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would say that if democracy must function well, we must uphold the high traditions of this Honourable House, and I am saying that we must learn to give and take. I am not ashamed to say that the standard of this House is deteriorating every week as I watch it, and it is my opinion that the time is going to come in here when you are going to regret certain happenings which I see occur from day to day. I am appealing to all hon. members, now that Mr. Frederick Smith has resigned to let us read our Standing Orders. Let us realise that today we are members of the Government and tomorrow we are kicked out; let us be serious and not use the sledge hammer at all times. We must learn to give and take.

Now that Mr. Frederick Smith has left this House, I will say that I wish him success in his career as an eminent lawyer, and I know that with the patronage he will get or is getting now, he will not for one moment regret having served his people for the number of years of which you are aware.

Mr. Speaker, I must say that Mr. Smith has taught me many lessons, he has given me advice on numerous occasions and I shall miss the former Leader of the Opposition who has done his best for the people of this country. I should like it to go on record that this House of Assembly appreciates the service which Frederick Smith has rendered, and we regret that he had found it necessary to resign from this House. May God bless him and help him and give him good health and strength to carry on in the profession of his choice.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I rise to make a rather brief contribution on the resignation of Mr. Frederick Gladstone Smith once again from this Honourable House. I cannot speak in the glowing terms as the hon. member for St. Philip South spoke, but I would feel safe to say that during my twelve years in this Chamber I have found Mr. Smith to be a man no doubt with the common touch.

1.00 p.m.

His style of debate, his actual accent when debating brought a degree of life to the House of Assembly. I recall, Sir, when I was on the Opposition benches Mr. Frederick Smith was the defender of the then administration at all times and on all occasions. When the

former administration became the present Opposition he brought that spark of life once again to the Assembly, and I would be failing in my duty, Sir, if I did not make reference to that aspect of Mr. Smith's contribution. If you were dealing with economic affairs, cultural affairs, educational affairs, Mr. Smith was in the forefront of the battle and I on more than one occasion came to the conclusion that when he was in the Government he was like the boy on the burning deck. It is with deep regret that Mr. Frederick Gladstone Smith has left Parliament the way he has, and reading from the newspaper reports he was driven out of public life by his own colleagues, the members of the Democratic Labour Party. I recall reading in the papers how he complained how badly he was treated by the then Prime Minister when he was moved from one Ministry to another Ministry, how he only heard this on the radio. These things for a man who was once President of the Democratic Labour Party, and I am told the founder of it, and who on that occasion was driven out in 1958 and again in 1978, almost 20 years.

I do not think that any one man should have taken the amount of blows that were administered to Frederick Gladstone Smith during his 22 years with the Democratic Labour Party. Now, people tend to laud people when they die and Mr. Smith is very much alive. I recall very well he said even if he had won by one vote he was still happy that the electorate of St. Michael South Central had recognised his services. There were times when I could not judge whether the content or the depth of his debate was equal to that of other members, I cannot judge him on that, I can only judge him on a personal basis, and I will surely miss him in the dining hall when we are at lunch, for he kept the dining hall alive with his humour and his wit. We are going to be in the hustings just now and there is no doubt in my mind, absolutely no doubt in my mind from what I have been hearing on public platforms by a candidate and a supporter of another candidate, if that candidate comes in here you will then have an idea of how low the standard of debate will be.

I would hate, Mr. Speaker, and I regret I have to touch on this note when I am not quite sure if the member who just took his seat is the Acting Leader of the Opposition. I know I am the Acting Leader of the House today and therefore we must have consultations, but this can be straightened out a little later in the day. What I do know is that I have heard over and over about debates deteriorating in here. I am not going to subscribe to that. In other Parliaments in the world people have drawn guns, long before I was in here the former Prime Minister had a paper weight to hit the former Minister of Health in his face with, all of these things, and now all of a sudden I am hearing about the low ebb of the standard of debate in here. I am only hopeful that what the member for St. Philip South said is not a reflection on

the former member for St. Michael South Central. If he is asking that the debate be raised I am only hopeful that he is not saying that when the member was in here the debate was at a very low standard. I hope that is not what he is conveying, because I would deeply regret if that is what I understood from the hon. member.

As far as Mr. Smith being a legal luminary is concerned, Sir, I am not qualified to speak on that, there are other members on this side who will be able to say that. I know he was President of the Democratic Labour Party, he was the Attorney General of Barbados, how good an Attorney General he was I am not qualified to say, I know that when he was in here he brought a spark of life to the Chamber, even if it was a box of matches which was being discussed the Chamber could always know that the mood of Parliament would change as long as the member was in his seat. I sincerely hope that now that he has gone when the other member adorns this Chamber on this side of the House — I repeat on this side of the House — that it is only a matter of history repeating itself, it will then be 18-6.

With those few remarks, I regret that Mr. Smith had to leave, was driven out of public life because of the very harsh treatment. As he actually put it, he was kicked around, he thought he would have been made Deputy Prime Minister, but he was not qualified according to what he said, he was ignored, they had no confidence in him according to what he said in the papers, because he fraternised with members on both sides of the House — and therefore I can only conclude, and as an old member, Mr. Speaker, I am sure you would agree at least, and I would not sit in any political party and drive a man out of public life as the Opposition has done to Frederick Gladstone Smith, and I can only wish him success in his chosen vocation.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Speaker, just a few words for the first time before the House, I recall the very famous words which came from Mr. Smith himself every time he stood up he was only going to be saying a few words. Mr. Smith was on opposite sides to me politically, as we are in two different political parties, but after I came to this House I was favoured to have built up a friendship with Mr. Smith and a human relationship which I very much enjoyed as a member of Parliament. Mr. Smith was a man who in my opinion, would attack anything that was said on this side, but it would appear to me that within a few hours he had returned to his own natural self and did not appear to carry any animosity, as far as I am aware. Maybe other members who knew him for a longer time may not have seen him in this light, but I certainly did, Mr. Speaker. One thing is obvious to all, that Mr. Smith because of his independent thinking had a very difficult political life.

1.10 p.m.

Firstly, it is quite obvious to everyone that oftentimes Mr. Smith was not in step with the other members of his party and this brought a great deal of disfavour on him. The second and most obvious thing was that as Leader of the Opposition he was filling a role that he did not desire or seek but was in a stop-gap position. In truth and in fact the party had put him on a string. It only lasted twenty-one months, but had it gone on for five years, it was a cul-de-sac as far as he was concerned; he was not to get further than the leadership of the Opposition. If they by chance won the government there was no Prime Ministership for him. This was bound to tell on him and the fact that he only served for twenty-one months as Leader of the Opposition must give an idea of how badly he felt at just plugging a hole. This must have been very hurtful to him. The gentleman who is now going to fill the position as Leader of the Opposition obviously comes back at this time because he did not mind Mr. Smith filling the office since Mr. Smith was no challenge to him. He had a particular person in mind who was to fill that office and that person is not even a member of Parliament. So you can understand the pain that must have gone through Mr. Smith's chest to know he was only filling an office not intended for him or his colleagues but for somebody else that only God knows if he will ever be in Parliament. Mr. Smith has my sympathy at finding himself in this position. But I will end by saying that I do not believe a man can serve the people in the number of areas he did without doing something, and history will record that Mr. Smith must have served this country well in some capacity. On this note I wish Mr. Smith all happiness and success in his activities outside of Parliament as a citizen of this country.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, it is never an easy task to speak on occasions like this about a person who happens to be a political opponent but at some point of your life also happened to be one of your idols.

As a boy at Lodge school I knew Mr. Frederick Smith. Such reputation as he had in Barbados up to 1958 was largely in the area of his legal practice; and as one who even then had his sights set upon a career in law, Mr. Smith set an example for me to follow.

I first met him when I was a witness in a case at Assizes when I was thirteen years old and he was counsel for the accused who was a young boy charged with some offence, and at this age of thirteen I had my first opportunity to witness the sharpness of his wit, the searching nature of his questions and his humour. I believe that I turned out to be a witness who even my then idol could not shake. He made a comment to Sir Allan Collymore, the Chief Justice at the time, which I always remember and which I regret I was unable to

fulfil. He asked me how well I knew the accused. I said I knew the accused. He asked: "Did you know him well?" I said "I knew the accused." And he said that boy is going to be a Barbados Scholar. I have never forgotten his words.

We are still very close and very friendly. Since Mr. Smith has gone back into private practice, in spite of political differences I have been able to work with him. As recently as this morning we appeared in a marijuana case, and I have been always able to get along with him. We can see each other's point of view and I believe he would go even further at the Bar of Barbados than he has already achieved.

Mr. Smith in his private and public utterances was a very ambitious man. He has reported that he came from a very humble beginning, and like almost every poor black person growing up in Barbados in colonial times, his parents tried to do their best for him and their other children. As a result of their zeal, the children of the family all did very well.

Up until the 1960s it was the ambition of almost every black person in Barbados that his child should be a doctor or a lawyer. These were the values set by the times. It may have been misguided but those were the standards set by the times in which we then lived. And Mr. Smith did his family proud. It was not an easy time to study abroad but he did, and after he attained his profession he worked in Barbados and Jamaica, as well as in one of the African States. I have a number of friends in the legal profession in Jamaica and I would wish it to be known that in Jamaica Mr. Smith as a lawyer was and is still held in the highest esteem by his contemporaries. To them he has been an outstanding ambassador for all lawyers of Barbadian birth. He is now president of the Barbados Bar Association and I am sure he will give it the necessary direction and make it into a militant and aggressive body.

1.20 p.m.

Politically, Mr. Smith in his recent days has been given to hasty words; but I think that one has to look behind the expression of violent language or a person's reactions to see what it is that motivated him to behave in the way that he did. I had a sample of Mr. Smith when I was in Opposition in 1976. Then Mr. Smith was the defender of the Government, in most cases the lone defender, and in most cases the only one who could make a sensible comment or contribution to the debate.

Since September, 1976, he has had to play a different role. He had to play the role of Leader of the Opposition, which I do not believe he wanted, but a role that was thrust upon him perhaps because others saw after their own personal aggrandizement to the

neglect of their own party. Mr. Smith was a man who, throughout his political career, it has been said, and I believe it, was one who was known for his integrity in politics. He is one who was honest and straightforward. Only now at his age has he started to build a home for himself and his family. He has young children.

Having gone back to the Bar in 1976, he needed to devote a lot of attention to the establishment of a flowering practice. Others in his party would not see it that way because for some of them the acquisition of additional earnings through professorships and the like would be more important.

In the state of frustration that surrounded Mr. Smith, it could have been anticipated that he would not have served 4 to 5 years, although his resignation is not a surprise. It may have been a month earlier than it was due, but it could not have been a surprise to anyone who had been reading the signs. I think that these frustrations led to Mr. Smith's frequent outbursts, for many of which he has told me on many occasions that he was genuinely sorry, and that he would make strenuous efforts to curb his impulsive behaviour; but his impulsive behaviour probably had its origin in his legal training. Mr. Smith was always quick to rise. I could see him get up in Court and make an objection that evidence being led was hearsay. He would be quick to jump up. It was not easy to dissociate one aspect of your life from the other merely because you are sitting in a House of Parliament.

I think that Mr. Smith in his private and public life has left a stamp on the political life of Barbados that all of us could follow. Mr. Smith was at home with the Governor General and princesses as well as at home with the poor and downtrodden person in the street. It can truly be said, and perhaps in more than one sense, that Mr. Smith was a man for all seasons. He had an understanding of the needs of poor people, and he was not afraid to represent the interests of poor people in his own particular style, a style, which I believe, endeared him to the people of this country.

As I have said before, Mr. Smith was at times given to hasty words. Perhaps he had a mischievous streak in him too, but I do not believe a wicked one. It was mischievous because he was the epitome of the Barbadian politician. I have heard Mr. Smith debate politics on a very high level. Last year on a programme on the radio I heard Mr. Smith discussing political philosophy in a manner that was surprising, because in here in debate he tended to get carried away and he would look for the quickest moment to throw a lash at the Government or the Opposition, depending on which side he was on. That is why I said that that was mischievousness in him.

I think that although we have the Westminster model of Parliament in Barbados, and what is called the adversary system in politics, Mr. Smith was not adversary in the sense of being an enemy. He has said some hard things about me on platforms. I gave it back to him even harder in Dayrells Road in 1971, but Mr. Smith took it in the spirit of electioneering, and he has never, I believe, held anything against me, nor have I held anything against him either. Mr. Smith would leave here at lunch time and go and discuss politics, personal business or law with all of us. The same cannot be said for some other members in his party. To that extent he did not carry any scar from the political battles permanently on his brain.

I will miss Mr. Smith from the House of Assembly. It is his decision to go at this time. He has given to the public the reasons for his wishing to go now. There may be other reasons, some of which I know, but I am not prepared on this occasion or ever to make them public. To his wife and children I wish on behalf of my family the very best in the future.

1.30 p.m.

I wish Mr. Smith himself a long healthy, prosperous and rewarding retirement from politics, but the same wishes I desire should obtain in his legal practice. He said he is prepared to serve his country in whatever way seems fit. He has always made that very plain. I believe that some time in the future, perhaps when he is tired with his law, he has the ambassadorial qualities to serve his country well; I do not know from which Party, but as I said he is a man for all seasons, and I feel that in Mr. Frederick Gladstone Smith Barbados can be proud of an outstanding son who has made a contribution in whatever sphere of activity it has been his lot to perform.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the best way to say a very few words about the hon. gentleman, Frederick Gladstone Smith, who has left this Chamber is to say I shall not be long. I have not myself had the opportunity of serving for a very long time with him in this Chamber, but for the five years or so before coming into this Chamber I had the honour of sitting with him in Cabinet.

Mr. Speaker, it is regrettable and unfortunate that even in paying tribute to one whom they claim they wish to honour, some people still considered it desirable and necessary to be cantankerous, to take low swipes and to seek to politicise a situation that really does not require base politics. I would like to exclude the hon. member for St. Philip North from that characterisation. Even as I join with my colleague, the hon. member for St. Philip South.....

Mr. SPEAKER: As soon as you attempt to do this, you are directly pointing your finger at other hon. members who have spoken, accusing them of being cantankerous and words of that effect and taking low swipes. You must withdraw those remarks, they are offensive.

Mr. TAITT: I withdraw the remarks, Mr. Speaker. I would wish to associate myself with the statements made by my colleague, the hon. member for St. Philip South, and also with some of the remarks made by the hon. member for St. Philip North. (*Asides.*) You see, Mr. Speaker, it seems that those persons who come from St. Philip and who represent the people in St. Philip both North and South are able to appreciate the qualities of a man without necessarily paying only political lip service to what is said and done in the name of the people by honest persons. I shall not attempt from this part of the House to electioneer as it was obvious two colleagues considered it desirable while paying tribute to a member who is a leader of the House. I have no doubt at all that Frederick Smith was an honest man, and I have no doubt whatever that it is not the business of the people who sit on the other side what goes on in the Democratic Labour Party. They have on more than one occasion sought to make the business of the Democratic Labour Party their business and at one time it occurred to me that they obviously knew and spoke of a different Frederick Gladstone Smith from the one whom I have come to know. Fortunately he is not dead, he is not even sleeping. (A VOICE: Sleepy.) He might give the appearance of being sleepy, but he enjoyed that. He enjoyed being called "Sleepy" by friend and foe alike because in that nickname, he went all the way back to the foundations which apparently come out of the good people of St. Andrew.

When people are paying tribute to relatively young men or women, they have a tendency nonetheless to behave as if the people have passed this life. Mr. Smith is a good man. Mr. Smith is a man with no more or no less foibles than other good men, and from time to time both on this side of the House, and on that side of the House Mr. Smith ran afoul of the Rules of this Honourable House. You know, Mr. Speaker, that members of Parliament speaking for their constituents sometimes will fall foul of the Rules of the House. Sometimes this occurs inadvertently and sometimes it occurs deliberately, but I think you will accept that in all cases except for the very base, no disrespect is ever intended towards the Chair. My own example today, Sir. I would like to say in passing that at no time while I was on my feet today did I intend any disrespect to the Chair and indeed I would have liked an opportunity.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I am warning the hon. member.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, democracy in this country seems to require that there be an adversary system; it seems to require that persons on that side must say negative things about people on this side and people on this side must curse people on that side; it seems that one is not making a contribution unless one is engaged in that kind of activity. I do not believe in that, Mr. Speaker. I believe it is perfectly possible in this Chamber from time to time for people on this side to agree with people on that side and vice versa and I believe this is a philosophy which Frederick Gladstone Smith believed in and contributed to. That is why I believe he would have been disappointed today had he been here to hear some of the statements made. I think that if Mr. Smith were here he would have been disappointed at the subtle attempt to bring electioneering of an upcoming by-election into the House of Assembly. Then there are those whom might argue that this is the best place to fight a by-election or any kind of election. Perhaps it is. I merely say that this is not the best occasion even though it might have been precipitated by the resignation of the former member for St. Michael South Central.

I do not believe that it is necessary to cast aspersions on what Mr. Smith said he wanted to be. If Mr. Smith aspired to be Deputy Prime Minister or Prime Minister, there is nothing wrong with that. It seems to me that anyone who goes into any profession or vocation has a right to aim to arrive at the very highest, at the very top. I hope the day will not come when we on this side will have to speak about those on that side whose ambitions die on the alter of expediency.

1.40 p.m.

I hope that we never reach that point, but let me conclude by saying this. Mr. Smith is going on to make a contribution in the legal field. He is now the President of the Bar Association and I have no doubt that he will make as big a contribution then as he has made across the world wherever he has gone to serve. He will be missed in this Chamber not only for the style of his debate, but I dare to say, Mr. Speaker, for some of the content of his debate. One of the unfortunate aspects of life in a House of Assembly — and this one is no exception — is that from time a stigma is first created and then applied to particular persons. Even today I have heard the suggestion that the content of Mr. Smith's contributions might not always have lived up to high standards, but in fact when one reads what Frederick Gladstone Smith had to say in this House, when one took away from his speech or from the speeches of others the cosmetics and one got down to the nitty gritty of what he had to say, very often Mr. Smith's contribution was seen and can be seen to have been more worthwhile than those of a lot of others who seemed capable of putting their contributions in much more flowery language.

Mr. Smith was essentially a Barbadian, and I do not believe it can be said of him, or will be said of him, that he behaved in any other manner than that of a Barbadian, that befitting a Barbadian who came from humble parentage and who through personal ambition and a lot of hard work managed to rise to the highest heights in this community. When the history of Parliament in Barbados comes to be written, I am under no illusions, and I have no doubt, that the name Frederick Gladstone Smith will loom as one of those persons who made a sterling contribution to the development of parliamentary life in this community.

That he resigned 20 years ago, and that he has found it desirable to resign again, I submit, has nothing whatever to do with pressures placed upon him by the people in his own party, for if that is the case then the pressures placed upon him in 1958 would have been in a time when he was very young, but Mr. Smith himself has indicated why he wanted to go with his young family to other places, and in 1978 Mr. Smith himself has indicated why he considered it desirable to leave. What is perhaps the most distressing are the circumstances in which he has had to leave. It is my hope that those circumstances will never recur in this Parliament or anywhere else where authority is exercised. It is my hope that Mr. Smith, having to leave in the circumstances he left, will be a guide and a lesson to all of us that we have to be extremely careful in everything we do at all times.

Mr. Speaker, it is with some sadness that I acknowledge the absence of Frederick Smith. It is with even more sadness that he had to leave under the circumstances he left, but he has left for us a guiding light in how to behave as an ordinary person. There are many people in Barbados who do not know how to behave as ordinary persons, because there are many people in Barbados who do not believe that they are ordinary persons, there are some who do not believe they are persons at all. There are a few people in this country who believe that they are God incarnate, but they too should take and heed the lesson of Frederick Gladstone Smith, that he has been able in spite of rising to the highest positions in this community to behave like a man at all times, to give his word and other people know that that is a word that can be taken. He has been able to engender the trust of all the people with whom he has come into contact, and that is a lesson for all Barbadians, high and low.

I hope that the experience of having Frederick Gladstone Smith as a parliamentarian is not an experience that will have been for nought, and I hope that other members will not find it necessary to use the departure of Frederick Gladstone Smith for electioneering purposes. When the time comes for an election, when the time comes whoever is to sit in here by the will of the people of St. Michael South Central will sit in here, the people

of St. Michael South Central will decide who will sit in here and if the people of St. Michael South Central are feeling the pressures like other people in Barbados are feeling it cannot be a representative sponsored by the Barbados Labour Party.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, the last member was more than concerned about the speeches made by members before him. It is unfortunate that in seeking to point the accusing finger that he did not allow himself to go without blame. I rise to say a few words about Mr. Frederick Gladstone Smith.

I knew Mr. Smith for a very long time, and I have always found him to be a very nice, friendly man, a pleasant person. On recognising what has happened and the reasons for our speeches here this afternoon it has caused me to reflect on the man, Frederick Gladstone Smith, and in reflecting on him just now I started to ponder that with all the kind things that were said about him here this afternoon it probably is Divine providence in some way acting in all that has happened, in the sense that his departure from us, though we regret this, will give the people of this country and particularly his constituency an opportunity to pronounce upon the policies of the Government of the day, and I believe that certainly in pronouncing upon the policies of the Government of the day, the people in St. Michael South Central will regard the election as a matter of a vote of confidence or otherwise in the Barbados Labour Party administration, and I think it is certainly — even though we regret his departure — a good thing for politics at this time that an election should come about, and we do not have to electioneer until we get out there in the battle.

I suppose the record and the history of the Barbados Labour Party in terms of elections, general and bye, and especially in bye-elections, is well known, and we will go forth from here when the time comes to take the seat as we know we will, therefore there is no point at this time to be harping on what will happen, that is not our purpose here.

1.50 p.m.

I do not believe there is anybody in this Chamber, not even the hon. member for St. Philip North, who has been as close to Mr. Frederick Smith as I have been. As a matter of fact, I do not believe there is any person more qualified to discuss his treatment within the Democratic Labour Party than myself.

Mr. Speaker, it might not be very well known to many people that it was my good or bad fortune to have served under him as first Vice Chairman of the Democratic Labour Party when it was first formed. Strangely enough, in spite of the problems he encountered within that party he had more courage and fortitude than I had because he kept on until he was

driven out, but I decided to quit. At the time he left he was representative for the constituency of St. Andrew which I now represent.

Over a long period of acquaintance with Mr. Smith I have found him to be kind and generous, a man of his word and one willing to stand by his friends. He has his failings like all men, for no person is perfect; but during his service to the people of St. Andrew, it is my understanding that he served them well and did a noble task on behalf of the people of St. Andrew. On their behalf I would like to express appreciation for the services he rendered to them and to the people of Barbados in general during the time he served in this Honourable Chamber. To my mind no one honouring Mr. Smith will be casting his words on shallow ground. To give an example, only last year at a meeting in Australia I encountered some people who spoke to me about politics in Barbados, and in discussion the name of Mr. Smith came up and they mentioned how they regarded him as an honest and sincere man. And I was happy to think that as far away as Australia you could hear some one speaking so favourably about a member of your Parliament. I hope and pray that the lives of the members of this present Parliament and Parliaments to come will be so modelled that when the time comes for them to go, either by resignation or otherwise, — and in this connection I would like to know what the hon. member for St. Michael South West was referring to, but certainly not driven out by the Government or anything to do with Your Honour; I believe he was referring to being driven out by members of his own party — but I would like when the time comes for members to leave this Chamber that tributes paid would be expressions of sincere thanks and goodwill and not merely the cosmetics that are sometimes applied to people in public life.

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, the professions of law and politics in Barbados have the quality of bringing men to distinction. Indeed I believe that anywhere in the world where people serve in these capacities their names are celebrated, whether they reach positions of distinction by their performance or just merely adorn the profession. But I do not want to dwell unduly upon these matters.

I remember as a youngster hearing of the gentleman called "Sleepy" Smith, who was by all standards in Barbados a celebrated attorney-at-law. I knew later that he was a person who served in Parliament of 1956 and was one of the people successfully returned at a time when getting into the Assembly was no easy matter. He has served in the legal profession with distinction both in Africa and Jamaica. He reached almost a pinnacle in the profession of politics, having been appointed a Minister in several portfolios, and I believe he also had the dubious distinction to be the only man to resign from Parliament on two or three occasions. This may seem a left hand swipe but is really not so. Getting into Parliament in

Barbados is achieved by a comparative few of the Island's sons. Twenty-four members serve at a time and there cannot be very many of the 250,000 souls who can serve in this Chamber. "Sleepy" Smith had the honour of serving in three Parliaments, and I believe that is a great accomplishment.

But I do not want to talk only about his politics or his law. I stand here to remember "Sleepy" Smith the man, because it is particularly for his inherent quality of manhood that I remember him. I do not believe that there is any person who can serve in politics without some degree of tarnish being attached to his name, and lest I be tempted to go into the area of adversary politics to find some discordant note, I would rather point to what I consider to be the marks of a gentleman by anybody's standing.

I met Mr. Smith on a close basis for the first time in this Chamber, and if there are two members on that side, "Sleepy" Smith is one.
2.00 p.m.

Later this year I believe that I will have an opportunity to rise to pay tribute to the hon. member for St. Philip South, a man whom I regard with the utmost respect, and who I believe this House will miss when he too later on submits his resignation and goes on a well deserved and well earned retirement. I do not mean to be facetious. These two gentlemen hold my admiration, and particularly in this case when we are talking about Mr. Smith, I am delighted to have had the honour of serving in this Parliament with "Sleepy" Smith. I do not believe that there is a grain of dishonesty or malice in the man.

He was extremely combative in this Chamber. He rose and he talked with force, and perhaps may be accused of bad behaviour in doing what he did for a cause in which he believed; and I believe that all of us will be caught offending at sometime in this respect; but when this Chamber was adjourned and we went into the dining room or met on the street here indeed was a man who has always been able to walk with princesses and kings and never want to lose the common touch.

Mr. Smith is a gentleman whom I am absolutely certain everybody in this Chamber will miss; and I am sure that things in here will not be quite the same without him. In the dining room he comes around and puts his arms around you. He does not believe in adversary politics. He puts his arms around you with genuine affection and he asks how are you doing, boy? These are things which many politicians do not find it possible to do. We get so engrossed in the adversary nature of politics, that we sometimes forget that we are men; and the humanity which essentially is the ingredient by which we will be judged is sometimes found to be wanting.

With my eye on the clock, I will once again say that I have had the privilege of knowing Mr. Frederick Gladstone Smith, the man, and I believe that, however you slice it, his name will go down in history as one of the sons of Barbados who has made a lasting contribution to politics, to law and to humanity.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have listened to what hon. members have had to say about Mr. Frederick Gladstone Smith, and one thing comes to my mind is that the hon. member for St. Philip South found it necessary to let us know that Mr. Smith was not a wolf in sheep's clothing. I merely like to say this — if ever he was a wolf, or when ever, or if ever, he would have been in his own clothes. There is a section of the Press which tells us that this House will not be the same as it has been now that Mr. Smith is not with us any longer. I want it to be known that the Chair as presently constituted has no wish — I want each and every member present or who may come after to understand that we wish nothing of the behaviour that Mr. Smith exhibited whilst he was here as Leader of the Opposition. We do not want it at any stage.

Whether some feel that it was to his credit, or was a way of expressing himself or what, it did not endear him to the Chair, to the high standards of this House, to his dignity and least of all it was never thought to enhance its proceedings. What I am satisfied about is that if ever there was a member of this Hon. Institution who had an opportunity to do good for his country, it was Mr. Frederick Gladstone Smith. Every opportunity was available to him to do good for his people. I have heard him and I have seen him rise in this Chamber time and again. He never let slip that he was a barrister-at-law. He made the stomach of some people sick by continually repeating this.

He has never yet been able to identify himself with anything or taken the initiative at any stage of his parliamentary life to help grapple with any of the problems facing this country, whether it is unemployment, inflation, or for that matter, of doing good for the people as a whole. What is certain is that after the shouting died down, he was the benefactor. He gained the sympathy and not the people.

Mr. Smith has resigned from this House, but his resignation has been so long in coming, so many different reasons given from time to time, that it reminds me very much of the auctioneer's hammer — going, going, gone. However, I believe that as Mr. Smith has often caused us to believe in this House that he has some christian feeling about him, the strange thing about Mr. Smith and his christianity is that he is reported to have gone to bed with a feeling of disgust one night and saying that if he awoke the following morning in the same frame of mind he would be resigning his seat in this House. It is to be hoped that that was not a true indication of Mr. Smith's

brand of christianity. It is surprising to me, however, that the calypsonians have allowed that aspect of Mr. Smith's life to rest until now.
2.10 p.m.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, it is now approaching 2.10 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: If we can finish in one minute, the question would be that the Resolution do now pass.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I must apologise.

I beg to move that the Resolution which is before the House do now pass.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: I now have pleasure in requesting the Hon. Minister of Labour and Community Development to present this Address to His Excellency the Governor General, and I will ask the hon. member for St. Philip South to accompany the Minister.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I would like at this point to suspend the Sitting until 3.15 p.m. so as to allow the hon. member for St. Philip South to accompany me on my journey to Government House.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Standing Orders were not suspended, but if it is the feeling of the House that since these two hon. members have to go to Government House, we should suspend until 3.30 p.m., then that will be done.

It seems to be the feeling of the House that we should suspend until 3.15 p.m.

Accordingly this Sitting stands suspended until 3.15 p.m. o'clock, today.

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Question Time. There is only one Question on the Order Paper and there is no indication that the reply is ready. So we go into Private Members' Business.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, the Mover of the Resolution under Private Members' Business is not now in his place, and I would respectfully ask that this matter be deferred.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I was not present when the sitting was resumed and I do not know what is the actual position with regard to Private Members' Business. If there is no Private Members' Business I would move that Government Business be now taken. I see that there is one item on the Order Paper under Private Members' Business, but apparently the Prime Minister of that Cabinet is not in his place.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is not now in his place.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move that Government Business be now taken.

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is the instant Order of the Day.

RESOLUTION TO AMEND HEAD 108 — MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, it has been indicated that the Government wishes to proceed with the Resolution to amend the note to the Capital Estimates, Head 108, this afternoon. There is some urgency on the matter. Notice has been given of the Resolution.

I beg to move that this be the instant Order of the Day.

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply.

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

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

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution arises out of an agreement which has been reached during the last few months between the Governments of Barbados and of the Federated Republic of Brazil, and these agreements relate to the use of fishing banks of Brazil by shrimp fleets belonging to International Seafoods Limited at the present time. The coming into force of these agreements, which are in the first place for one year only, is waiting now just on funds, funds which have to be released on the part of the Brazilians by the Brazilian Central Bank and on our part, Mr. Chairman, by the amendment to the note which this Resolution seeks, so that we can provide International Seafoods with the necessary money.

For some time, Mr. Chairman, the future of shrimping in Barbados has been under a cloud. It is at least arguable that investment of large sums of money in the shrimp industry was a mistake in the first place. Barbados neither has shrimping banks within its own territorial waters nor has it got cheap fuel, which is accessible to two countries around the Caribbean, one might argue, which are our principal maritime neighbours, Trinidad and Venezuela. We therefore started out under a disadvantage. This disadvantage was not fully perceived in 1972 when the new International Seafoods Company was started with Government backing to buy a large number of shrimp boats and set off into nearby waters to seek to fish those waters, but it became fully evident in 1973 when the price of oil rose and in addition to having to make long journeys from Barbados to shrimping grounds which mainly lie at the mouths of great rivers, and this is apparently a general thing throughout the world, we had to pay four times as much for fuel to reach those shrimping grounds. It is my opinion that, even if the price of fuel had not risen shrimping had ceased to be economic in Barbados after the earlier shrimping operation folded up, but that is an opinion, certainly it is an opinion which has been fully justified at the stage where oil prices had risen.

3.30 p.m.

We have suffered every difficulty, Mr. Chairman, because areas where we fish for shrimp principally off the mouths of the Orinoco River and rivers immediately to the south off the Guianas have recently become closed to us, virtually closed to our shrimping vessels. It is impossible for us to shrimp in the Gulf of Paria. Further to the south there is the former British Guiana where Mr. Burnham has been kind enough to tell me personally that he will allow the Barbadian shrimping fleet to operate, but grateful though I am for the assistance of the Guyana Government in this matter, those grounds have not proved very popular for shrimp. Further to the south again we have Surinam, and again we have Cayenne where one of our boats was arrested and where we have had to pay damages and a fine. The Guyanese waters have not proved so popular for shrimping, for the very reason of

Mr. Burnham's generosity. The waters, in fact, off the Guianas — Spanish Guiana, British Guiana, Dutch Guiana and French Guiana — four separate countries, have become very heavily fished and are not profitable.

Accordingly, we have sought an agreement with Brazil, and I am glad to say, Mr. Chairman, that the efforts which we have put out — we sent a large team to Brazil during February — have borne fruit, and the Governments of the two countries have been able to reach a diplomatic accord, this was February 15, 1978, and under this diplomatic accord the Government of Brazil has agreed to nominate a company, a Government of Barbados company, to carry out a joint venture into shrimping. The agreement will mean that at one stroke we multiply by four the area available for our shrimp boats to fish, and it is an area, Mr. Chairman, where I have every hope that the waters are not as overfished as the waters further north, since as I understand it, the main thrust in Brazilian fisheries is towards the more populated southern coast of that country rather than the relatively unpopulated equatorial north.

The agreement is based on a joint venture between a Brazilian company and a Barbadian company, and it will extend for one year in the first instance, but the parties can agree to extend it further by two more years. The first year is regarded as a trial period to see if it would be possible to run for two years more at the end of which it is expected that if all goes well one of a number of contingencies can then be brought into play. Either the Brazilians will decide to buy the boats, that is a possibility, I mention it no higher, or the Governments of Brazil and Barbados will start a joint venture corporation of their own in which the share-holding will be 60% in value to Brazil and 51% in control, because the fundamental laws of Brazil provide that only companies with Brazilian majority shareholding can fish Brazilian waters, of the entire agreement — I say this is only a possibility as well — will be abandoned.

We have acceded to this agreement on a 50-50 basis as to costs for the first year indeed, the next two years we will go into that as well, we have acceded to this agreement because we have a fishing fleet there, the Government last year had to pay over \$7 million of debt relating to the acquisition of that fishing fleet, and we feel that some last effort ought to be made towards finding a use for the boats, or for some of them.

Contrary to very widely circulated propaganda, there was never a binding agreement to enter into any fishing agreement with Trinidad. I have seen all the papers, I have read an account of the famous Paradise Beach Club meeting, I have also searched for positive and final commitments on the part of either party, I have been able to contradict total and other falsehoods of the Opposition to the effect that the Trinidad Government had given us money for this joint fishing agreement and we had used it for something else, and that is why they have backed out. That is utterly false. I have gone into it all,

and I am satisfied that this was an option which unfortunately, for one reason or another — indeed, Mr. Chairman, I can hardly put my fingers on the reasons — has just failed to materialise, but we do feel that in the Brazilian venture there is some hope of carrying on an operation without the hazards of the gun boats, the arrests, court proceedings and so on, and also I am hopeful of an operation with some slight promise of profit.

We are not paying any licence fee for fishing in the Brazilian waters, and the profits are to be divided, if any profits are made, 40% to Brazil and 60% to Barbados. The losses, however, will be borne entirely by Barbados if there are any losses. This is a clause which has given International Seafoods and other negotiators some considerable thought, but it is not without precedent that one side agrees to bear all the losses. The agreement which we negotiated with Caribbean Airways when we came into power provided that Caribbean Airways would bear all the losses although the Government has majority shareholding in the company for a certain time, and I regard the absence of a licence fee as a reasonable *quid pro quo* for Barbados bearing the losses. We do not have to pay anything to go and shrimp, the Brazilians are bearing 50% of the costs — that is the basic costs, we do not have to pay them back — the operating costs of oil, certain wages and so on, and I think that this is a reasonable agreement. For the first time, certainly in years, some money will actually be coming in from outside to assist in financing the operations of International Seafoods.

I am further happy to announce that the shrimp will continue to be processed in Barbados. This is a feature which was absent from the tentative talks held in Trinidad where I understand that a certain proportion of the shrimp had to be agreed to be processed in Trinidad. To get all this into operation, Sir, funds are urgently needed.

The present note in the Estimates reads "Equity contributions only" and it is not my view nor that of my advisers that funds which it is intended the Government will advance to International Seafoods for the operation of the joint venture can be regarded as equity contributions. We are therefore seeking to amend the note to read "Equity and other contributions". In addition, we are correcting the second note which also mentions equity contributions to read: "Contributions for financing of joint fishing operations between Barbados and other countries, partly reimbursable."

3.40 p.m.

The question of other countries arises because although I have no intention of going any further into this matter at the moment, the possibility of a joint operation between Barbados and Trinidad yet remains.

These are matters of current discussion and I am sure no hon. member would want the negotiations at the Dover Convention Centre to receive unnecessary prominence at this time. There are also other territories in the Caribbean with which it is considered that some joint fishing operation could be usefully conducted, and approaches have also been made to the Government on behalf of fishing interests in Japan for an operation off the shores of Barbados by Japanese fishing fleets. What I would say is that for many years we have been operating on a three mile limit, but the Government of Barbados has every intention of establishing its two hundred mile limit and of policing that limit. Instructions have already been given to the Defence Force to prepare their needs for the policing of a two hundred mile fishing limit and we fully intend to exercise all rights conferred by international law on sovereign states seeking to establish authority over an economic zone of two hundred miles of surrounding water.

Now I would like to say a word or two about the organization of fisheries and fishing in relation to the Government of Barbados and how it is that I, rather than the Minister who is responsible for Fisheries happen to be introducing a Resolution such as this.

The last serious initiative in Barbados to help fishermen took place in 1951 when the Barbados Labour Party established motorized fishing. We did a good job at that time, and we still have a more modern fleet than most of the neighbouring Caribbean states, perhaps more modern than Tobago or Martinique and Guadeloupe that have abundant access to French capital for local development. But since 1951, fisheries passed into a backwater and so did the administrative machinery in the Ministry of Agriculture. I do not particularly like having to deal critically with public officers, but it is undoubtedly true that the last Fisheries Officer was so incompetent and so thoroughly and completely incapable of doing his work that the public service of Barbados with one of those touches of genius that you associate with the British Government in its least happy moments refused to give him any more work to do. All serious work to do with fisheries was withdrawn from the Fisheries Officer and inferentially from the Ministry. It was a case where in the Ministry the incompetence was at the top rather than at the administrative level; I refer to the Ministry of Trade. (*Asides*) The hon. member for St. Michael South is asking me to underline in red ink and put stars against the name to indicate that I mean the hon. member for St. Michael South West. I would have been content to leave it as a matter of inference but his colleague holds a dagger above his back and invites me to hold his hand and plunge it in, and I will not disappoint him in this instance. I am speaking of the previous Government and going back as far as 1972. So International Sea Foods was left under the aegis of the Ministry of Trade and the fund raising effort was dealt

with by the Ministry of Finance and Planning. I am not going to blame the former Minister of Trade, the hon. member for St. Michael South West, for the fact that the Government lost \$12 million in International Sea Foods. I believe that the private management of that company — and the company only pretended that it was Government controlled — for its own purposes, which no doubt will be revealed in due course in the estimation of the Commission of Enquiry, did not take the necessary steps to keep the Ministry informed of the progress of International Sea Foods. The Ministry of Trade, and perhaps the Minister, should have taken more interest in the matter and shown some initiative in finding out how the business was operating, but I do not believe that the hon. member sat by and saw the company losing on an average \$2½ million a year and did nothing about it. I do not believe he could be so insensible to the people of Barbados as to do that. Nevertheless, International Sea Foods lost the money and left us with the mess to clear up. Since then the Ministry has informed me that they have never seen the files of the Ministry of Trade, and we have had to concentrate all of International Sea Foods business in the hands of the Ministry of Planning and put in as managing director Mr. Stuart, one of the management accountants with the Ministry of Planning. Mr. Stuart has had to use some harsh measures and knock some heads of employees together and perhaps knock his own head with the heads of persons in statutory bodies. I have every confidence that, were it not for the collapse of the roof and the discovery of rodents in the building concerned, necessitating the expenditure of large sums of money, International Sea Foods would have been showing by now an operating profit on the much reduced scale of its operations and would not be losing money every week. Indeed, I do not think it is losing money any longer although it still has cash flow difficulties.

3.50 p.m.

I have on many occasions said that I have no intention of being Minister of Fisheries. It is an honour being thrust upon me. Some men achieve fishiness. Others have to work at it. I have had these Fisheries thrust upon me willy nilly. I intend at the earliest possible opportunity — I have given the Minister of Agriculture due and fair warning that the entire subject of Fisheries will have to go back exactly and precisely where it belongs, that is in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. As soon as we can get a Fisheries Officer — because the Fisheries Officer that we had is no longer in service — I hope and expect that that section of the Ministry will be headed by somebody who certainly knows a great deal more about fisheries than I. All I know about fish is eating them.

I hope that the Ministry will operate the project of which I now wish to speak to the House. It will be obvious to hon. members that the Government is doing

something about fishing; and International Seafoods Limited, it will be known to all persons interested in these matters, is at present carrying on a slightly different scale of operations from the operations which it carried on formerly at the beginning of this year. I think it started on January 28. International Seafoods Limited conducted what I think was a most important experiment with local fishermen. They carried out two experiments, one with a trawler with a capacity for freezing fish which went out to sea and acted as a mother ship to a group of local fishermen who could make their catches, pass them to the mother ship and then go out and catch more fish again without having to come back to shore. It also organised that local fishing boats would be able to stay out at sea and tie up overnight, with the fishermen sleeping on board the trawler if necessary.

This was quite a successful operation; but we still meet difficulties in persuading local fishermen as a matter of course to offer their fish at guaranteed prices to the trawler of ISL. We are sending ISL boats out to areas a little further from shore than local fishermen are able to fish and inviting them to fish for flying fish, dolphin and deep sea fish that Barbadians can be persuaded to eat, and which at the present time may not be generally known. At the present time local fishermen prefer to carry their fish ashore and see what price they can get at Oistin and Bridgetown with ISL standing by as a purchaser of last resort.

Hon. members will observe that there have been very large catches of flying fish this weekend. International Seafoods Limited, after the hours of 10 o'clock and 11 o'clock over this weekend have been purchasing flying fish; and I believe indeed that the amount of money paid out this morning for last night's purchases alone was over \$5,000. Since the beginning of the year ISL has not only caught but purchased 250,000 flying fish. That was up to the end of last month. I have not got this month's figures. Up to the end of last month I think that they caught 40,000 lbs of dolphin, so that the catches of deep sea fish and flying fish which ISL has at present in stock is 60 tons all of which will go to saving on imports of fish, including 25 tons of dolphin. It is not intended that these dolphin will be sold immediately. They will be retained for sale when dolphin is in short supply in the island.

So, we are already trying to even out fluctuations in the supply of flying fish, dolphin and king fish in Barbados, a fluctuation which is a reflection on the dietary possibilities of Barbados and on the price index by keeping fish in storage against times of shortage. In the interest of selling deep sea fish, particularly sea trout, croakers and carvally, we are offering them at very low prices indeed. I understand that croakers sell in Miami at 60 cents (US) a pound. In Barbados ISL is offering them at 70 cents (Bds) a pound, a very substantial subsidy, but

which we think is justified in the interest of bringing cheap food to the people and getting people accustomed to the slightly different taste of these unusual fish.

So, the House will have some idea of the work being done by ISL. The House is also aware of the proposed development plans for Oistin. The essential part will be to improve landing facilities for the Oistin fishermen and those who land at Oistin, providing some storage capacity on shore and making available better facilities than those which at present exist. We are also looking at a similar development for Speightstown. The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries is himself — and I am glad to say that this is not one of the headaches in the lap of the Minister of Planning — is looking at a development for Bathsheba and Consett Bay, particularly Bathsheba, about which I dare say the Minister will wish to tell you in greater detail, and what I understand is an improvement of what may be called harbour facilities at Tent Bay are at present under consideration.

Another part of this, Mr. Chairman, that we are looking at is a scheme for a National Fisheries Corporation of some sort which will institutionalise the present work being carried out by ISL to provide fish in Barbados and so to save on fish imports; and we are looking at this within the context of an overall National Fisheries Plan. Assistance of the Canadian Overseas Development Agency has been sought, and the project is effectively being formulated for a total and complete look at fisheries development in Barbados with a view to becoming not only self sufficient in fish, but providing also for some export of food fish.

We hope that this will come to fruition in the next few months, and that within a short time we will be able to take the necessary decisions. One of the principal decisions is to make our minds up whether ISL is a proper vehicle, and whether the shrimp boats are the best boats for a food fishing operation off our shores. There has been some expert indication that vessels which can most effectively trawl for dolphin and other fish may have to be of a different shape and pattern from the ISL boats. This is one of the matters on which we are seeking assistance.

4 p.m.

Certainly we know we will not need more than I think four or five boats whether they be International Seafoods' or otherwise, and this is the basis along which we are proceeding. But I am also looking at International Seafoods Limited itself. International Seafoods has a very bad reputation; very few companies in small developing countries indeed can have such a bad reputation. We are in constant dispute with the First National City Bank of New York over debts which remain outstanding, apart from the \$7 million which we paid them back during the course of the last financial year. International Seafoods

also owes the sugar fund \$1 million which was, quite unjustifiably in my opinion, given to it — the sweat and tears of agricultural labourers handed over to International Seafoods to continue paying the salary of Kyffin Simpson and a rake off to sundry nameless and faceless men in the United States, with one of whom indeed we are engaged in dispute. We have had to put him in the hands of our lawyers and perhaps will have to end up putting him in the hands of the United States police — he is one of International Seafoods agents. We have had all that to contend with. You never know what you will find when you turn up a stone. We thought we were turning up one stone with the Duffus Commission, but we discovered really that we were unleashing an avalanche; but those are all debts of International Seafoods, and I think that those who deal with the company ought to be told that the Government is contemplating winding up the company, calling a meeting of its creditors of whom indeed the Government is the principal creditor because they now owe us \$7 million. The Ministry of Finance and Planning advanced the money. We are calling a meeting of those creditors and seeing what those creditors will be able to obtain out of the assets. We do not intend to rob anybody; we do not intend to renege on any obligations, but we cannot accept that at a time when Kyffin Simpson was in command of International Seafoods the Government has obligations written in letters of fire and brass to settle all of Kyffin Simpson's debts while he goes completely free with a golden handshake of \$110,000 of the money of the taxpayers of Barbados and no responsibility for having lost \$12 million of those same taxpayers' money.

If we wind up International Seafoods we will of course form another fishing company, and it will be this other fishing company which will in due course receive the benefit of the agreement with the Government of Brazil. But I think it only reasonable to give the public a warning along these lines and warn all the creditors of International Seafoods that they may very soon be summoned to a meeting and at that meeting to come to some agreement as to the disposition of International Seafoods assets. The fact that the Government has the first lien on the boats in the amount of \$7 million with interest will not prevent the Government from seeking justice and behaving generously to the unsecured creditors who decided to advance money without any security whatsoever in the amount of \$3 million or \$4 million to an insolvent and bankrupt company.

Some threats have been made to the Government by the Bank concerned; some indication that they will try to give the Government a bad name in international financial institutions. My answer to them is that when the Federal Reserve Examiners hear that an American International Bank advanced \$3 million to a company controlled by private citizens without any security, I believe that not only the Bank Manager who has been

since fired and boycotted and black-listed by every American Bank will be in trouble, I believe it will go right back up to the International Directors.

I was recently very amused when I heard Dr. Blackman speaking at a seminar, it was not a seminar, it was a dinner for Mr. Tin Tun, General Manager of the Central Bank, and Dr. Blackman, Governor of the Central Bank delivered himself of a throw away line relating to the failure of an American Bank which had been advancing money to unsecured creditors. He said, "after the Directors had all been dismissed or sent to prison" and there was great laughter in the crowd that consisted largely of Bank Managers and Bank Directors. It was an amusing line which you had better believe, Mr. Chairman, that American Banks are well aware of. Nonetheless, as I say, I do not intend to deal with these banks on any basis of hostility to see whose threat has the more prominence and whose malice has the longer arm. I do not intend to deal on a basis of malice at all. I intend that creditors of International Seafoods be all given a fair opportunity to come to an arrangement and a composition. We all have to carry some responsibility. This Government in terms of the personnel has no responsibility, but as a Government we have to take on our shoulders the burden which was imposed by the previous tenants of our offices, and I really, no matter what the iniquities and misbehaviours of individuals of a previous regime, think that the Government of Barbados has to say *nous sommes toutes les assassins*, we are all assassins in a governmental sense even though we may not be the ones with any responsibility of any sort, and therefore the Government should, I think, not entirely seek to renege on all the debts of International Seafoods.

Now, Sir, I think that the reason for the amendment has been made abundantly clear. The Government does not wish to put any more money into equity of International Seafoods Limited, but we want to be in a position to put money into a joint fishing venture with Brazil and with other countries. It is therefore necessary to amend the title and to amend the note to Head 108, Item 2.

I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that the title and note be so amended.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to second the Resolution and reserve my right to speak.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, what I have to say will not take very long because this statement by the Hon. Prime Minister has been made before in this House a number of times and in the words of the Presiding Officer some people are getting sick to their stomachs of hearing the same old garbage trotted out over and over again. I do not intend....

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, not garbage. The minister of garbage may be forbidden for allowing such an expression to fall from his lips, but he is not the minister of garbage in this House, only outside, and I submit that "garbage" is not a parliamentary word to be used of another hon. member's speech.

Mr. TAITT: Yes, Sir. I really do not intend to give the Prime Minister....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Has the hon. member withdrawn?

Mr. TAITT: Withdrawn what?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I asked you to withdraw the garbage bit of it.

Mr. TAITT: I withdraw it. Whatever you wish me to do I will do. What I find interesting about the Prime Minister's peroration on the shrimp plant week after week and month after month, apart from its indication that obviously he has not got anything else to do or say, whenever he comes to this House, after twenty-one months, to make more promises about what they intend to do, he has to trot out the shrimp plant, he has to give the House an indication of how he feels about Mr. Kyffin Simpson and we have to go down that road.
4.10 p.m.

However, Sir, I notice that there is a slight shift these days. Once upon a time it used to be that there was no meeting at Paradise Beach Club, now a meeting is acknowledged to have been held. Well, we have come somewhere. Now he is saying that he cannot find a record, and he says there is no binding agreement. You have to listen very carefully to what the right hon. gentleman has to say, but we have never said that we signed an agreement, we said that there was a clear understanding by two Ministers in Trinidad and two Ministers and the Prime Minister in Barbados, and we stick to that because I, Mr. Chairman, was there. There is nothing that can be said from that side or anywhere else that can change the facts as I know them, and I was there. I notice too the \$20 million is no longer in dispute, apparently the \$20 million is accepted as the right figure, and furthermore, after putting out whatever it is he puts out, he then asks us on this side not to do anything to create any difficulties with the negotiations which are going on, or words to that effect. I give him the assurance that we on this side wish so fervently to see something happen in this country to help the poor struggling people in this country, that we will do nothing to interfere with the negotiations between this Government and the Trinidad Government or any Government.

He had the temerity to stand up in here and say that — I have forgotten his exact words — the last plan in

fisheries or the last initiative was in 1951. Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance in this country continues to stretch the imagination of ordinary people. The language which he uses and the way in which he uses it gives all of us cause to pause and wonder if he speaks a different brand of English from that which the ordinary man speaks. He said that there was no initiative since 1951. Mr. Chairman, I am going to quote from a document, the Development Plan of Barbados 1973-77. In logic you only have to prove one point to be false to demonstrate that a thesis is false, or conversely, to prove one point is true that the thesis is true, etc. I am not going to give a whole history, at another time and another place we will deal with that, but this is the Development Plan 1973-77 written by the same officials who he says advised him. Mr. Chairman, I am quoting from page 544 of the Development Plan 1973-77, which I just got from the Clerk's table. Under Shrimping, this is what it had to say. "During the years 1967, 1968 and 1969 the total value of shrimp exports from Barbados was \$18,886,070." That is 1967, 1968 and 1969, and if you peruse the documents of the Central Bank you will see the information for the exports for the period 1972, 1973 and 1974, and the Prime Minister must know as all ordinary people know that they had a fuel crisis. He now admitted that there was an energy crisis.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, on a point of order. I understand the member for St. Michael South West to say that there was a fuel crisis in Barbados in the years 1973 and 1974. I am sure I am not hearing right, because it was the then Prime Minister of Barbados on a radio and television broadcast who made it abundantly clear that there was no fuel crisis, and that is a positive fact, so I cannot understand how the former Minister of Trade can say there was one.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Mr. TAITT: Any document which has in it economic data about Barbados can explain very carefully to those who wish to see what the benefits of the fishing industry had been in Barbados during those years. If the Prime Minister wishes to tell the public about the former Fisheries Officer — apparently he is now the former Fisheries Officer — he can feel free to come in here and do so, there is no need for him to take twenty minutes to discuss what work the Fisheries Officer did not do and drag us all over again the same debate this year. Why did he not tell this Hon. House that the fishing agreement which is about to be signed is a continuation or an evolution from a fishing agreement that was already signed? We had a fishing agreement that lasted for three years, Mr. Chairman, and surely he must know that. I would not believe that he would intentionally seek to mislead this House, therefore he must have forgotten that there was a shrimping agreement with Brazil for three years allowing us to send a certain number of boats into

Brazilian waters. He also ought to, instead of trying to give the impression that this is a result.....

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of explanation, Sir, if the hon. member will give way. The hon. member must know there is a difference between buying a licence to fish and entering into an agreement with you and another country to fish jointly. He must know that. I went out of my way in my speech to say that we were not having any licences, that this is a joint venture, nor indeed did I say that this was the first time that the Government had any contact with the Government of Brazil. The hon. member either is not understanding or he is deliberately misrepresenting us. None of the things of which he accuses, that I said it was the first time, that we had an agreement before and so on, none of the things has any foundation in fact or in my speech.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, as I say, he speaks a different language from anybody else. I said he neglected to tell the people the full truth about the fishing agreement, and I maintain it was a fishing agreement between the Government of Barbados and the Government of Brazil for three years and it is arising out of those fishing agreements that we now have to renegotiate because the clause for renegotiation was included in the previous agreement, and if he will vouchsafe to show this House both agreements you will see that arising out of the first one has come the second one, because the Government of Brazil has changed its policy and is now requiring all countries, not Barbados, Barbados did not go to Brazil and through some brilliant scheme managed to get an agreement, the Government of Brazil after a change of personnel is requiring all countries to have joint agreements with the people of Brazil, and indeed it says that the Brazilians must have a majority shareholding.

I do not understand why it is necessary in a simple matter of getting a note changed for the Prime Minister to come in here and try to give the impression that in the sphere of fishing and the development of fishing in this country nothing happened since 1951. Mr. Chairman, there will be other places and other times, and when I appeared voluntarily before the Duffus Commission I spoke at length about shrimping, and when Duffus publishes his report we will discover what it is he has to say. Nothing that the Prime Minister says in here with its propagandistic value will move me, we will wait and we will see. He talks about unturning a stone, they will have to get a crane to move the stone that will have to be unturned when they are chased out.

4.20 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, this is a very simple matter. We are not going to oppose the change for we are satisfied that any action at all by this Government is desirable, even a

negative action. They have done nothing in their twenty one months and now they are upgrading the quantity of their public relations at some expense to the quality and are making promises of what they intend to do in the next two years. It took them twenty one months to discover that the Fisheries officer did not know what he was doing. It took them twenty one months to find out that the Minister of Agriculture does not know about fisheries.

Mr. Chairman, it is unfortunate that I have a commitment which I had before I came here today. I did not believe that this Item would have gone on so long. I am saying this because the Honourable Prime Minister has a way of saying that people make statements and run. I am announcing now that I am going to leave. But before I do so, let us assume that what he says about incompetence at the top of the Ministry of Trade was true. The people of Barbados had the chance to make their assessment and they did. But nobody believes that. He has seen the work that was done and to suggest that fisheries was in the Ministry of Trade is really not accurate. He attempted to say that International Sea Foods was in the Ministry of Trade. It was there because International Sea Foods was conceived as a project and initially the project came to the Ministry of Trade because certain incentives were sought by the company and the then Government of Barbados gave its blessings because it sought to give people of this country employment. And even now it continues to give employment. Right now I can think of one benefit that has come to this country from the Government's initiative in this industry: at least thirty five of the captains on shrimp boats up and down the Caribbean are Barbadian nationals. And there are a lot of other pluses that came out of International Sea Foods which the Prime Minister would recognize if he would just leave out the politicking. I do not know why it is necessary every time he gets up for him to try to suggest that the last Government was the worst government and that a great burden has been thrust upon him. How long will it be before that burden is assimilated into positive actions by The Great Combination? How much longer have we to wait? Another four and a half years to hear from the Great Combination what they have accomplished? It is time they got on with the work which the people of this country elected them to carry out but the first thing they say is that the Opposition will not let them do anything.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I challenge the hon. member to identify any member of this Government who said that the Opposition will not allow us to do our work.

Mr. TAITT: I accept the challenge — him, the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister himself has said it.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: If the hon. member will give way. The reason why we cannot get on is because of the

mess we inherited. That is the only reason. And I would only ask for three minutes to tell the hon. member.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, if there is one thing on which all sides are agreed, it is that the hon. member who has just sat down is the biggest failure of all.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, if I follow the member who has just spoken that there is nothing wrong: he is supposed to be a consultant, and if he has failed at that, who else would not fail?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us carry on with the debate please and not be side-tracked.

Mr. TAITT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, we will pursue this matter on the public platform. But honestly I do hope the Prime Minister will desist — we have heard him on International Sea Foods, on Bath, Heywoods, Caribbean Airways, etc., and the people are tired hearing him and wish to see him act to see some work done; and if by amending this note we can be assured finally that we can look forward to something, we are happy on this side to agree with this particular Item.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman, that was a very interesting speech from the hon. member. He says they are tired hearing about Bath, about Heywoods, about International Sea Foods. Let me tell them now that the hon. Prime Minister has good cause to come in here and repeat these things because he has to find the money to pay for the bills they created. I will tell you something more. The Chairman of the BMC let you off light.
4.30 p.m.

These matters have to be brought back here continuously for the next 10 years. What is this nonsense about bringing it back over and over again? We have to pay off these bills. I am going to sit down now and let the Minister reply because the gentleman that I really wanted to deal with is not now here.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, it is necessary for me at this point in time to make a "clear the air" statement as far as Fisheries are concerned; and from time to time I will make statements to clear up the whole mess that I found in the Ministry when I took over. There is only one difference between the Prime Minister and myself. Now, I believe that the Prime Minister should take a warning as from today as to the statement made by the hon. member for St. Michael South West about coming back here from time to time. I am ruthless, because when I told the Prime Minister early in 1976 that he should go to this country and tell the people everything he got vexed with me, and asked me if I wanted him to create a riot in Barbados; but as far as I am concerned, if the people wanted to riot because of the truth, let them riot.

I have to clear my stomach. I am the Minister responsible for Agriculture and I have heard that Senator John Connell got up in the Senate and on political platforms telling people about a \$20 million loan from Trinidad to Barbados, and that we are running our business so badly that we do not get on with Trinidad, and the money was withdrawn. Now I heard an hon. member in here today talking about the same \$20 million in respect of Fisheries. That shows the utter confusion in the ranks of the Democratic Labour Party.

The question of fishing is complicated and bound up, but I believe that that can be straightened out in another year or so. In the first place when I took up the Ministry of Agriculture I found that part of fishing was in the Ministry of Agriculture part at the Barbados Marketing Corporation, part at International Seafoods Limited and part under the Ministry of Finance and Planning. It is so strange that there is something called the Caribbean Fishing Development Institute in Trinidad, and that is an institution to which Barbados and other Caribbean Territories sent young men to be trained in fishing; but the negotiations were carried out and are still being carried out by the Ministry of Finance and Planning. International Seafoods Limited is supposed to be dealing with fishing in Barbados, but that operation is being conducted by the Ministry of Finance and Planning. The Barbados Marketing Corporation that is the sole importer of vegetables and fish and all of that was divided between the Ministry of Trade and the Ministry of Finance and Planning.

The hon. member can talk about Government coming in here day after day and complaining that the Opposition would not let us get on. Up to about February this year I was running a facility in a Ministry where I was supposed to be making policy decisions on Fisheries. With all due respect to my good friend, Mr. Henry Thorpe, an ex Civil Servant, he had been absent from the Ministry more days on sick leave than he had been present. The first time I saw Mr. Thorpe when I went to the Ministry in September 1976 was two days later. The next time I saw Mr. Thorpe was tumbling out of a house in Amity Lodge as drunk as a fish out of water. The first thing I heard about him was in April the next year when he was in hospital for three months. I am supposed to be the Minister responsible for Fisheries; and the Prime Minister who is responsible for Establishments did not intend to send him home. He came back to work.

In the Ministry we have worked out a plan for updating the Fishing Industry. I had a man, Mr. Reston, from Trinidad at the Institute to hold discussions with my technical officers, and I could not find Mr. Thorpe. He was in a rum shop down in Reed Street. The next thing was that Mr. Thorpe was back in hospital. That is not the end of it. There is a man called Mr. Harding up in

Oistins who wanted to buy a 40 foot boat. The Canadian Government offered Mr. Harding and the Ministry of Fisheries the opportunity to visit Canada and see the boats they build and the developments in Fisheries. We designated Mr. Thorpe to go with Mr. Harding, but when we were looking for Mr. Thorpe he was home sick and drunk and could not go; and this is an officer who was supposed to be advising the Government on Fisheries. We had to send a junior officer Mr. Jones.

Mr. Chairman, what has the last Government done? Dr. Richie Haynes wrote a letter to the Ministry saying that Mr. Thorpe was unfit for duty and should be sent home on pension. We in this administration have taken the step of appointing a marine biologist. We have created the post of Fisheries Officer and we are trying to get people with qualifications to advise the Ministry on fishing. We have put in this year's Estimates sums of money to provide a proper boat for marine biology. For 15 years the Democratic Labour Party was in power and you had people dealing with fishing who never even went in the sea to get their feet wet.

When the hon. member for St. Michael South West talked about the Development Plan for 1973-77 and talked about fish bringing in \$18 million plus, he must tell the public that at that time it was a private business which Joy Edwards killed. The then Opposition came and held a debate for over two months about the destruction of the shrimping business under private enterprise; and they ganged up at that time and voted against the Resolution. We have created a company. If you take the losses and offset them against the employment factor you will see that the Government can show the public that when they pay the employees \$40 or \$50 a week they should not be in \$12 million debt today. That is what the hon. member must talk about.

As far as the price of fuel is concerned, I heard Mr. Barrow say that the only fuel crisis there was, was in the minds of those who said so. He was the gentleman who went on the air and talked about a fuel crisis in Barbados. He has a short memory, because I read from the papers that the member got before the Duffus Commission, and when he was asked about an agreement between Barbados and Trinidad concerning a fishing venture, he said he could not find the fishing files either.

Government officials do not know about it. We have never heard any Minister from the Trinidad Government come out and say that there was any kind of agreement between us and Trinidad for that facility. Only a member of the previous Government talked about it. I tend to believe that it is a figment of his imagination because when they go to Paradise Beach and drink liquor after 7 o'clock at night, all kinds of thoughts rush into their heads. Fish are an easier thing to fish, and

sheep are an easier thing to see when you are sleepy. I believe that is what has happened.
4.40 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, that is the reason why I told the Prime Minister long ago that it is necessary at this point to look seriously at International Seafoods.

Now as the Prime Minister has said about the fishing banks between Guyana, Surinam and Cayenne, there is an abundance of what we call trash fish because in every five pounds of shrimp that is hauled from the sea they haul 95 pounds of other fish for which the shrimp trawlers had no interest. It is necessary for Barbados in its Caribbean context to look at the fishing industry, and therefore one cannot afford to use International Seafoods in a situation where every country is saying to you that if you are going to fish within my economic zone they have to have something in it as well; we are not going to give Barbados the right to go to Guyana, the right to go to Surinam, the right to go to Cayenne, the right to go to Brazil and fish and bring the fish to Barbados. As a matter of fact, some countries are saying "satisfy our needs first and the surplus you can get". I therefore do not understand what the honourable gentleman is talking about. You see, the public of Barbados has been fooled for fifteen years, and as the hon. member used to tell me, you might be able to beat me in Parliament but you cannot beat me when I get before the television. Unfortunately he has no television appearance at the moment and he is still continuing to think he can fool the public of Barbados about the grandiose agreements made.

We in the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Chairman, are now taking the fishing industry seriously. In the first place, we have asked as I said before, Mr. Ralston who was the Principal of the Fisheries Institute in Trinidad to look at a design for a larger boat. We are looking at sizes from about forty feet up to 55 feet. We have set up in the Ministry of Agriculture a Fisheries Development Committee; we have put on it the commercial interest in Bridgetown, the local fishermen, we have put on it the gentleman who runs Caribbean Fibreglass Company because we believe that if you are going to develop the fishing industry it should be done with as much local assistance as possible. There is a gentleman from Tent Bay, Bathsheba, who has built a 40 foot boat and he has been fishing far outside the waters of Barbados, and he comes into Barbados every four or five days and sells his fish to International Seafoods. We have asked him to sit on the Committee because we want to get the best information available, and all of this is being done without a marine biologist or without a fisheries officer who is qualified in the art of fishing.

Mr. Chairman, we have also looked at the development of the various fishing ports in Barbados. We

have looked at Tent Bay. We have called in the American Naval Base at St. Lucy and we have asked them for their opinion. They have brought in people from Puerto Rico and we have looked at the Tent Bay situation. We have asked the British Government to give us assistance and they have brought in one of their Men-of-War with a crew of people to look at the development of Tent Bay. Unfortunately during the period they were here it was impossible for them to do the necessary diving because of the roughness of the seas, but they are coming back later this year to advise us how best to develop Tent Bay into a major fishing port, and I am bent on having it done as soon as possible because in the last administration I heard George Fergusson state in this House that nothing could be done with Tent Bay, that the fishermen there are building the wrong boats, and when I challenged him as to what boat he would build and why the Government did not build a boat to show the people on the east coast what type of fishing craft they need, he sat down. I am privileged to know I have searched the files of the Ministry and George Fergusson has never suggested to Government any type of fishing craft that could operate out of the east coast.

When the hon. member talks about updating our public relations office, all we have to do is to update our public relations office to tell the public what we are now doing, but we have not got to fool the people out there; people can look and see what is happening. That is all there is to it.

We have looked at Consett Bay and hope to update the facilities there. Fishermen still have to come in on a jetty where the sea is rough; they have to undress and walk in the nude out to their boats. Similarly at Skeete Bay fishermen in 1978 have to undress on the beach and swim out to their boats and swim back in when they return in the nude. If any of the pornographic film producers in the United States would like to come to Barbados, they can go to Tent Bay and set up their cameras and get pretty pictures; but this is the situation we have inherited from a Government that has been in power for fifteen years. I hope the public will understand that the bunch of them that sat on that side have got other interests and cannot look after the interest of the people who voted for them to send them to the House of Assembly. The hon. member for St. Michael South West speaks and makes other appointments because he has some place else to go. I suppose the acting Leader of the Opposition, the hon. member for St. Philip South made his speech this morning to get the newspaper headlines, then he picked up his bag and left. I know that the hon. member for St. Lucy has more than a passing interest, he is interested in the workmen, so I would expect him to remain until the last light is out. (Mr. GREAVES: I am going just now.) That is what you all want to tell the people.

We are looking at the development of Speightstown as well. I believe the public of Barbados fully well knows that we are putting the Oistin project into operation and we hope it will be finished probably about 1981 or early 1982. That will be a major development and this is why I said the Barbados Labour Party was responsible for motorising the fishing fleet in 1951 and I want it to be known that we will be responsible for updating the fishing craft in this country in 1981. We are looking at a large boat with freezing capacity that could go to sea and bring back in fish that could satisfy the needs of the people in Barbados. There are about two large boats operating out of Barbados now and reports are that fishermen are earning in the vicinity of \$700 to \$900 for a four day fishing exercise. It is a worthwhile project, but Government must give the backing.

The Cabinet has approved that the development Bank should reduce its requirements on securities in order to encourage more people to go into the fishing industry and buy large size boats. What else can we do in the circumstances? The money that we could have used to put into the fishing industry we have got to use to pay off the debts of the previous administration, and when the hon. member for St. Michael South West keeps talking about stop talking and do something, if the money was available, Mr. Chairman, we would have done far more in twenty-one months than the Democratic Labour Party did in their fifteen years they were in power.

Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Prime Minister will have to have a serious development as far as fishing is concerned. It is one thing to talk about reorganisation as the hon. member would like to say. I certainly believe the fishing industry must be reorganised as far as Barbados is concerned. I would not like to throw more troubled waters in the mind of the hon. member for St. Michael South West; he is worried about various other things and that is why he cannot stay in here today; but certainly the fishing industry in Barbados will move forward.

I have mentioned some of the plans which we have got for the fishing industry. As I said, we are looking at the Oistin complex and hope that the fishermen in that area will come together to form a viable cooperative movement. We believe the complex should be built by the Government; we also believe that the fishermen and the fishing folk in that area should operate a major section of the complex when it is completed. I personally do not believe that the Government should put its hands wholly and solely in all the operations we are going into.
4.50 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, let me tell you something we found. International Seafoods, which is dealing with fish, did an experiment on the long line fishing to see how much fish they could catch using the existing fishing boats. In the Ministry of Agriculture we spoke to the Institute in

Trinidad and we organized a fishing expedition where the trainees together with the lecturers of the Institute came to Barbados, and we took as many as 12 boats out to sea to show fishermen the art of fishing collectively and what can be done. Do you realise one of the things that was a setback was that fishermen cannot even read directional finders as soon as they have lost sight of landmarks of Barbados? In the Ministry we are very concerned as to how best to get this information over to fishermen. We have been looking at several navigational aids for the fishermen of this country, but it means a consolidation of the work in fishing out of finance ISL, BMC, put it into one Ministry or one organisation so that our efforts can be more productive rather than having to run three or four different places to determine our needs.

The BMC, as I said, has certain outlets, International Seafoods as far as I know has no outlets, and I am sure that after today the Prime Minister will certainly, after hearing the hon. member for St. Michael South West in his criticism, will certainly take the appropriate steps to restructure the whole industry for the benefit of the people of Barbados.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I just want to be very very brief. This matter of the Fisheries Officer, I hope the Minister of Agriculture is not blaming me for not sending home the Fisheries Officer, I can't send home civil servants. It looks as though Dr. Richie Haynes has more power to get them sent home than I, Sir. I can't send home civil servants, complaints can be made in the appropriate quarters by Ministers or by members of the public. I have known for years that the Fisheries Officer was incompetent, but it still does not lie within my power, if I go in and see a civil servant lying down drunk in front of my desk when he should be doing his work, for me to tell him go home.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I want to make it clear that I am not saying the Prime Minister should send him home, all I am saying is the files have indicated that this behaviour was a pattern dating back for years and when I took office I complained myself, but we are left in a situation where those at the top have their friends and you can do nothing with them. That is all I am saying, but when I heard the hon. member criticise what happened in fisheries he should know full well that he is partly to be blamed for the situation which exists in fishing today in this country.

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

On the motion of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Resolution in Committee, and Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, the Resolution was passed and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, that concludes Government Business for today. I beg to move that this

House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 23rd May, 1978 at 12.00 noon.

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

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