

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1976 – 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 19th September, 1978.

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

PRESENT

His Honour W. C. B. HINDS, J.P. (Speaker); Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW, LL.D., (Leader of the Opposition); Hon. L. S. CRAIG: (Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment); Hon. H. deB. FORDE, S.C., M.A., LL.B., (Attorney General and Minister of External Affairs); Dr. R. B. CADDLE, M.D., Ch.B; 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 Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs); Mr. J. G. ODLE, B.Sc., (Chairman of Committees); Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, Q.C., LL.B., (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry) (Leader of the House); Mr. B. M. TAITT, M.A; Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW; His Honour E. E. ALLEYNE, LL.M., (Deputy Speaker); and Dr. R. C. HAYNES, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P. (Edin.)

Prayers were read.

Dr. CADDLE entered the Chamber and took his seat.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I wish to draw to your attention that the Minutes of the meeting of the 1st August, 1978 have been circulated, but if one were to look at the state of what is supposed to be these printed Minutes, I feel within myself that they do not measure up to the dignity of this Honourable House, and I see them as an insult to hon. members, and as such I do not propose that they be confirmed in their present state.

I have issued the necessary instructions with regard to the printing of suitable copies to be circulated to hon. members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to announce that I have received copies of the Accounts and Statement for the Month of June, 1978, as prepared by the Accountant General.

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

MESSAGES

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay Message No. 6/1978 from his Excellency the Governor-General advising of the appointment of new Ministers and the re-arrangement of portfolio of Ministers.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. SPEAKER: I am commanded to lay the following:

The Factories (Amendment) Regulations 1978.

Report of the National Insurance Board on its operations under the Sugar Workers (Provident Fund) Act Cap. 271, for the year 1977.

Report of the Registrar of Trade Unions for the year 1977–78.

The Annual Report of the Child Care Board for the year 1977–78.

The National Assistance (Amendment) Regulations 1978.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I have the hon. and pleasure to lay the Report of the National Commission on the Status of Women in Barbados.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Prime Minister, I beg to lay the following:

The Civil Establishment (General) Order, 1978.

The Civil Establishment (Part-time Officers) Order, 1978.

On behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning, I beg to lay the following:

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 6) Order, 1978.

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 7) Order, 1978.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the following:

Statements showing sums advanced to the Postmaster General for the payment of Money Orders for the months of January to April 1978.

Statement showing Money Order Transactions through the Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administrations, for the months of January to April 1978.

Statements showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for the one month period ended 30th April 1978 and for the two-month period ended 31st May, 1978.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:

Resolution to approve the lease to Mr. Frederick L. Cozier of certain lands at "Flodden", Culloden Road, St. Michael.

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

Resolution to amend the note to Head 110 - Ministry of the Attorney General, Item 8 - Other Stations, of the 1978-79 Capital Estimates.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Prime Minister, I beg to give notice of the following:

Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) Order, 1978.

Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (Part-time Officers) Order, 1978.

Resolution to fix the conditions applicable to unestablished staff and casual employees, and their classification and rates of pay, with effect from 1st April, 1978.

On behalf of the Minister of Education and Culture, I beg to give notice of the following:

Resolution to grant the sum of \$77,533 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1978-79, Part II - Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1978-79, No. 5, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

On behalf of the Prime Minister, I beg to give notice of the following:

Resolution to amend the note to Item 12 of Head 2 of the Estimates 1978-79, and to grant the sum of \$30,000 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1978-79, Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1978-79, No. 6, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

On behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning, I beg to give notice of the following:

Resolution to grant the sum of \$1,292,760 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1978-79, Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1978-79, No. 7, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Resolution to approve the use of the sum of U.S. \$10 million, to be borrowed from the Orion Bank Ltd., to assist with the financing of the Capital programme outlined in the Capital Budget for the financial year 1978-79.

Resolution to approve the use of the sum of U.S. \$2.1 million, to be borrowed from the Royal Bank of Canada, as part payment for additional buses for the Transport Board.

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

A Bill to amend the Police Act.

A Bill to make provisions respecting property.

A Bill to make provision for the registration of title to land and for dealings in land so registered and for purposes connected therewith.

A Bill to make provisions respecting the adjudication of titles to land.

A Bill to amend the Condominium Act.

A Bill relating to trustees.

A Bill to make provision respecting Charities and for related matters.

12.25 p.m.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Philip North has given an indication of his desire to table a notice which he will be allowed to do in a few minutes' time.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

On the separate motions of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW, the following Bills were read a first time:

A Bill to amend the Police Act.

A Bill to make provisions respecting property.

A Bill to make provision for the registration of title to land and for dealings in land so registered and for purposes connected therewith.

A Bill to make provisions respecting the adjudication of titles to land.

A Bill to amend the Condominium Act.

A Bill relating to trustees.

A Bill to make provision respecting Charities and for related matters.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Earlier today, Mr. Speaker, I had the honour to lay on the Table of this House the Report of the National Commission on the Status of Women in Barbados. That Commission held its first formal meeting on January 17, 1977 having been set up pursuant to a Resolution of this House passed on 26th March, 1976. That was the second such Resolution which I had introduced into this House. Therefore it is fitting that this Report be first brought to this House, before it is officially released to the public.

The Commission's Report justifies my persistence in having urged on this House the establishment of such a Commission. This House will recall that in 1973 I first introduced a Resolution requesting the setting up of such a Commission. On the 29th January, 1974 the then Government (the present Opposition) used its then

majority to vote against the establishment of such a Commission. The Debates of this House disclose that one of the reasons for the rejection was the present Opposition's view that "women were not suffering really any disabilities".

After Honourable Members have had an opportunity to read and analyse the Commission's Report, I trust that that unfounded and antediluvian view will never again be seriously advanced as a reason for denying progressive and comprehensive action for the total eradication of all the disabilities still being suffered by women in this country.

The Commission's Report is contained in two volumes. There are some 212 recommendations covering areas such as Traditional attitudes, Women and the law, Education, Women and Employment, Health, Family life and Politics.

It is a serious research document produced by men and women with varied skills. They have sought the opinion of a wide cross-section of the community, and the Report will assist us not only in implementing their recommendations but will serve as a valuable source of information.

Since the Commission was set up, there has been a greater public awareness of and concern for women's rights and, even before Government has been able to study thoroughly and to implement those recommendations which are acceptable to it, steps are being taken both in the private and public sectors to remove discriminatory practices adversely affecting women.

Mr. Speaker, in order to ensure the widest dissemination of the Report, a copy will be given to each Women's organization as well as to the Press; the Report will be put on sale at a subsidised, reasonable cost, and the Department of Women's Affairs will be organising seminars to discuss the Commission's Findings. I trust that the public will read the Report and comment constructively.

This House will certainly wish me — as the Government has mandated me to do — to thank the Commissioners for a task superbly performed. The Commissioners (particularly the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson) have altruistically devoted several long hours to their task. The public should be aware that this Report has been produced in such a short time, and at a minimum cost, simply because the Commissioners made personal sacrifices and put country before self.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think this is the appropriate time for me to hear the hon. member for St. Philip North, his notice of a motion re the Report of the National Commission on the Status of Women.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution in the following terms:

RESOLVE that this House

- (i) notes the Report of the National Commission on the Status of Women;
- (ii) thanks the Commissioners for their outstanding report and their unselfish devotion to public duty in producing, in such a short time since their appointment, such a clear, well-reasoned, and comprehensive report;
- (iii) congratulates the Government for their vision in pursuing a policy of true equality of the sexes and in seeking to give women in Barbados a new deal;
- (iv) expresses the hope that in pursuit of that policy the Government will take all necessary steps to implement at the earliest opportunity the Commission's recommendations.

A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A COURT PROCESS OFFICE AND FOR
RELATED MATTERS

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, before moving the second reading of this Bill I would like to state that I have circulated various amendments to the Bill. Some of the amendments were circulated on the last occasion, but we have updated the amendments completely. Many of them were typographical errors in the printed copy but not in the copy before the House. There is only one substantial amendment, and I will draw this to attention at the proper time.

Let me say, Mr. Speaker, that the purpose of the Bill is to amalgamate two departments of Government — the Writ Department of the Police Service and the Chief Marshal's Department of the Judiciary. The provisions of the Bill will in my opinion enable the rational deployment of two categories of staff which have been assigned similar duties and bring them within the purview of the Registrar who is responsible for the administration and oversight of the business of the courts. I will pause to say that this recommendation has been made on several occasions in previous years by the Bar Association. Indeed, the latest notice of this by the Bar Association was at a conference at the Windsor Hotel in 1975. The recommendation was by and large accepted by the Judiciary but no steps were taken to implement it. The Court Process Office for which this Bill provides will be under the immediate supervision of the Chief Marshal as regards the field work of the office, and the overall supervision of the Registrar who is responsible to the Chief Justice for the day-to-day business of the court. The Bill will largely re-enact the provisions of the Chief Marshal Act Cap. 111. That Act is itself a consolidation

of the provisions of the 1904 Act, the basic structure and content of which is contained in the Act of 1891 Cap. 62 of our revised laws. In relation to the 1891 Act which sought to consolidate and amend the Provost Marshal Act, it will be of interest to hon. members to note that at that time the Hon. W. H. Greaves, Q.C., in June 1891 in moving the Second reading of the Bill said that it might be regarded as a new Bill although in so describing he did not intend that hon. members should infer that the existing practices of the Provost Marshal's office had been changed. But as members were aware the existing Act had been framed in a most archaic manner and alterations were therefore necessary to redraft them in accordance with modern expression. The opportunity is now being taken in the present Bill to pursue a similar objective.

There are also some new provisions in the Bill. In its present form members will want to know that the Bill has taken into account the views of the Chief Justice and at least one other Judge, the Registrar, the Commissioner of Police and other appropriate Heads of Departments. I regret to say that I circulated a Bill to the president of the Bar Association but has not had even a simple acknowledgement.

The Bill, as hon. members will observe, is constructed in eighteen parts comprising seventy two sections and two schedules. The new provisions include Sections 3 to five which deal with the establishment of the new Court Process Office, the functions of the Marshal and certain powers of the Chief Marshal with regard to the organization and deployment of staff. Section 10 prescribes procedures for the collection and disposal of revenue; section 15 exonerates the Marshal from liability for acts committed in good faith; section 27 ss.3 enables a debtor to recover some value of goods wrongfully levied on in circumstances where no action is taken against the Marshal to recover the goods prior to sale. Section 40 describes the procedure for the appraisalment of land and enables participation of creditor and debtor in the nomination of two appraisers. Section 41 is a consequential provision which sets out the procedure whereby a judge may settle a value on land on the submissions of the two appraisers if they fail to agree on such values.

Section 69 is perhaps the most significant of the new provisions extending from section 68 to section 72, because it gives the Marshal powers of arrest not now available to him but available to the Writ Server through being a Policeman as well. It will be found that a number of the provisions of the existing Chief Marshal's Act have been omitted primarily because they can now only be regarded as archaic or in some instances they tend to place unnecessary temptation in the way of Marshals. Part 6 of the existing Act which allows for the leasing of land which is not sold following levy is one such provision which has not been employed within living memory.

Mr. Speaker, the foregoing is the basis of the Bill. We have already by Civil Establishment Order voted for the office of Court Process Office. In the new Civil Establishment Order that title is being renamed Marshal and Chief Marshal respectively, Marshal 1 and Marshal 2. Offers of appointment to posts in the Process Office were made to members of the staff serving as Writ Servers and Marshals during March 1978, and I am told that we have now had an indication from some of the senior officers that they will come over, whereas in many cases the juniors are not coming over because the prospects for promotion in the Police Force are more considerable than they will have within the scale of this particular department of Government.

12.45 p.m.

The revised Civil Establishment Order is before the House, and I will not be commenting further on the Order at this time. Mr. Speaker, we intend to arrange training courses for the new officers who are coming over. The Registrar and the Training Division have advised me that there will be training after recruitment and prior to the taking up of office by this staff; and the training will allow for general orientation and exposure. The training programme which has been developed envisages that all Marshals, both serving Marshals of the Supreme Court, and the new Marshals will attend, and the programme includes training in the structure of the Government of Barbados, the role of the court process division within the Public Service, both in its legal and administrative aspects, duties of the process officers, procedure of all courts, the types of process and procedures for execution, report writing, warrant process, writ process, rules and procedure of the Supreme Court and the Magistrate Court, levies, garnishment, ownership, ejectment procedures, execution of writs of warrant, procedures involved in the valuation of real estate, procedures involved in process affidavits, custody of public funds and auctioneering.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that this new Division, when it comes into being in full, will function smoothly; and indeed, up to yesterday my advisers have been meeting to iron out any difficulties that may arise during the implementation of the provisions of this Bill. It is hoped that when the new court process commences, that this Division will be in operation from January 1, 1979, and at this time the release to the Police an additional new 52 posts which will increase the complement of the Police Force by people available for merely police duties; and therefore we hope that this will reduce some of the pressure at the moment on the Police Force of this island.

I am indeed grateful — as indeed the Government is grateful to the Police Force in serving processes for the Court. Obviously we will expect their co-operation with the new Division of the Court. I am hoping, Mr. Speaker, in the next couple of years, by working closely with the Judiciary and the Bar Association, to streamline all of the

administrative problems which have been confronting the administration of justice in this island. The administration of justice is of such a nature, that one has to be ever conscious as a political Attorney General of how far one can go in even the implementation of decisions in relation to the day to day administration of justice. I believe that we have a very reasonable arrangement and working relationships with the Force; but of course there is always room for improvement.

In the last couple of days I have been studying the court process of the Supreme Court in Ontario, and looking at ways in which they have dealt with their problems. It is significant that my visit to that great province, Mr. Speaker, came at some urging and arrangement by yourself in your capacity as a Joint President of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. That is a significant fact, but it is also significant that my visit there for talks with the Attorney General was preceded by a visit by the Honourable Sam Silkin, an Attorney General of England who was also looking at some problems concerning the administration of justice in the United Kingdom.

I can only hope that we will do this transition very smoothly, and that the business of the Courts will be conducted much better, and that the barristers and litigants in particular will be rid of some of the complaints we have heard from time to time. I also want to record to those writ servers who are retiring or who are continuing their full job in the Police Force the thanks of the people of Barbados for the services they have rendered in this respect.

It is my pleasure, Sir, to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Bill.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Bill contains some 70 odd sections, and it is divided into parts. If it is the will of the House, I will take the Bill in parts. I will have to be moving amendments to various sections, and the House may well feel that it is better to take it in clauses. (Pause).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is no objection taking the Bill in parts.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, in moving that Part I stand part, there are no amendments to Part I. I move that Part I stand Part.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in moving that part II stand part I would ask that the amendments to Clause 10(2) and Clause 12 as circulated be made that the Bill may stand part as amended in this respect.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to get the reaction of the Attorney General on section 11 because while it sets out clearly that the Chief Marshal could be charged and fined for extorting more money than he is permitted to do, I would like to know the procedure that he has in mind by which a person who is in breach could set out bringing this to the notice of some higher authority because that is not set out here, and to think although the Clause does specify a fine for such action the public would like to know how to go about bringing this Act to the attention of the superior or the Marshal because unless that is well known you will find that these things are likely to occur or continue to occur and the public will not be taking any action to bring to the attention of the Judge or the Registrar these malpractices, and I would like to get the comments of the Hon. Attorney General on that.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, Clause 11 is not a new Section as such: it is an amalgamation of Sections 10 and 11 of Chapter 111 and I believe that this offence was created before. It is roughly a repetition of the provisions contained in Section 10(2) of Chapter 111 except that prior to the amendment the informer was also entitled to share part of any fine which was put up and this was a way I suppose of encouraging informers to give information against a Marshal who may be extorting more fees from the public. I would imagine there is no special procedure to answer the hon. member directly. Normally if a person is over-charged knowingly, not by mistake, and the person makes a complaint to the Registrar, or indeed a complaint to the Police, the investigation would take place, and since it is a criminal offence, the papers would be transmitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions to take action against the person. Normally, in the Chief Marshal's Office in the Registry we display the fees that must be charged and these are also set out in the Schedule to the Act and the existing fees in being. In many instances the person is dealing with a Solicitor except at the Magistrate's Court level and

Attorney-at-Law so that they will know what are the fees paid, but there are some people who transact their own business and that category of people probably need a little bit more protection and people should know that they can complain straight to the Registrar who is their Departmental boss and if not to him, to the Chief Justice who has overall control of the Courts and such cases will be investigated.

The question that Part II stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Part III was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Part III stand part. I do not think there have been any amendments circulated in relation to Part III, so I beg to move that Part III stand part.

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

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

Part IV was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, there are several amendments to Part IV. There is an amendment to Clause 26, the terms of which have been circulated; Clause 28 (1)b, Clause 30(1) and Clause 35. I think these are the main amendments and there are mainly typographical and printing errors. There are different from the Bills that we submitted at the Table so I move that Part IV with the respective Clauses amended in the manner appearing in the list of amendments circulated stand part.

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

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, part IV Section 26 sub-section 2 where an inventory cannot be completed at the time of making a levy the Marshal shall take possession of the property until the inventory can be completed, etc., now what happens at that stage?

The inventory cannot be completed and the Marshal takes possession of the property or the article of the debtor, anything can happen within that interim period before the inventory is completed. How does the debtor protect himself against such probable acts, and what type of compensation, if any, or redress he can get if he satisfies later on, or it can be shown that the properties or the articles have been tampered with within that interim.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: That section is not in the Act that this justifies it at all, but for the benefit of members it repeats the provision in Section 23

sub-sections 2 and 3 of Chapter 111. The hon. member just noticed that there is a provision that the debtor can sign an inventory so that he signs it to ensure that those are the things that he has; however, if the inventory is not completed the debtor should keep his own list to see if what he says is there. There is personal liability under this Act and this is one of the reasons why we have maintained the personal liability of the Marshal and there is also the liability of the Crown because the Marshal is acting on behalf of the Government and the people of Barbados and the Crown. So that there is redress of either suing the Marshal or by suing both the Marshal and the Attorney General as the persons to be sued whenever a Crown Servant has permitted a fault. But in addition to the civil liability there is the criminal liability of the Marshal for wilful neglect, and a little later on in this Bill I think hon. members will see a direct position dealing with this instance. We have tried to cover this situation.

I think that if my memory serves me right there have been possibly one or two cases that have occurred within my living memory in disputes between litigants and Marshals as to what exactly the Marshal has taken, and those cases have reached the Courts and I believe that in the one or two cases I recall the litigants succeeded for trespass, as well to property, so Marshals are not getting out of liability in cases such as these.

The question that Part IV stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Part V was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: In moving that Part V stands part Mr. Speaker, there are some other amendments I have to this. It goes down to Section 65 Sir, so I am asking that the amendments to Clause 44 sub-section 43(2), Clauses 44, 46, 48, 55, 56(1), 56(3), 59, 62(5), and 64, be read into the records and as appearing in the circulated list of the amendments of this part now stand part.

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

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

Part VI was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: In moving that Part VI stand part, I would ask that the amendments to Clause 67 as circulated be part of the Bill, and that Part VI as amended stand part.

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

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

Part VII was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: In moving that Part VII stand part, there is an amendment to Clause 68(2), and I would ask that that be part of the Bill and that Part VII as amended stand part.

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

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

Part VIII was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, in moving Part VIII I will have to ask for the House's leave to delete the whole of Clause 70 and I think I ought to explain to the House why. Originally when we were drafting the Bill representations were made on behalf of the Registry that the Marshals must be made to call on the assistance of the Police if a Marshal is making an arrest under the order of the Court or for any reason and the person is resisting or there is a battle, and it was represented to me that prior to this Bill the Writ Servers were policemen. Then of course they always had the right to call on the other police for assistance. The police represented to me further that the Marshals may go ahead and effect an arrest or purport to effect an arrest and it will later be found that they had no authority to effect that arrest, and the police in assisting would be guilty of not only an offence, but would be civilly liable, and in such circumstances, and on that advice we thought we would give some protection to members of the Police Force in these circumstances. However it would always have been possible for the person aggrieved to sue the Crown for the first wrong act committed by the Marshal.

I had grave misgivings about this and we decided to research it further, because it seems to me that we should avoid wherever possible any legislation taking away from the rights of the subject unless we were absolutely certain that there had to be these limitations; and after further research we were able to convince the police, in fact I am much indebted to Mr. Justice Williams because this is where the Judiciary made a contribution to this part of the Bill, that it was not necessary to have this protection at all because under existing police legislation in any event they have a duty to go to the assistance of everybody, not merely to the assistance of Marshals, so we told the Registrar you really did not need protection and the police under existing legislation has no greater protection than they are having now by the deletion if they went to the assistance of someone in the particular circumstances. So I think that both the Departments of Governments are satisfied and the principle which hon. members will want to see honoured not in the breach but in the execution and implementation will be preserved,

and this is one of the reasons why I am asking for the deletion of Clause 70.

I think on the last occasion when the Bill was laid in this House, I drew to the attention of an hon. member on this side and one on the other side that I was unhappy about that Clause and would welcome in debate any suggestions they may have had on the particular Clause. I am happy to say I think all my unhappiness has now been removed. So I ask for the deletion of Clause 70 and the renumbering of Clauses 71 and 72 as Clauses 70 and 71, and have the other amendments that are set out in the amendments which have been circulated with the Bill.

I beg to move that this stand part as part of part VIII and that Clause VIII as amended stand part.

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

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

The First Schedule was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to move that the First Schedule stand part.

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

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

The Second Schedule was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Second Schedule be amended in the manner set out in the list of amendments which have been circulated, and stand part.

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

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, with leave I ask to take the Arrangements Sections and that the Arrangements Section be amended in the manner set out in the list of amendments which have been circulated.

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

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

On motion of Hon. H. deB. FORDE seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing

of one Bill in Committee with amendments, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. H. deB. FORDE seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, the Bill as amended was read a third time and passed.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. member for Christ Church East may now give notice of his Resolution.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to Your Honour for permitting me to present this Resolution which stands in my name. I gave notice of it on Friday.
1.15 p.m.

THE CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE ACT, 1978

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, this Bill seeks to incorporate the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute. Originally, this institution for which function this body takes over was known as the Regional Research Centre which was set up in 1955 and it was mainly supported and set up by the British Government and excluded certain regional programmes.

In 1973 the British Government indicated its unwillingness to carry on the functions of that body and therefore the regional Governments had to devise ways and means with which to carry on its functions and the question of financing of the institution. At the time the Regional Research Centre was part of what was then known as the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, but with the merging of the University of the West Indies that body was incorporated into the function of the University of the West Indies. After the British Government served notice to withdraw its financial support from the R.R.C., the West Indian Governments set up a Committee in 1973 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Lewis Campbell of the Caribbean Development Bank which reported in December, 1973 suggesting that the body which we now seek to incorporate and give the status of a legal entity be established.

The question here is purely a question of a change of name and giving legal status to this body which has been carrying out a number of very important functions within the Caribbean area within the past number of years. CARDI is well known to many people who are in the agricultural field from the point of view of the type of research which it has been carrying on and the type of assistance which it has been giving to Governments in these areas. The importance of agriculture to developments in the Caribbean by way of reducing our

balance of payments and creating employment for people in that sector is certainly well known, and I take it that the time has come when all Governments must see agriculture not as a Cinderella Ministry or a Cinderella subject in the scheme of Governments but are to see it as the one area where they must give full support in order to ensure that agricultural products get off the ground. It is my determination during my period in that Ministry to make sure that the necessary assistance is given wherever possible to people in agriculture, especially the peasants who have for a very long time in this island played a very important role in the financial scheme of things. There was a time in Barbados until the last regime came to office when agriculture, especially the peasant side of it, played a very significant role financially in this country, but from the time of the famous cane blade speech and from the time we saw the type of rape of our agriculture and reduction of our agricultural lands by something like 12,000 acres, we saw a very serious decline in the interest and activities in agriculture.

I am happy to say, Mr. Speaker, that with the advent of this administration we were able to arrest the destruction that was made on agriculture over the past 10 to 15 years, especially within the last seven years of the DLP's regime, we were able to arrest the rape on our very valuable agricultural lands, and today we have brought back something like 6,000 acres of the 12,000 acres that were put out of good agricultural production into very productive use. We have seen developed in this country a situation where people were moving away from manageable house spots like what you can get at Mangrove in St. Philip of six, seven and eight thousand square feet, and moving toward four-acre lots, not four-acre, lots to produce food to feed the nation, but sprawling four-acre lots in order just to have beautiful lawns to satisfy your ego that you are a man with a lot of lands and great curtilage around your mansion. We in the Labour Party are committed to a policy of arresting that type of drift in the area of agriculture, and we are prepared to give assistance to all people who are involved and to all institutions within the region that are also involved.

1.25 p.m.

We recognize that in any developing country with very limited resources agriculture must play a very significant part in the matter of its economy. We have got to find ways and means whereby we can attract people to the land; and by that I do not mean going back to the land as hewers of wood and drawers of water, but as people who have a real interest in the development of the plot assigned to them. The Government is thinking in terms of the utilization of the large areas of land that have been acquired from time to time to be put at the disposal of people who are interested in agriculture and to give them the necessary assistance whereby they will be able to do their own farming with the assistance the Government is

prepared to give. At the moment I am looking very seriously at the lots in St. Lucy and Christ Church to see how far I can go in farming out these areas to peasants who are agriculturally minded but do not have the means to acquire agricultural land. In this connection I would like to say however that it is pointless asking a farmer to produce crops and at the end of the time there is no way of selling the produce. We have got to look at areas of marketing and farmers have got to look to the Ministry to be advised as to the time of planting so that there will be no serious glut when reaping time comes.

I have only given a slight idea of Government's thinking and my own thinking on the matter of agriculture, and I certainly feel that this Bill which is before us is certainly a step in the right direction. I do not think there can be any problems or difficulties with regard to this.

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to second the motion and reserve the right to speak later.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, we certainly wish to support the establishment of this institution which has been functioning for some time. We consider it as a continuation of the effort towards research in the area of agriculture which has been going on in this region for some time. I believe serious research into agriculture dates back to about 1898 with the establishment of the Imperial Department of Agriculture following the visit of one of the many Royal Commissions that came out to the West Indies. I believe there was a Commission during the years 1896-97, and as a result of recommendation by that Commission an Imperial Department of Agriculture was established in order to carry out research into agriculture which even at that time was recognised as one of the vital areas under-pinning the economies of the territories of the region as they then were. That particular research continued down into the 1920s when about 1921 or 1922 there was a change in the type of structure and soon thereafter the Imperial Department of Agriculture was merged into the Imperial College or Tropical Agriculture to provide areas of training for a great part of the Colonial world. Throughout all those years the emphasis has been on training experts for various agricultural projects of Government and private enterprise to carry out research into the problems which affected agriculture in the region. This particular institution, the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute, comes at the end of this long period of development and is an indication of the desire of the Governments of the region to take hold of this question of agriculture and realize that support in this area must come from the region itself and that there must be a commitment to agricultural development and research.

Now it is clear that for any regional research institution to function there must be coordination and integration of the separate national policies that exist in individual territories, and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the hon. member for St. Andrew into his new portfolio. I do not know why he should wish to choose the metaphor about Cinderella; I do not know if he will be putting on a special type of slipper, but I would advise him that agriculture is a national issue and we must not start out by trying to downgrade the role that previous administrations have played in agriculture in this country. I therefore think he has got off on the wrong foot and must really be feeling his way around a little to start off by talking about the cane blade speech. I think there must be some goodwill and I do not think this is the right note on which to start. I would say that in this country there have been significant developments and advances in agriculture over the past years but of course there is always room for further development.

1.35 p.m.

If we look at the number of areas, it would be clear that there has been an increase in agricultural production. If we take the case of onions during past administrations — but I am going back to before September 1976 — there were times when there were virtually no onion production in this country. During the previous Democratic Labour Party administration we have seen the onion industry developed in this country. We have seen other types of vegetables, including cabbages, carrots and melons develop from small production levels to the levels of two years ago and the levels of today. I do not think that these things should be discredited. I do not think that one, officially speaking, should try to sweep these things under the carpet and give people the impression that nothing was done for agriculture, either in terms of research or in terms of production.

When we turn to the area of milk production in this country, I think that it was due to the efforts of the previous administration, including those in the private sector as well. If we look to the area of milk production and the dairy industry in this country we will see again that here is another significant development that took place in agricultural development under the previous administration. If we look at chicken production, here is another area in which we are having this type of development in various kinds of research carried on in various areas. We must take into account that agriculture has developed to this particular point, and we need all of the research and developmental aids we can get in order to push it on further. The situation is not that we are starting from scratch now in agriculture, that all we can talk about is the return of some 12,000 acres of land into production. What we have got to talk about is that when we bring that land into production, what are the techniques that are going to be used to see that the

farmers are able to get their lands cultivated — and I speak particularly of the small farmers. There seems to be a complete collapse of the tractor cultivation scheme carried on through the agricultural stations and through the Ministry of Agriculture. There is no point talking about agricultural production on 4 acres or 7 acres around their homes if the farmers are unable to get their land cultivated within a reasonable time that will accord with the customary planting schedules.

These are some of the real problems in agriculture, and I would hope that this Minister would direct his attention into these areas where there are real problems — into the areas of processing and storage of agricultural produce, whether it be yams, or whether development is going into the area of eddoes or other types of food crops and the marketing arrangements — all of these are areas which are crying out for attention; and we would hope that CARDI can make this possible, in as much as the objectives of CARDI are:—

To provide for the research and development needs of the agriculture of the Region as identified in national plans and policies.

To provide an appropriate research and development service to the agricultural sector of Member States.

To provide and extend the application of new technologies in production, processing, storage and distribution of agricultural products of Member States.

To pursue for specified periods long-term research in pertinent areas.

To provide for the co-ordination and integration of the research and development efforts of Member States where this is possible and desirable.

To undertake teaching functions normally at the post-graduate level, limited to the development of the relevant research by any Member State.

In view of all of this I think that CARDI can be of great assistance to this country in making a further break through in the area of agriculture. I do not wish, Mr. Speaker, to speak any further on this particular point. However, I welcome the incorporation of CARDI. I believe that research is vital to the thrust for agricultural development; but personally I do not believe that all calls for a return to agricultural employment will necessarily have a result because in most countries the trend seems to be that with increased agricultural production there seems to be a decrease in the number of people employed on agricultural lands; but if this particular trend can be reversed, and if Barbados can be a trend setter in this particular area, I will take my hat off to the Minister of

Agriculture — outside of this House of course, Mr. Speaker, because I have my doubts in this particular area. I say that because the most successful countries in agricultural production have registered at the same time that there has been a decrease in the number of people employed in agriculture.

I believe that significant developments have taken place in agriculture, not only in sugar agriculture, but in non sugar agriculture as well; and I would hope that it will be realised that talk alone does not do it. We now have a new Minister who I hope would try to use some other kind of technique other than jaw-boning in order to get some further moves and development in the area of agriculture. I thank you.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome the Hon. Minister for Agriculture in his new role. I hope that in his effort to clean out the stables of agriculture he will not get swept away by the stench which is going to be emanating therefrom. I would have welcomed the opportunity to hear the Minister tell us something about the activities of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute. Instead he wasted the occasion and sought to refer to things of the past which are now like the song that the old cow died on. He is now in a position if he is not satisfied with these events, to do something about it and have them changed and get things done which he would like the people of Barbados to support; but anyone who looks at the preamble to the schedule sees "sharing a common determination to promote social stability and a better quality of life for the peoples of the Region; recognising the merits of a regional organisation for agricultural research and development; aware that the solution to the problems of agriculture on a regional basis will complement the current efforts towards regional economic integration and particularly the efforts towards regional co-operation in agricultural development; conscious of the need for efficient and adequate national extension services; convinced that the establishment of a regional institution for agricultural research and development will facilitate the achievements of these needs; hereby agree as follows."

I would like the Minister in his reply to comment briefly on these laudable objectives and to give us some idea to what extent the Institute has been able to give meaning to these laudable objectives. It is not sufficient to come here with a Bill of this nature seeking to incorporate this Institute, and seeking the opportunity purely to talk about cane blades and not tell us something about what the Institute has been doing and what benefits Barbados has derived so far from the operations of that Institute. People would like to know what is the cost to Barbados so far in terms of supporting the institute in terms of personnel and in terms of actual money. I would like to remind the Hon. Minister that not

very long ago there was a programme on television in which one of the members of the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and some other person from the Institute were discussing feed for animals in the region; and while it has been very interesting to listen to, people would like to know — certainly I believe that there are members of this Hon. Chamber who would like to know — how far development in the direction of that programme has gone. 1.45 p.m.

I think that this occasion is befitting so that the Minister could get up and elaborate on what the Institute has been doing so far, what Barbados has derived from the Institute so far, and what other benefits we can look forward to in the very near future from the Institute.

We are all very concerned about unemployment in this country and we have been made to believe by the present Government that agriculture can play a very great part in solving or helping to solve the unemployment problem in this country. We would like to know from the Minister in what direction he is looking at this Institute in helping him solve this unemployment problem in Barbados.

My colleague on the left has expressed his views about agriculture being able to do that because we have noticed all over the world that when people start to intensify agriculture, they start to mechanise and as mechanisation becomes more and more, there is room for less manual labour in agriculture. We have witnessed in Barbados some of this occurring already in the area of cane reaping and in other areas the advent of mechanisation has had bad results for large scale employment of people in these areas.

We would also like to hear from the Minister of Agriculture what is happening in the Industry where a lot of cows in Barbados have been lost, or cannot be found. I do not know if he is now in a position to shed any light on this part of the subject, but certainly people in this country are concerned about the status of cows, especially cows brought into this country under the Canadian Assistance Scheme and we would like to know something about this. (Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: ...research would be done on that.)

Yes Sir another research because we expect the Minister to do some research into that matter, because we are concerned, and he is, with the future and fate of agriculture in Barbados. We are not going to reduce it to that Cinderella Ministry as he has now indicated that it now stands, and we are not blaming him for it, but we would also like to know from him if he is blaming his predecessor in office for the level at which it now stands. I would like to know from him what plans he has in mind to now lift agriculture from that low level to which it has sunk.

I have been reminded of what his Hon. Prime Minister has stated that being a small farmer, the reason for moving him from the Ministry of Communications and Works to the Ministry of Agriculture lies partly in the fact that being a small farmer, he is in a better position to grapple with the problems of agriculture especially problems in the Scotland District and I am impressed by that because we were surprised that the failure of the expert in agriculture, the one and only expert in agriculture, not only now but even when we had the Government there was only one expert in agriculture, and we have been very much depressed to find out that when that expert in agriculture was given the opportunity to exercise himself on the problems he knew so well in agriculture, what did we find? We find people saying that if he is left there too long in 20 years we would not be able to find anything about agriculture so I would like to welcome the hon. member for St. Andrew in his new role because here the enthusiasm, effort and diligence with which he has set about to do things in the Ministry of Communications and Works, I would like to say that if he carries on with that diligence, enthusiasm and effort, great wonders are going to be wrought in this area of agriculture for the people of this country.

I would like to assure you Sir that I am not critical of his being in the Ministry of Agriculture because I feel that agriculture now has a chance in Barbados to do the things which people had been expecting to see coming from that part of the economy and which the Party in power have been telling the people of this country that it is prepared to do, and I wish him well and I hope that in his reply he will set about to answer some of the points I have raised in relation to CARDI, rather than having wasted his opening remarks and telling us something about cane blades or something of that nature. People are no longer interested in those things, they are interested in what the great combination is able to produce.

Mr. GREAVES: I would like to begin like certain of my other colleagues who have spoken before and welcome the hon. member for St. Andrew in his new role as Minister of Agriculture and certainly to hope that we can see some action in this particular area. I believe that this point he is making here today to have the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute incorporated is maybe the starting point which we should welcome because certainly it is the making of ensuring that agriculture continues to play an important role in our natural development and it has the opportunity for opening up even greater avenues in agriculture to play an important role in the development of this country an indeed in the Caribbean. I am sure that the Minister has taken the criticisms which have been levelled at him about his attempt as it were to mislead and misinterpret and to give bad impressions

about the role of the former administration as far as agriculture is concerned. I believe....

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order Sir, I am not aware that I have misled or attempted to mislead. A speaker can only put his point of view and I will reply. I am not aware and I would like the member to withdraw that aspect of the statement.

Mr. GREAVES: Thank you very much Sir, now that I have cleared, now that I have heard him I would like to withdraw that, that he did not mislead or attempted to mislead.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not want to hear that you were led to withdraw it, you will withdraw it and then continue on.

Mr. GREAVES: I beg to withdraw it. Now let us look at this Bill which you are trying to incorporate and the objects of the Institute. It seems to me Sir, that the Objects ranging from (a) to (g) are comprehensive enough to deal with the many problems which confront us in Agriculture in the Caribbean. One of the things which we have to bear in mind is that this is not an Institute which is designed to assist agriculture alone in Barbados but throughout the Caribbean and I am particularly glad to recognise that under Section (e) of the Objects where there is provision for the co-ordination and integration of the research and development efforts of Member States where this is possible and desirable, I am glad to see that this is here because it is my belief that there is a fair amount of research on agriculture going on in the Caribbean and enough, in my view, is not filtered out in other areas where this can be of assistance and I would think that if there is one area where CARDI can be of assistance in the Caribbean, it would be for the implementation of this particular Object here which I have just read out so that if we are going to succeed in that particular area alone, that would be I believe a significant contribution.

1.55 p.m.

If, as I say, we succeed in this alone, I think that would be a significant contribution, but quite apart from that, Mr. Speaker, there are other areas which are outlined in the objects of this Bill which I consider of extreme importance. My colleague who spoke before me referred to what he considered to be the vital role of agriculture and indeed to the question of the high food import Bill which we in the Caribbean are faced with, and the fact that we are making very little progress in attempting to reduce this. One would see this therefore being tied in with another matter which we discussed here I believe earlier in the Session relative to the Caribbean Food Plan, and I would hope that there is

some close collaboration and some kind of consultation between CARDI and the people who will be directing the Caribbean Food Plan, because one of the things which we find in the Caribbean is that we have a penchant, as it were, for setting up all kinds of institutions and bodies and what-have you, but the whole question of having them coordinated and having the work schedule in such a way that they can be of assistance to one another, and that the whole region can benefit is an area that is lacking and that is where we should seek to dovetail all the activities going on in this particular area into a whole so that the entire Caribbean can benefit from it.

I was glad, Mr. Speaker, to hear the Minister make reference to the desire and objective of the Government in finding ways and means of attracting or at least making it possible for people to become more involved in agriculture, and he made reference, if I quote him correctly, to some lands in St. Lucy. I have every reason to believe that he was referring to the Spring Hall project which, as you are aware, was conceived by the Democratic Labour Party. The over-all plans were there and the former Minister of Agriculture, I believe on two or three occasions, when questioned on it, in his usual style, all he did was talk and talk and we have not so far been given any kind of indication as to what is happening there. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that this project as it was conceived, and I believe still with the general objectives of the project, will be continued, because as you are aware the Caribbean Development Bank did a feasibility study on it and were in agreement with the project as conceived by the Democratic Labour Party. I would hope that we can get some action on it. I know that the present Minister of Agriculture will have some memories. I am not sure how fond they are, of the parish of St. Lucy. You will recall that he was one of the men canvassing for one of the former members of this House, Mr. Cameron Tudor, in 1954, and he returned in 1956 as a candidate for the parish of St. Lucy, and I believe he managed to get 55 votes....

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, to put the records straight, the hon. member who just sat down I understand likes a lot of research. I do not think it is befitting of him since I feel he likes research, that he should come here and make a statement like that. It is downright and completely false.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to get involved in cross talk, but the hon. member cannot deny that he came down with Cameron Tudor in 1954.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is Cameron Tudor's name CARDI?
(Laughter)

Order. Let us have some order, please. We are discussing CARDI. Stick to CARDI please.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now 2.00 o'clock, and this sitting stands suspended until 2.45 p.m.

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Question Time. I am advised that there are no replies to questions.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 1 stands in the name of the Hon. member for Christ Church East.

I understand that the hon. member is not ready to proceed.

Mr. GREAVES: Order No. 2 stands in my name.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 2 is the instant Order of the Day.

RESOLUTION RE UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution is under consideration now because those of us on this side of this Honourable House feel as a matter of fundamental policy that every Barbadian, every citizen of this country has a right to employment. We feel that not only does every citizen have a right to employment, but there is also the right to suitable employment. Very often that latter term is regarded in a pejorative sense, but indeed the appropriateness of employment, bearing in mind the skills prevalent in any given society, must be a fundamental consideration for those whose responsibility it is for the time being to evolve policies for the management of the economy. We feel so strongly on this that in the light of recent experience, an experience which could not possibly have been predicted, given the basic constitutional and democratic assumptions which we felt were shared by most members entering Parliamentary life, that I believe the time will come in due course where the right to work, the right to employment will of necessity need to be entrenched in the Constitution of this country.

Consequential on our belief that every citizen has a right to employment must be the belief that the State must seek to protect its citizens when for any particular reason they should not be able to work, and

consequently such a Resolution must be part and parcel of the kind of beliefs and policies of the Democratic Labour Party. It is not often appreciated by more privileged people what and how severe can be the consequences of unemployment. These can range from total family disruption, severe emotional trauma, to actual hunger, starvation, severe deprivation emotionally, physically and in every possible direction. Many of us only have to see from time to time the social humiliation which ensues when a man is suddenly turned out of work, particularly in a society, Mr. Speaker, where the levels of earnings and the price structures existing in that society are such that there can be no significant savings among the vast majority of people in the event of their unemployment. It is this kind of consideration that would make us look very carefully at the structure of unemployment in Barbados; and when one gives some thought to the unemployment in Barbados, one finds that almost every single category of unemployment known to man exists in this country.

I will draw attention to the question of unemployment which is consequential on technological change. Reference has been made to that by previous speakers in this Chamber today, and I do not think it would be totally out of place if I were to suggest that it is important to harness our technological development towards the demands of unemployment in this society. 2.50 p.m.

From time to time we might see a tractor or some other implement that has been bought with considerable loss of foreign exchange, the maintenance of which, parts, diesel, oil and otherwise, represent a continuous outward flow of foreign exchange when in fact it is highly probable that such work might have been done by people and there would be employment at the same time making serious savings in foreign exchange.

I would also like to point out that it is not only at that level that the employment situation is affected by technological change. We see various devices being introduced into offices and other places, and one begins to wonder whether that is the kind of appropriate technology for a society like ours suffering from crippling unemployment. Then indeed, Mr. Speaker, there is the unemployment caused by reduced demand for productivity. We have seen this consequent on certain actions taken, for example, by the various CARICOM countries where you can immediately get an effect in Barbados resulting in unemployment. Then there is the other employment that is inherent in our type of economy where we have two of our major industries subject to seasonal activity; the tourist industry and the agricultural sector, although thankfully the previous administration by the introduction of the compulsory five-day week has modified to some extent

the previously chronic seasonal kind of unemployment in the agricultural industry, and indeed we have seen over the past two years a new category of unemployment. It is a category of unemployment which has been foreign to the experience of Barbados, foreign to the experience of most civilised countries, unemployment that is caused by victimisation and substantial employment practices. That has not only been seen in the public sector but it has also been evident in the private sector in this country, and then of overriding importance and perhaps the most difficult to deal with is the chronic mass unemployment which is really principally due to ineffective capital formation within the society, and consequently it would seem to me that it would be necessary to look very closely at the investment possibilities in Barbados and also devise policies to create an environment in which effective capital investment would take place in order to relieve the long term unemployment situation in Barbados.

On the whole I do not think it would be unreasonable to say that we have not seen any evidence over the past two years of any significant attempts to tackle any of these various categories of unemployment. Now it is under these circumstances, and bearing in mind our record in terms of the introduction of social security under the National Insurance provisions in this country, that we feel that a logical extension of the benefits available to people in Barbados should be introduced under this scheme. We feel that particularly in the light of the claims by the present administration that the unemployment level has now reached such a low level, it could be a problem because until we recognise that one of the major problems in the introduction of any unemployment benefit scheme of any kind, then the overall level of employment in the society must be taken into consideration, but the present administration would not have this problem because there is very little, so they claim, under-employment in Barbados and just over single figures unemployment. We would think in terms of a scheme that would primarily be for the benefit of insured persons, and in this regard it would not be very different from sickness insurance, in fact I think the pattern is roughly the same, the general principle is the same, and I think only in respect of a different actuarial approach would it be significantly different, therefore the experience is there and I do not think that it is beyond the resources of Barbados to meet this particular need in the society.

As far as the extent of cover would go, we on this side would appreciate that certain limitations in time and certain qualification periods would have to be made for eligibility for receiving benefits under the scheme, but as a consequence of the introduction of any such facility, one very important thing would begin to happen and that is that it would be necessary in

order for such a scheme to function to have effective employment agencies in Barbados. There is no doubt in my mind that there are many organisations, many individuals who could probably employ more people if there was some professional interest shown and some kind of professional body which can go to the office of a professional and point out to him that by employing an additional person that the productivity of his office would be increased, and when I talk about employment agencies I do not simply mean a place where you keep a record of people looking for jobs and openings depending on people calling in, I am talking about the kind of agency that would go out into the community, and I am satisfied that in almost every sector of Barbados we will be able to find new openings for people who do not, and in such cases the employers might not, at this particular point in time recognise how they could use another person. I can imagine that one of the most difficult areas would be James Street, because I gather it is very difficult to persuade anyone down there to paint their office far less employ additional people, but I will say by and large, Mr. Speaker, that this matter is now one of pressing importance. I think that when you are sitting in your office or you move around this country and see the problems that have resulted from unemployment, the ravages of unemployment over the years, particularly those awkward situations that develop following the loss of a job for one reason or another, I believe that most of us who believe in the kind of fundamental principles that I stated at the beginning, namely that a Government has a duty not only to provide work for its citizens or to create a climate in which the private sector will be producing more and more jobs, but it must be committed to the fundamental belief that every single person is entitled to appropriate employment, employment that is suitable to his ability, to his training and to his skills.

3.00 p.m.

And so I would certainly hope that despite certain evidence of deviations from certain areas of common agreement which I thought would have existed in a society of this kind among people of basically the same social background — and when I say social background I do not speak in terms of class structure but in terms of the factors which formulate the human personality — I would think that this could not be an area of significant disagreement. I think any disagreement may possibly arise in terms of quantum, etc., but I would hope that this Resolution is supported by the other side.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, in rising to support this Resolution I do not believe one has to make too many points to impress how very important a Resolution of this kind is for Barbados at this point of its development. It is not without significance that in every

single country in the world where the designation "developed country" is applied there is some form of social security through the payment of unemployment benefits; and I believe it is not unreasonable to say that Barbados over the past few years has reached the stage where by its style of living and the way in which its people go about their business that it can be described as a developed country. It is true that Barbados still has a long way to go, but there are in the international arena a number of people who are satisfied that living in Barbados is very much a question of living in a developed society, and it is in that context that our present National Insurance Scheme was introduced during the last decade. When it was introduced it was obviously felt that the circumstances available would not make it possible to give all the benefits associated with schemes of this kind. We have seen the scheme at work, we have seen it put into shape, and I believe that the time has come when we in Barbados are in a position to give effect to this Resolution which now stands before this honourable House.

Mr. Speaker, the problem of unemployment has been the subject of many dissertations, seminars etc., throughout the world. It is not a problem peculiar to Barbados or the Caribbean. It is a problem seen wherever human society exists and indeed most economists are of the view that there can never be really full employment in any country. Some socialist countries claim they have no unemployment, but that is debated by scholars and others. But the fact remains that the destruction of the human personality, if attributable to any single cause, would be through the inability of a family to exist in a reasonable state of sustenance within a society, and we can be as certain as night follows day that unemployment leads to that particular state in any society. Here in Barbados we have had for many years a state of underemployment, and for a large part of our history we have had this state of underemployment with a large section of the people living at the under-subsistence level. I think it is due to the character of the Barbadian that our people of yesteryear were able to survive and produce the type of person the Barbadian is generally known to be.

So when we talk of unemployment benefits or greater social security, I believe we should try as far as humanly possible to remove it from the area of partisan politics and look at it in the context of what we believe is best for Barbados and the legacy we should leave for those who follow. We should therefore easily agree in this Honourable House with this Resolution which urges Government to give serious consideration to this matter which they cannot say in all conscience that they do not agree with. We have heard in recent times that the economy is showing signs of improvement. Indeed, if one listened only to the recent press releases we would have to believe that the improvement is

somewhat miraculous. There should therefore be no excuse that resources are not available. It cannot be that the will is not there, for members of the other side have stated that they are interested in the development of the human beings of this community. I therefore think that the hon. member for St. Lucy should be congratulated on the timeliness with which he has brought this Resolution before this House.

There are a lot of theories about unemployment; a lot of theory about its effect on the economy and the society. Economists hold various views, and there is a well known concept introduced by Lord Keynes in which he propounded what can only be described as the theory of unemployment; But he was in fact not seeking to deal with unemployment but with the whole question of equilibrium within the society.
3.10 p.m.

That is where the concept of the invisible hand playing a role in the economy of a country which had been ordained by one Adam Smith was stopped and pushed back. There was a feeling up until the 1930s that if a Government simply let the economy alone, some invisible hand would reach in and help to regulate the economy of the country. There would be self regulation and all will be well, and everyone would fit into his particular niche of the society's hierarchy. *Laissez Faire* was the term they gave to it; but, Mr. Speaker, John Keynes in an attempt to find a solution to the problems of the rise and fall — the constant rise and fall — or as they described it as economic crises over eight to ten years, in an attempt to find a solution to that, he indicated that the governing authorities should play a fundamental and decisive role in determining how an economy should go for especially the people in the economy.

It is very significant that it was not the United Kingdom or one of those European countries, that took the lead in this. In that bastion of capitalism in the United States they had a group of scholars at the Harvard University who were searching for something new; and at about the same time, a man called Roosevelt came along. He was one of the first heads of state in the Government of the United States who drew heavily on the academic community for his administrative sustenance; and it was those Harvard young men who became known as the "Hiz Kids", who caused the United States to embark on a policy of grandiose social security legislation of the kind which is taken for granted in that country today.

I am saying that, Mr. Speaker, to say this: that in a country as wedded to the capitalist system and the Protestant ethic as the U.S. is if, social security and unemployment benefits are considered to be so vital to the development of people in that society, how much

more so is it desirable in a society that is made up largely of working people? Obviously, you cannot give social security through unemployment benefits forever. You will have to have some specified period. Obviously, it cannot be given to all employees, at least not at the beginning. It could not be given to all unemployed persons, at least not at the beginning; but it will have to be given at least to those persons who are contributors to the National Insurance Scheme and this is the concept which has been brought before this Honourable House in this Resolution. I commend it, not only to this Honourable House, but to all Barbadians, as something which we can look at as the beginning of the new era for the 1990s, the new directions in which we, as a people will be going if we are to have the kind of quality of life which all of us claim is the due of every citizen of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I have great pleasure to support this Resolution, and I hope that as the Prime Minister has asked for time to consider this Resolution so that he and his Cabinet can put together a synthesis of views held on it, that we can see a unanimous arrangement in this Honourable House as we come to pass this Resolution, Thank you.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, as the mover of this Resolution, I am not sure if any of the members on the other side wish to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please give the Chair a chance. The question is.....

Dr. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Speaker, the hon. mover of this Resolution seems to be very concerned about his treatment at our hands. I wish to say at the very outset that a logical extension of the present National Insurance System that we have in Barbados would be a system whereby unemployed persons who contribute should get some form of insurance payments in the event of unemployment; and to that extent I think that we can all agree that this is a desirable and necessary direction in which we should go.

I would agree with the last speaker that those of us who are thinking ahead in this country, those of us who feel it as our responsibility to chart its course for the next 25 years, ought to be at one in the direction in which we should go as a model welfare state. I am committed to that view. I feel very strongly that we have an opportunity to make Barbados a model welfare state; and one of the important dimensions of that structure which I perceive will be unemployment benefits for those who are out of work; but in saying that, I want to make the point that in the same way that the Barbados Labour Party Government from 1956–61 saw the necessity to have the present system, and to that extent calling for assistance in the form of

experts to do the actual groundwork so that we could have a carefully thought out system.

Similarly, we have got to ensure that the foundation work is properly done — the actuarial studies for instance — so that when this system of unemployment benefits is introduced, that it is viable and very well thought out. The difference, therefore, between us and them is one of timing and one of determining what are the necessary pre-conditions for the introduction of this system. I notice that one of the speakers on the other side seems to have taken all of the credit for the introduction of the present system in this country, forgetting that when the Democratic Labour Party took office in 1961, they found on their desks the completed study work and recommendations which had already been accepted by the outgoing Cabinet with respect to the system that now operates.

I do not think that this is any occasion for scoring any cheap political points; because I continue to say that both of the major parties in this country, both the Barbados Labour Party the first in time, then the Democratic Labour Party, more recently the Barbados Labour Party again, have all made significant contributions to the development of this country. I think that it is important that we, when we speak, should give credit where credit is due, and always keep the record straight. In the nature of things life is like a baton race — a race in which you run your leg, and you hand on; and the time comes in politics when you receive that baton again. We had it virtually from 1946–61. We handed it over in 1961, and we have received it again in 1976, and I believe that we will run with it for a long while.

3.20 p.m.

The scheme cannot be introduced until the foundation has been laid and until the proper actuarial study has been done.

I want to make a second point, Mr. Speaker, and it relates to the reluctance of so many of those who are in public life to think hard about the very basis on which all the distributive justice that we are calling for can be structured. It is easy to talk about welfare payments, very easy to talk about what next in welfare payments. If I ask the members of the gallery one by one what next, they would say, buy a house for everybody, send everybody away overseas to visit countries free once a year, build beach houses for everybody. That was one of the solemn pledges of the Democratic Labour Party in 1961 which today they have never realised.

What the politicians in the country are very reluctant to come up with are ideas as to how we are going to increase the productive capacity in the country

so that we can have a massive structure on which to build all the distributive justice. So that Mr. Speaker, though welcoming this opportunity to talk about the important next step in the structure of the national insurance I think the point has got to be made that there are certain priorities (1) that are perhaps more important right now than unemployment benefits; (2) that it makes no sense rushing head foremost into that until a proper study has been done so as to make the structure viable. It makes no sense to have it set up today and then it breaks down tomorrow. What we have been thinking about is how we can so do it to ensure that it does not weight our capacity to do other things. When we are talking about all of those welfare payments and there are no more than transfer payments, a form of welfare, we ought to be thinking simultaneously of how best we can so increase the size of the cake in this country that when we hand out slices, the slices are substantial because if we continue to slice a cake which is either not shrinking or growing, the slices will become increasingly more slender. So I think that this is a form of cheap politics in a way and due thought only of welfare payments in my way of classification is not serious politics.

I want to make that very very clear for the benefit of hon. members and for the press too whose job it is to determine who are the serious ones among us. You are not serious if you are only talking about welfare payments. Equally important is creating the wealth of the country so that as a result of wealth creation you can distribute.

I myself, Mr. Speaker, want to make my position very clear on this Resolution. As far as the general purport and intent of the Resolution is concerned, I am in full agreement with the movement and in full agreement with the other side. I would hope that long before it is time for me to bow out of public life of this country that we have this scheme in existence for many years, long before, but I also know that this Government must do its work in a rational way and this is one of the significant contributions of this administration and the previous Barbados Labour Party Administration to the conduct of public life to this country.

We bring a large dimension of rationality. Perhaps excessively so. Things are given careful thought, careful study, the options are carefully evaluated and then we act, and to that extent, a lot that we have done in the 1951–61 period has turned out to be of enduring value in the history of this country. Equally I feel this significant next step must be carefully thought out if it is to endure, and to that extent I am in agreement with the Resolution, but it cannot be introduced immediately as it must first be proceeded by a careful actuarial study to insure that it is viable and properly structured.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, earlier this year the contributions to the National Insurance Scheme were increased for some of the people heavily, and people paying these contributions at the increased rates are not satisfied in their minds at all that there have been any justification for this sudden and heavy increase in the contributions. Those who were prepared to look favourably on the actions of the present government were anticipating that at some time during the course of this year, additional benefits would be granted to those who contribute. What is now being sought by this Resolution is to elicit from the Government their intentions to give some additional benefit after having increased contributions made both by the employer and the employee. Here at this stage the costing is necessary and we must place our steps carefully as it is not going to ease the people who have to contribute because certainly by now they would be expecting that a Government as dynamic and as great a combination as we are told we now have, would have anticipated the expectations of the people of this country and would have set about already to have done their homework to determine what, how, and where they are going to get these new contributions. I am surprised to hear the call or the plea for patience when not very long ago preceding the recent by-election...

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir on a point of order and elucidation Sir...

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Attorney General cannot rise on a point of order and elucidation at one and the same time, on which will he rise?

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member will rise on a point of order.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The hon. member states rather that in the 15 years of Democratic Labour Party rule it was too short for them to have the study.

Dr. CADDLE: Excuse me, Sir, not very long ago preceding the recent by-elections, there was a rush by that side to have this motion debated because the impression given, at least by some of those in the front bench, was that they were prepared to introduce it because at that particular time the circumstances were such that if they had introduced it maybe some good would have been done to their benefit. Now that this has passed away, we are being told to have patience. How much patience do you want the people outside to have? I do not have to go into all the problems which people have when they lose their work for whatever reason due to their neglect or not due to their own neglect. This is a serious problem in any society and those of us who like myself are Doctors and meet a

large number of people throughout the area get some intimate knowledge of how people are affected by loss of employment.

3.30 p.m.

When you look seriously at the question, how many people in Barbados every year are dismissed or lose work? I would take the opportunity of saying that this is far less than the number of people who get sick when the year comes and draw pensions from the National Insurance Scheme, and if the National Insurance Scheme can sustain this continuous demand on it week after week by people who fall sick and get benefits, and those numbers are substantially more than those who lose employment during the year, I am saying that this long plea about patience need not be entertained. There are not large numbers of people in Barbados every year who lose their work. We must be careful because we may be confusing this with the large numbers who have not worked at all. They are two separate things. We accept there are a large number of people who have not worked, who are looking for employment, but the benefits which we are seeking to give are for those who have not been working but who have contributed and who due to some reason or other have now lost work. How many are these in a year? So do not let us fool ourselves. We are not asking for benefits for the thousands of people who are unemployed. If we take such a step it would be suicidal; we accept that. We want jobs for them, not unemployment benefits. We want benefits for the man who has been working but who has suddenly lost his job, who has commitments to make, whose life must continue to go on until he is able to find another job, and I am convinced that these numbers cannot be that great to put this severe strain that we are now suggesting would be placed on the National Insurance Scheme if we set about to do that.

Mr. Speaker, the people of this country have every right to expect that they will get additional benefits due to the fact that their contributions have increased, and it is the responsibility of the present Government to give careful heed and attention to the requests of the people of this country. It is not anything you are doing for the Democratic Labour Party. I think it is the fault of the Government that somebody on this side should now have to bring a Resolution before this Honourable Chamber asking them to do something which is obvious. You first have to set up a scheme. The Democratic Labour Party implemented the scheme with certain benefits. When you examine the scheme there are not many other things you can add. There is a certain direction in which you must go. The scheme has already been set up; you can analyse the scheme and see what benefits the scheme now can give in addition to those already being given. This does not take any Solomon to analyse, and we expect with all the great talent on that

side not to be asked to come in here and play for time. It creates the impression that they have not been doing their homework. (*Asides*)

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us have some order. There is a long time between 1961 and 2061.

Dr. CADDLE: Neither one of us would be here in 2061; we would have gone on long to our forefathers. Anyhow, Sir, the point is that while there is some general agreement on both sides as to the need for this type of benefit, I would like to make the point that I do not like to create the impression that the people outside must wait for a long time to see this introduced. This is something that needs to be done soon, and this is something that the people of this country, the working people who contributed will be looking forward to see implemented by next year.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I wish first to compliment the hon. member for Christ Church East. I think his speech reached one of the highest standards made in this Chamber for a long time, and I want to, not to the same degree but to some degree congratulate the hon. member for St. Michael South West. I think he has shown restraint which Resolutions such as this call for in the House. I do not believe, Mr. Speaker, you will find in this House any one of us on either side of the House who will object to the principle of this Resolution, and indeed to a certain degree of eagerness in seeing the Resolution implemented in this country. It is becoming very fashionable on political platforms to perhaps denigrate one's opponents, perhaps to minimise the impact that they have made. I believe this is one of the disadvantages of partisan political politics, but partisan political politics have so many other advantages that one would have to put up with such disadvantages.

Obviously the Government in power wishes to maintain power and the party out of power wishes to capture power, and to do so each one of them has to be as persuasive as possible; each one of them is going to offer some alternative system of Government, some alternative policy, some variation on the policy, but each one of them ought to be realistic and be able to recognise that in the long run we can only carry out policies on the basis of proper planning and extremely well established economic foundations.

I say this for the simple reason, Mr. Speaker, that even prior to the Resolution brought by the hon. member for St. Lucy the Prime Minister in public, not in private, but both in the House and outside of this House at a Press Conference, and at the Annual Conference of the Barbados Labour Party in January this year, stated in no uncertain terms that the Barbados Labour Party, not merely the Government, is committed to unemployment benefits in this country; so

I want to get the records straight. Anything I say as fact can be tested. I do not want members to run away with the thought that the Government or the Barbados Labour Party is not aware of the necessity to have some form of unemployment benefits in this country. We are not only aware of that because nobody can be happy with retaining unemployment in any form in any country. We are aware of the necessity to move to full employment in this country and we have been trying our best in very difficult circumstances to reduce the incidence of unemployment in Barbados. I believe we are succeeding despite the pressure being applied to the Government; of course we welcome the pressure because, as I said, the more pressure is put on us, the more we are sure the Government will be on its toes to perform and the more pressure is put on us the more some of us are going to stick by the Government to ensure that the Government performs well, contrary to what they believe. I am absolutely certain about that. If you put the pressure on, we will take the pressure. We will stand up to it and make sure that this Government performs, and perhaps in 2061 we will be tired and will be ready to retire. I say this for this reason.

Hon. members, particularly my friend the hon. member for St. Michael North Central who has caught the political fervour now, have unfortunately moved from the normal rationality that I associated with him to the political evangelism that is creeping into the politics of Barbados. The political evangelism is not necessarily based on sound and logical foundations, but there is a view that we must recognise as being latter-day, although highly illogical.

Mr. SPEAKER: We must all content ourselves that Christ is the answer.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I agree with you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps that is the only answer in the long run for all of us in this country; but until we reach Him and see Him, we have to have our feet firmly planted on the earth.

3.40 p.m.

That is the position. I think the hon. member for St. Michael North Central has made a point which shows that he is not firmly planted on the ground. One has to have a proper actuarial study done of any new benefits which are being introduced under a scheme such as this, because it would be highly dangerous to the scheme itself and it will undo all we have done and it will be the grossest act of irresponsibility for any Government to undertake such a thing unless it had got out the facts. Electors do not understand completely, or even if they do not understand some of them pretend they do not understand, that it takes time to get projects going, to get plans moving.

Now, this Government came into power just two years ago and I hear all sorts of things being laid at our door, we have not done this, we have not completed that, and people forget that it took the Democratic Labour Party 15 years and they still had not introduced unemployment benefits in this country, and what is more, they have not even done the study of it although prior to 1960 Stockman set it out as a possibility that should be looked at in the future. Let us really be serious. To compare the time span of two years with the time span of 15 years is really not fair. Stockman told you then that you could have looked at it, am I to be convinced that the Democratic Labour Party only became aware of the importance of unemployment insurance when the hon. member for St. Lucy brought the Resolution here? Surely if you had gone out of power even leaving the plans ready, then I could understand the argument as to whether or not Government finding the plans there did not find some way of introducing the matter, but I want to make a point here. I believe that the point made by the hon. member ought to be characterised as no more than a political point playing to the political gallery of this country in order to degrade the Government in their estimation and to upgrade his side as a group of people of action. That is what it is.

DR. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member will give way, I would like to assure him that that is not my intention. Having set up a National Insurance Scheme at this point in time, in which area can you take it? You can only take it in one direction.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: We went out in 1961 leaving you Stockman's report, having done the actuarial study for you, and it took you five years to begin to implement what we had left on the board for you. Be reasonable, stop believing that the people of this country have not got thinking caps. You have left us nothing and you are quarrelling that we are not ready to implement this in two years. I must make the point. People have to remember that it took you five years to get off the ground. The Government has no objection to doing any of these matters, the Government will continue with its force of action, and I believe that hon. members have to bear this point in mind. If you do not remember it you are not any better.

I want to make a point about employment and unemployment. In 1960 when we left the Government the unemployment in Barbados was running at a lower rate than when we took over the Government in 1976. There has been no significant increase in the work force in those years because you have a lot of migration and other conditions, and you have to recognise that unemployment grew under the Democratic Labour Party between 1973 and 1976. Unemployment continued to

grow under you in those years and particularly during that period.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the hon. member might be misleading the House. When the Labour Party took over the Government in September, 1976 the unemployment rate in this country was lower than it was in 1960. The system used for determining the unemployment rate in the 1960's took into account a factor which allowed the first Central Bank Report to record certain statistics and it is misleading to suggest that the unemployment rate in 1960 was the same in 1976.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think you can accuse the Minister of misleading the House like this.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The hon. member's way of looking at statistics may be different from mine, but I am looking at recognised statistics, not done by the DLP.... (Asides) Take those of the ISER, the United Nations and other international organisations and you might say they are all wrong, but if you really want to discuss the question of unemployment here you will see that you have to take into account the school leavers every year and you had falling figures in agriculture and in construction. Those are the facts. It is easy to shout when you are outside but when you come in here you have to face the facts with us. But the point is, if you say to me that both the DLP and the BLP had a duty to do exactly what the hon. member for Christ Church East and the hon. member for St. Michael South West said about increased employment activity in this country, because none of us by or mere talk, none of us can improve the cake in this country unless all the people, both capital and labour, are motivated enough to produce more for the country and then the Government comes in with right plans in order to stimulate and to push us on. That is what we should be preaching. We have a national duty now to start preaching to the people in this country the urge to produce more. There is no point saying that tomorrow if you take over the country that *abra cadabra* the problems are solved. You are getting proper planning from this Government, planning that you never had before, you are getting the Government to do a lot of things for you that if, as you say, you find yourself forming the Government in 1981... (Mr. TAITT: Not if, when). We came into this Government finding a lot of plans that should have been made for the use of local resources completely wrong and we have had to spend the time correcting them. We could have continued with all sorts of schemes which would ruin Barbados, but that is not the answer.

3.50 p.m.

That is why I believe that with the plans we are making and the policies we are pursuing, along with the

studies that must necessarily be done, the hon. member for St. Lucy will see the idea that the Prime Minister has enunciated and that he has now enunciated by way of this Resolution, is fulfilled within this Parliament, and we will work at it. But there is no point pretending and thinking about 1981. I do not see 1981 before my eyes; I see Barbados now and in the future, and we have to be conscious of building for it and not thinking only about winning power today or tomorrow. That is why I regret that the usual high standard which I associate with the hon. member has all of a sudden been dissipated and he seems lured by the prospects of unsettling the Government so that it will make mistakes. But you can rest assured that this Government will not be moved. It will continue firmly to pursue its policies for the ultimate good of all the people. The more pressure you put on, the firmer will be our resolve to get this economy right. We will ride out any storm, and at the end when the people see how well our action has gone as compared with your words, we have no doubt that we will be back here in 1981, maybe even in 2061.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, it has been useful that other hon. members have to some extent made a few excursions into the history of the national insurance scheme in Barbados. We sometimes find it difficult to believe what falls out of each other's mouths. Mention has been made this afternoon about the Stockman Report. There are people in here and people outside of this Chamber who will read of this debate and not believe there is such a thing. But it did exist and it still exists. A man called Stockman, who was an international labour organization expert, was invited down here by the Barbados Labour Party Government to do a feasibility study on a national insurance scheme. He did that and compiled a report which he left on a certain desk in a certain office at Government Headquarters in Bay Street. It was left on the desk of the then Minister of Health, the then hon. member for St. George, a man called Frederick Miller. I know of this; I know the man. In 1961 the Barbados Labour Party Government went out of power and left this report with all its copious recommendations for implementation by the Democratic Labour Party Government which came into power at that time. The National Insurance Scheme became a reality in 1967 — five long years later.

Now the National Insurance Scheme looks after those who are workers in this country. It does not take into account children, the unemployed or old age pensioners; but yet there are a few irresponsible journalists in this country who after two years of the Barbados Labour Party Government coming into power expect that we can produce for our people a national Health service that can be designed to look after every man, woman and child. In two years they are asking for

that; that is the level of journalism — or perhaps I should journaliste — that we have in this country. But the Democratic Labour Party took five years — with a feasibility study and a report — to produce a national insurance scheme.

Talk has been made of the Prime Minister's statement last year about unemployment benefits. It is quite clear to me that the hon. member for St. Lucy has anticipated the Government. Many people obviously do not remember this extract from the Prime Minister's speech, but the Prime Minister did in fact at a Press Conference on August 26, 1977 make it quite clear that this Barbados Labour Party Government was committed to a study of unemployment benefits in the National Insurance Scheme. Perhaps I should remind hon. member that I share responsibility for national insurance with the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is responsible for the investment and I have a responsibility for, so to speak, its day to day running. I will quote from the Prime Minister's speech and I am quite willing to make the extract a document of the House. He said then in respect of a query regarding the payment of unemployment: "I am familiar with it and the Government has indeed promised before now that this is something which we will anticipate introducing after 1981. Studies are underway to see what it will cost, and I am sincerely hoping that when the matter comes up in the House of Assembly we will be able to have a full debate on the desirability of unemployment insurance and feasibility of introducing it at perhaps an even earlier date. But certainly it is regarded as the next step after health insurance."

The Prime Minister had before then, as this statement indicates, made the Government's policy on unemployment benefits quite clear. I myself in a speech which was unreported by the Press some months ago also articulated the Government's policy on unemployment benefits.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have heard hon. members from the other side make much play of the present rate of unemployment in this Island. I speak plainly and I am of the opinion that some hon. members are some how under a misapprehension that unemployment benefits will work some magic in curing our unemployment problem. I speak very plainly, and I wish to state that there is no magic in unemployment benefits; it will not automatically cure our unemployment problems. The Government is pursuing other means. We have heard the Minister of Tourism who told us of the rapid expansion in the field of tourism; we have heard the Chairman of the Industrial Development Corporation, the hon. member for Christ Church East, presenting his four year plan and telling us of the thousands of jobs which it will bring to our people. The Government's physical projects are

underway; the Gas Products buildings are going up at Wildey; the Polyclinics at Black Rock and St. Peter are finished and operating; and many other physical projects are underway; the pulverisation plant is to start this month. I don't have to go on; members on both sides are prompting me about the physical projects that are underway, and that is the Government's cure for unemployment in this country.

4.00 p.m.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I was a little disquieted when I heard the member for St. Michael North Central who rose, I expected, to support the Resolution of his hon. colleague, the member for St. Lucy. Long before he got half way through his comments, I was of the opinion that he was not at all in support of the hon. member for St. Lucy; because, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for St. Lucy made a very fair speech. I will give credit where it is due. It was a very fair speech, Mr. Speaker. I made it my business to take a careful note; and the hon. member for St. Lucy when he made his speech, on no less than four occasions used these words: The National Insurance Scheme had to creep before it could walk. He is there smiling, Mr. Speaker. This is his language, not mine. He said it four times. He said it had to creep before it could walk. He said it took years for benefits to develop; and then we have the member for St. Michael North Central telling us today that we should have it by next year; and that we must throw caution to the winds — forget about the actuarial studies. Forget about feasibility studies. Rush into this thing from next year; so I am still not certain in my mind, Mr. Speaker, whether the member for St. Michael North Central has in fact supported the Resolution of the member for St. Lucy or whether he has not supported it. I am in a state of confusion where the hon. member for St. Michael North Central is concerned. But that is a permanent state with me.

Mr. SPEAKER: All children are not creeping today. Some get up and walk.

Hon. B. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, the only disturbing aspect of the speech made by the member for St. Michael North Central. He said that the increased contributions which we sought this year were not particularly well received by the Barbadian public, and that people were in fact looking for additional benefits. Now, as I said, I am in a state of confusion as to the speech made by the member for St. Michael North Central. I am not sure that I understand, or whether he understands how the National Insurance Scheme runs. As a self-employed person, I would imagine that he is a contributor to the scheme.

Mr. Speaker, wherever there are increased contributions, automatically, as a matter of course benefits increase. If by additional benefits, he means

new benefits, well then I go back to what I said before. I will use the words of the member for St. Lucy, who, as I said, made a fair speech. The scheme must creep before it can walk and it must walk before it can run. I observed in the speech made by the hon. member for St. Lucy, Mr. Speaker, that he anticipates that an actuarial study will have to be done. He anticipates that; and indeed the very wording of his Resolution shows that he anticipates that an unemployment benefit will be for a stipulated period only. He also made it clear in his speech that unemployment benefit would be something meant for contributors only. That is why I said that he made a fair speech, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this unemployment benefit will in fact be designed to give relief to people who are accustomed to being employed over long periods of time, people who are seasonal workers. That is the best example we can use in Barbados. We have two industries in particular where work is seasonal — the Sugar Industry and the Tourist Industry; and people who are unemployed for long periods of time naturally would incur commitments; and the whole rationale of unemployment benefits for contributors to the scheme is really to bring some measure of relief to those people.

I am afraid, Mr. Speaker, that I cannot at this stage make any blind promise to this House that we are looking for unemployment benefit for people who have never been employed. That is something which I am afraid must be futuristic; and that is where the importance of the actuarial study comes in. One hon. member on the other side — and I am not sure that I remember which member — did, I think, in a very glancing manner, make reference to the importance of the employer in this whole business of the National Insurance Scheme. As soon as you increase contributions, the employers' contribution goes up. The more employers have to pay — although employers in Barbados pay by far a lesser percentage of contribution than any where else in the world, I think, where National Insurance schemes such as ours operate — although that is a fact, the greater the contribution the employer has to pay, the greater is the temptation for the employer to retrench; and that is why we have got to look very carefully at the pros and cons of unemployment benefit. It has got to be studied in very, very careful detail.

Another important aspect of unemployment benefit which must be examined with great care is the relationship between unemployment benefit and severance pay. We must be very careful, Mr. Speaker, not to harmonise severance payment with unemployment benefit, or we may well find ourselves in the position where people are sitting down home — I see the hon. member for St. Lucy is smiling. He knows exactly what I am talking

about — people will be sitting down home and drawing unemployment benefit, severance pay and any other benefit they can manage to wangle in.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for St. Michael North Central spoke. He did not make a good speech. He spoke to give the impression that all benefits which now are available to people under the National Insurance Scheme were shoved in willy nilly. The hon. member should know — he was a Minister of Government and he must know that actuarial studies are undertaken as a matter of policy and as a matter of course every few years. At this moment as we are sitting here in this House, Mr. Speaker, the third actuarial study is taking place. It is being done by a man who is a well known expert in these matters. There were two actuarial studies done since 1967 when the scheme came into being under the Democratic Labour Party Government, and the third is now being done. The member must take a more responsible attitude especially when he is talking about something which is as important as a National Insurance Scheme and the fund which was born out of it.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that the actuarial survey should be undertaken at the soonest opportunity. In fact the Actuary who is presently doing the normal survey which is something which is sort of built into the scheme, was briefed by me just as he was assuming office; and he was instructed and directed by me that he should now be bearing in mind the Health Benefit and Unemployment Benefit.

4.10 p.m.

A separate actuarial study will have to be done for unemployment Insurance benefits because there are all sorts of possibilities. It is possible that unemployment benefits may be a special fund in the way that the Severance Fund is a separate fund. It may be suggested to us as a result of the survey that it would more probably suit us to have it slotted in as another benefit with other benefits under the National Insurance Scheme but Mr. Speaker these matters cannot be taken lightly. I think it is gross irresponsibility to suggest that it will happen next week or that it is something which I can just throw down to the National Insurance Board by proclamation.

People have very weird ideas about the National Insurance Scheme, Mr. Speaker, and the member for St. Lucy said in the course of his speech that the fund is healthy and that it is now at the \$100 million mark. You know there are people who believe that that money is locked up in the National Insurance Building and I sleep with the key under my pillow. But as a result, Mr. Speaker, of a piece of irresponsibility again demonstrated by the Press of this country at the time when certain investments were going to be made in the

Barbados Light and Power Company of National Insurance Funds, I think we took the opportunity and we have made people to understand now that every penny of that money has been well invested. If we had to pay benefits we could not meet a week's benefits. All of those things have got to be looked at Mr. Speaker, and I should like to move an amendment to the Resolution to read as follows:

"To move the passing of the Resolution to call on Government to take prompt action to ensure that unemployment benefits are paid for a stipulated period." There is more to the Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the Hon. Minister will be better advised to arm herself with the original copy of the Resolution of the hon. member for St. Lucy.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: I have done so Sir, and it reads as follows:

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

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

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

I am proposing to amend, Mr. Speaker not the preamble but the body of the Resolution itself.

Be It Resolved that this House accepts the principle that unemployment benefits be payable to contributors to the National Insurance and Social Security Scheme but urge the Government to undertake an actuarial investigations into the feasibility of extending the scheme to provide for payments of such benefits.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, you are asking the Speaker to substitute a new paragraph 3?

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Yes, Mr. Speaker. The substantial difference is the element of caution and the actuarial study. There is no fundamental disagreement between the two sides of the House on this issue.

Mr. GREAVES: We cannot adhere to the exhortations of the Hon. member for St. Michael South Central.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to second this amendment and reserve my right to speak on it.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I will like to indicate that in spite of the efforts.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I really cannot permit you to make a speech.

Mr. GREAVES: I am only indicating that we on this side certainly will not be accepting this amendment.

Mr. SPEAKER: Oh! Oh!

Hon. H. B. St. John: Mr. Speaker, Sir I would like to congratulate the hon. member on this amendment because it brings a measure a reality to the debate. I was astonished myself when I heard some of the speeches coming from the other side, particularly the speech from the hon. member for St. Michael North Central, and I think that it is good for the nation as a whole that the hon. member for the City of Bridgetown reminded us all that a fundamental decision was taken by the previous Government with respect to National Insurance which is something we must bear constantly in mind. Now when the Government established and passed the legislation for the National Insurance Scheme in Barbados they took a decision quite unlike that of the United States of America, unlike some other countries where National Insurance levies would not be paid into the general revenue and be counted as part of the general revenue and the disbursement of benefits would not come out of the normal expenditure of the Central Government but that it would be a funded scheme, and this is a very very important point that we must bear constantly in mind when we seek to impose burdens upon the National Insurance Scheme in Barbados because it is predicated upon an actuarial contribution and assessment and potential clearance of the fund.

4.20 p.m.

I think that this should also be regarded in the light of the fact that those who are responsible for the administration of the National Insurance Fund in Barbados are trustees for the contributors. We have absolutely no authority in here to pass any Resolution which would create additional charges upon the contributors' money without reference to a proper actuarial assessment as to whether the present level of contributions, the present projections of claims, the present investment income can stand a new level of disbursements, and that is precisely why and it is because of this that the Government has moved the Resolution that we accept the principle that in this society a measure of social relief should be granted to people who are unemployed by way of unemployment

benefits. But no person on the other side can bring any evidence in here to show that they have made a study of the National Insurance's present rate of contributions, the continuous factors which the actuaries and consultants have decided are necessary to pay future benefits and say that it has a surplus which could be paid out by way of additional benefits. Neither the Mover of the Resolution nor any of the speakers on the other side has had the audacity to allege to that as a fact.

Of course, we know that from the two actuarial reviews that have taken place before that the scheme cannot stand at its present rate of contributions any additional charges other than the charges which would naturally arise from increased expectations of the present day contributions that their pensions would be increased in the future to take care of inflation. All of us will remember that the Severance Payment Scheme that was introduced by the Democratic Labour Party also necessitated an additional contribution by both employers and employees, and even with the additional contributions for severance, they, having regard to the experience of that fund, saw that after a short period of time it was not self-supporting and adjustments had to be made to the level of the reimbursement, because the fund could not afford to continue paying the reimbursement contributions at the level which was fixed at the beginning. With that experience also, how can we as responsible members of Parliament sitting here by a simple Resolution state that we insist that immediately out of the existing contributions unemployment benefits must be paid without reference to some kind of actuarial study of the level of the scheme? If the Opposition, when they were in power wanted the scheme to operate in that way, they would have taken the decision not to have funded the scheme; they would have done like the United States of America, but they recognised when they were introducing the scheme that at the present level of per capita income in Barbados, with the present level of transfer payments that we have, that it is impossible to provide without additional contributions unemployment benefits in Barbados.

Let us not forget this: the manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party, and we have it here, makes absolutely no mention of this. This is nothing but a trumped up Resolution for the purpose of trying to resuscitate themselves in public opinion. This Resolution is being trumped up by the hon. member; it is not in the manifesto.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I think that the hon. member is casting aspersions on my Resolution. I think it is unparliamentary to refer to it as a trumped up Resolution.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I specifically tied my remarks to the impact of the Resolution, not to the Mover. Mr. Speaker, this was not part of their policy which they presented to the electorate, because in their heart of hearts they know that public finance is a matter which is utterly dependent upon the ability of the Government in power to raise sources of revenue.

Now we all know that one of the dilemmas facing any Government in any part of the western world in which there is democracy is the fact that parallel with a demand for increased Government expenditure there is a revolt by existing taxpayers to pay more in taxes. Any of us who have been following what is happening in western countries will know. Look at what has happened in California where there has been a revolt by taxpayers against an increase in the level of taxes. They had a referendum and as a result of the referendum an increase in the property taxes was not permitted and at the same time in order to cut your budget within the terms of your existing tax base, there had to be retrenchment. Hon. members on the other side cannot get away with it by constantly advocating an increase in Government expenditure and at the same time criticising any effort to raise revenue. Mr. Speaker, unless your growth in the economy with the pre-existing rate of taxation brings in more revenue, you cannot increase your expenditure unless you borrow.

4.30 p.m.

I would like to know if the hon. members on the other side are advocating that we borrow money for the purpose of paying unemployment insurance. If the hon. members are advocating that let them state that openly. If you are advocating that we borrow money to pay unemployment benefits, state that. I cannot understand therefore why it is that the hon. member refuses to accept an amendment which agrees in principle with the need and necessity for unemployment benefits to be taken in within the pre-existing independent financing of National Insurance, but calls upon the Government to have an urgent actuarial review of the scheme so as to go into its finances. I cannot understand what is his objection to that, what could possibly be the objection to that?

Mr. Speaker, I fully support the stand taken by the Minister responsible for National Insurance in moving this amendment, and I look forward to hearing the other side telling this House that it is possible out of the existing contributors' money to pay unemployment benefits without any additional contributions by contributors and without an actuarial study, bearing in mind that they themselves have taken the decision that this should be a self-supporting scheme.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I wish very briefly to say a few words on this proposed amendment. After all

the sound and fury by the hon. member for Christ Church South Central I really thought that he was going to give us a reason for this amendment. Instead he spent a lot of time making a statement on something which he obviously does not know anything saying, for example, that in the United States the social security funds are included in the general revenue. He said it by implication because he said that in Barbados it is not like the United States system where it is not funded, and by specific law in the United States no President, no Legislature can touch the funds contributed to the social security scheme.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the hon. member misunderstood what I said. In the United States as part of the Government revenue as presented, social security income, the income that is paid by the social security taxes is counted as Government income, the expenditure under social security is counted as Government expenditure. If you look at any analysis published by the United States Information Office on public revenue in the United States you would see social income, income derived from social security taxes. In Barbados our method of presenting our estimates of revenue is completely different, we do not put it so. As a matter of fact, the hon. member would know that the IMF does it like that but we do not do it like that, the IMF would like to count the national insurance income as part of our income, but check with the United States office of information and you will see that they do it.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have made your point.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I said at the beginning that he did not seem to understand it, I am now convinced that he does not understand. You either know about it or you do not know, you do not get it out of the United States Information Office booklets.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I have stated the sources of my knowledge, perhaps the hon. member will state his. Where did he get it from?

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, if you must know, I will tell him. The economics department of Brooklyn College and the economics department of New York University and intensive study courses on the issue. Mr. Speaker, the fact that social security funds are listed for purposes of the United States balance of payments — that is what he is talking about — it is counted for this purpose and therefore the IMF would like all countries to use the same system but in Barbados we do not use social security funds for purposes of balance of payments. But that is just a point by the way, he would not understand this, I do not intend to spend any more time on it.

If you take a look at the Resolution which is put up by the hon. member for St. Lucy, the operative part

of that Resolution is "that this House call on Government to take prompt action to ensure that unemployment benefits are paid for a stipulated period, etc." Now the Hon. Minister who is introducing this amendment herself said that when the hon. member for St. Lucy was introducing his Resolution he was fully aware, he stated it on no less than four occasions, that an actuarial study would have to be done. The Government found themselves in a dilemma, they did not wish to support the Resolution in its present form because it would give the hon. member apparently — and I say apparently — some accolade, they have to come with a Resolution which in some way they get a little play, so they come up with a Resolution which calls specifically for what is inherent in the operative paragraph of the Resolution, so what do they ask us to do? They ask this Hon. House to agree that the House accepts in principle that unemployment benefits be payable to the contributor. If they wish to put that in as an additional preambulatory paragraph I would have no quarrel, but then here is what we are urging the Government to do, we would be urging the Government to do something that they would have to do according to the hon. member's amendment.

All hon. members in here can say anything, it is what is written down as the Resolution, so they are calling on us to have an actuarial study, which actuarial study is absolutely necessary if the Government takes steps to ensure that unemployment benefits are paid. And as for the hon. member raising the question of whether we should call on them to pay additional unemployment benefits out of the current funds, that is a non-sequitur if I have ever seen one, because clearly he himself said even in his own speech that the system is set up in a certain way. If the benefits are increased obviously the contributions are increased accordingly and it is the actuarial study that will tell you the extent to which the contributions will have to be, therefore, Mr. Speaker, what the hon. member did was to make a point and then make the opposite point in an attempt to confuse those who might not be paying close attention so that they would see and feel that this amendment was something honourable which this side did not accept. They will ask for a change in a specific call on the Government to ensure something. The hon. member did not say to them to ensure that it is done tomorrow, to ensure that it is done next week or to ensure that it is done next month.

4.40 p.m.

Now the hon. member did not say "Ensure that it is done tomorrow or next week or next month." He only said "Take prompt action to ensure that it is done." That prompt action, Mr. Speaker, to all of us must start with an actuarial study. If the hon. Minister wishes us to put that in, it can go in, but not at the expense of the very fundamental words.

Mr. SPEAKER: This brings us to the end of Private Members Business. Government Business is now resumed. The hon. member for St. Lucy was addressing the Chair.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, when we broke for lunch I recall that I was making a point about the Spring Hall project. I just want to say that I hope it will move ahead very quickly because it has some tremendous advantages for the economy of this country.

As regards the objective of the Caribbean Research Development Institute, I want to enquire of the Minister about the state of the cotton industry in this country, bearing in mind that attempts have been made to revive it in Barbados but that there have been indications of serious failures; and I would like to know whether or not CARDI has made any suggestions concerning research into the idea of whether or not cotton is the kind of crop you can profitably produce in this country. And I seem to recall that the former Minister of Agriculture, who as my colleague here indicated was noted more for his talk than for action in agriculture, made some reference some time ago to the possibility of the Government reintroducing the growing of tobacco in this country; and I would seriously like the Minister to give us his thoughts on whether or not this has been just another attempt by the Minister to run his mouth or whether a proper study has been done on this particular crop, because I think when we talk in terms of agriculture there is need for proper research and planning.

The Minister made reference in his introduction, as far as planning was concerned, that we have to look at the marketing aspect of agriculture. This is indeed a most important area, particularly when we recognize that the Democratic Labour Party Government when it conceived the Spring Hall project had the whole concept of marketing in mind, because one had to recognise that a project of that nature could not have gotten off the ground if proper arrangements for marketing had not been made, and in this connection I will refer to paragraph (c) of Article 3 of the Schedule which gives as one of the objects of the institute: "to provide and extend the application of new technologies in production, processing, storage and distribution of agricultural products of Member States."

Mr. Speaker, this is a Resolution of fundamental importance, we heard today from the hon. Minister and from other hon. members who have spoken on this matter, about the question of unemployment and the need to create employment opportunities, etc. This is a matter of utmost concern for each and every one of us. In developing countries we find ourselves in circumstances where we have to accept certain technological changes which may mean that you will

require less man power because of the introduction of machinery. And I think this is one of the areas where agricultural production is affected, because the use of machinery increases agricultural productivity but at the same time it reduces employment in terms of the number of people employed. So that we have to watch this very carefully, and whereas we would want to see agriculture develop, we have got to take note of technological developments which might lead to the workers being in a worse position than formerly. But basically this is a matter which we have got to look at, try to work out because we are the takers of a number of technologies which are imported from overseas; and I would hope that CARDI in its research would try to develop a kind of technology suitable to the Caribbean so that we can gain whatever is possible from that type of research; and I think if that is taken into consideration we will be able to move ahead and see that agriculture plays an even more meaningful role in the development of the Caribbean.

And then to deal briefly with paragraph (g) of the same Article 3 which states: "to seek to achieve the optimum decentralization of facilities." I think the Minister ought to give more information on this objective. I do not know if this decentralization is on a regional basis or a local basis, and I hope the Minister in his reply will give us some indication on this.

Mr. Speaker, we are in general agreement with this Bill. The objectives of the Institute are the kind the Democratic Labour Party would want to pursue because we know it would be to the benefit of the Caribbean. We will therefore be supporting this Bill.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I think that in looking at this Bill as a whole one has to look at it in the context of the effort being made in the Caribbean to rationalize its thrust at the problem of agriculture within the region. The efforts of individual countries in the past were uncoordinated and externally oriented; and since the decision was made at the Heads of Government level that agricultural production in the region should be rationalized with emphasis not only on external markets but with reference to the increasing demands for food within the member States, something had to be done to coordinate our research efforts.

4.50 p.m.

Something had to be done to co-ordinate research efforts. To my understanding the idea was that it was realised that very often there was a considerable amount of duplication taking place in specific areas of research; and it was felt if you created an institution whose work was to rationalise the total effort, without in any way interfering with that diversified approach to the peculiar problems of any particular country, that we would get the benefit of greater value for the money spent. That is one of the objectives of the creation of the Institute.

As to the question of decentralisation, I have heard it argued at meetings at which I was present, that there was need for decentralisation because of the fact that hitherto most of the research has been carried on in Trinidad, and that the research activities there and the results obtained from the research activities there would not necessarily be the same results when developed in other territories with different soil types and different environmental conditions. So the proposition was put by Ministers of Agriculture from various islands that there should be some effort to ensure that the research which is carried on, particularly with crops and varieties should be carried on in areas outside of the Central Research Centre, so that the results of the research which came up could be handed over to the farmers, and they would be able to have the benefit of experience in a variety of soil conditions. I think that that is one of the fundamental reasons for the decentralisation of research activities.

I do not think that it would be fair to the absent former Minister of Agriculture, now Minister of Communications and Works, that the hon. member for St. Michael North Central should get away with some of the impressions which his speech may have created in the minds of those who heard him. Let us not forget that the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works, during the time that he was Minister of Agriculture — as the now Minister of Agriculture himself said in his opening speech — has been able to encourage a significant percentage of idle land to return to production. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture in introducing this Resolution stated that it was estimated in 1976 that there were 12,000 acres of agricultural land out of production and built on, and that some 50 per cent of that has returned to agricultural production. That is a significant achievement.

I want to tell the hon. member something. Whatever we may say, in the course of the last two years there has been a significant increase in vegetable production in Barbados. One only has to do a careful analysis of the imports of food in Barbados. Even when prices increased, they have only gone up by 5 per cent in Barbados. When we take into account the increase in demand that we have in Barbados arising from the increased number of visitors — in 1976 they had in this country about 225,000 people. In 1977 it was 269,000. This year it is anticipated that it will be in the vicinity of 290,000 to 300,000. Now when we take that demand, Mr. Chairman, which is generated by the presence in our country of visitors for an average stay of five to six days, and you match that also with the other demands from our local population, and you look at the increase in the prices of food that have taken place abroad, and you notice that our total food import bill has only moved in the course of the year by 5 per cent, you will understand that there has got to be an

increase in non-sugar agricultural production in Barbados of a significant degree.

The Chief Agricultural Officer himself in a statement to the Press earlier this year stated that there was such an increase in vegetable production both by plantation and small farmers alike that we had run into a situation where there were longer periods of glut than hitherto. So do not let us fool ourselves in this exercise. It is quite easy to state about the Minister in his absence that he was a non-performer; but the facts prove that during the last two years rationality has been brought to agricultural production; and the Government's position is very clear. We have always objected to sub-division of agricultural land. Since we came into power, we not only halted that, but also by persuasion so far, by education so far, we have been able to induce 50 per cent of the unused land back into production.

Now, we know that in the last two years all of the problems have not been solved; and that we still have marketing problems. We still have the problem of the inability of the marketing agencies in Barbados to get the fullest co-operation from the producers about what they are producing, if they are producing it, so that a rational marketing policy can be devised. We still have the problem in inter-regional trade about the receipt and payment for goods that are traded under the Agricultural Marketing Protocol. We are working on these problems, and CARDI is the research arm. That, and the Caribbean Marketing Corporation are institutions which will devise ways to bring about a rational approach to these problems. It cannot be done by any individual territory in isolation from the rest of the other territories, not if we are going to regard the Caribbean area as the potential market for our agricultural products.
5.00 p.m.

So significant steps were also being taken on the question of processing and the hon. member will know the difficulties this Government was faced with when we assume power. I know because I have acted as Minister of Agriculture at different times during the height of the difficulties between BARPAC and the Pig Producers. I believe that is the result of the efforts of the Minister of Agriculture and others, that some degree of rationality has come into play between the producers and the processors.

My understanding of the situation is that the Cannery section of BARPAC is expected to come into production in October. That will also face some problems because already there is a dispute and differences of opinion between the farmers and the processors as to the basic minimum price for raw

materials. Now these things will also take time to iron out.

I know that the contract has been awarded to Agro Caribbean with Mr. Graham Gooding as one of the Consultants of Food Technology for the new BMC complex and that the design and feasibility study and marketing studies are going along right now. I know that, and we expect that by the middle of 1980 that that plant will be commissioned.

In addition to all of this, I know as the hon. Chairman of the Industrial Corporation is in a position to know also, that the feasibility studies and the financing have been procured to ensure that we have a tin making plant in Barbados, because one of the problems that we have in the Caribbean is that we have a shortage of packaging materials, whether it is boxes to ship, tins to can, or even certain plastics which are used in the food preservation. We have a shortage and efforts are being made to ensure that we have the necessary packaging materials which is an indispensable part of the proper presentation for marketing of these products. All of this is taking place.

In addition to that, the hon. member for St. Michael North Central may not have been keeping up to date with the news because he would have known that the former Minister of Agriculture established production committees on specific commodities within the Ministry so as to have liaison between the farmers and the processors of the marketing agencies in Barbados. So that all of this work was the successful effort of the Hon. Minister to bring some degree of rationality to an irrational situation which he came and found after 15 years of the hon. member's Government. Maybe the Minister of Agriculture was not graced with the presence of the hon. member for St. Michael North Central or otherwise we would not have had this rationality.

Now let us turn to the question of the Spring Hall Scheme. When that scheme was presented to Cabinet and one looked at the feasibility study, it was clear that modifications would have to be made to this. I remember distinctly that with the Capital Expenditure envisaged, there was no way, no way that the potential farmers who were to undertake the burden of ownership, whether by way of leasehold or freehold, could possibly repay their commitments and make a living at the same time.

There were serious questions raised as to the need for Capital Expenditure of the Infra-structure, as to the sizes of the lots, and as to the terms and conditions of the leasehold. As a result of that it was modified, new proposals were looked at and increases in the size of the lots and scheme were formulated with the

concurrence of CDB who is the lending institution and the Ministry of Agriculture have finished what they had to do. The matter is now in the hands of the appraisers at CDB.

Now if the hon. member had had much experience in the course of his ministerial duties in dealing with these multi-national institutions, whether they are Caribbean, Inter-American or the World Bank, the hon. member would know that they have certain procedures that have to be gone through which take time, so that the ball is in the court of CDB with respect to the Spring Hall Scheme. I am not suggesting that they are holding it up, it is just going through the normal time consuming procedures and we look forward to their presentation of it.

What I know is that the Government of Barbados in respect of ADC's land have taken a decision that there is a demand in this community for land for people who have become graduates of the Polytechnic and people who genuinely want to farm and some of that will be made available for them to farm, and the Hon. Minister has already made that very clear, and some of the 3,500 acres under the control of ADC will be in the hands of people who want to farm. I would like to say some of this 6,000 acres which have not been brought back into production will be made available for people who genuinely want to farm.

I think that the Government has waited long enough on the owners of this land and if they have not taken the hint, I think the time has come when specific measures should be taken to ensure that this land goes back into productive use so that when we look at the record of achievement, probably achievements, published achievements, one can see that the strictures and the innuendos levied by the hon. member against the absent member cannot possibly be sustained, and I feel that it is my duty to let these facts be known. Obviously, the hon. member for St. Michael North Central has not been paying much attention to the media in Barbados otherwise he would have seen for himself that this is a matter of public record.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I think it is my duty to answer one or two points made by the other side and I want to thank the hon. Leader of the House for the very able manner in which he has answered a number of questions made by hon. members of the other side. It has somewhat mitigated my task.
5.10 p.m.

The hon. member for St. Michael South said that there was a significant change in the question of agricultural implements being given to small farmers in the country, and from my investigations it would seem to me that there is a lot of truth in that. The reason why

that is so, Mr. Speaker, is that you will be surprised to know that for many years prior to the coming into being of this Government, the last Government did not give a number of Government agencies equipment to work with, therefore when we came into office there was virtually no equipment for that section of the Agricultural Department that gives assistance to the peasant farmers in the country. I remember only last Thursday meeting people who plant pangola grass as a result of complaints made to me, and these people were encouraged by the Agricultural Department to grow pangola grass and were promised assistance in the harvesting of this grass. They discovered that the cutter would come, cut the grass, leave it there to be baled, then a day or two and weeks would pass and the baler would never come, grass would grow back through the cut grass invariably rotting the grass, and there you had the problem setting in. These were some of the problems which this Administration has inherited.

The setting up of CARDI is to provide technical knowledge for the various Agricultural Ministries within the territories; but I want to go on record now as saying, and I said this within my Ministry only last week, that I am tired of reports, scientific and otherwise. I want to see positive action now coming out of all these research schemes. We have been having research over the years. There was a time when we had John R. Bovell. We are well known throughout the world for our research in sugar cane. We have been carrying out a lot of research: research in cassava, peanuts, cotton, tobacco, all types of research. It is time now that we master the technology of this research, and if we cannot master the technology by our own efforts, let us purchase the technology. I am willing to support CARDI and any change for that matter that can give us the technological knowledge. I feel the time has come when the research men must get down from the clouds, come out of the research laboratories and put into active practice what we think by now they should have produced, otherwise within our own lifetime we would hardly see any production from this series of studies.

The main thrust of this Government and the main concern of this Minister is to see greater agricultural production and to this end I have set myself. I have discussed very frankly with the Prime Minister the question of agriculture and when I said in my opening remarks that for too long agriculture has been the Cinderella of the various Governments, I mean in this sense; that sufficient money in my respectful judgement was not devoted to the carrying out of projects within agriculture. It does not make sense to ask people to produce, to cultivate land and to give them no assistance; and agriculture is so vital to our economic take off that we must nurse it and help it along.

A question was asked of me by the hon. member for St. Michael South and I have the answers here for the

hon. member for St. Michael North Central as well. The purpose of CARDI. Originally when CARDI was set up, it was not CARDI; it was the Regional Research Centre which was connected to the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad. They carried out research into cocoa, and the research included the question of food crops, storage problems of agricultural commodities, herbicides, animal nutrition and statistics. The type of matters which they dealt with were comparatively limited at the time.

A Committee was set up under Mr. Lewis Campbell of the Caribbean Development Bank who reported in 1973, and the report came up, among other things, with such matters as agricultural economics, farm management, agronomy, analytical chemistry, animal science, biometrics, entomology, pesticide chemistry, plant breeding, plant pathology, soil chemistry, soil physics. A number of things they come out with.

Now the hon. member for St. Michael North Central asked about the cost of CARDI to Barbados. Now I was really amazed to think that the question was asked of me since CARDI was in existence since 1974. The report was made in 1973, December, and CARDI came into being in 1974. What we are seeking to do now is to bring legally into being CARDI as a body, but the Government of Barbados has been contributing for some time towards the existence of CARDI. The cost per annum to the Government of Barbados is \$250,227. The question was also asked whether CARDI personnel are involved at the moment in Barbados in research. Yes, they are, in a very limited sphere, but involved nonetheless. The officers of CARDI are involved in (a) an animal nutrition project known as small ruminants; (b) as representatives of the general research committee within the Ministry acting along with other officials of the Ministry. The Committee tries to coordinate the needs of small farmers and research certain programmes of activities and (c) to look at special areas of topics and to publish their findings in these areas and make their published contributions wherever possible. But as I said before, we have been seeing too much of this research bodies and to me we are not seeing sufficient in terms of positive practical results. During my time I will seek to have this research come to fruition, and I want to say in winding up what I have to say. My predecessor in office has done a tremendous job of work in the area of agriculture. It is difficult when you have come into a Ministry that is very run down as agriculture was for your goods to be too quickly seen, but I am sure that in the fullness of time the people who are critical of the administration of my predecessor in office will come to respect and to appreciate that he has done a tremendous amount of work in the field of agriculture, and in the fullness of time his work would be seen and respected.

I believe that briefly the hon. member for St. Lucy spoke about the scheme in St. Lucy, the Spring Hall

Development Scheme, and it is unfortunate that he is not here; but he seldom speaks on really broad issues. He is always concerned with parish pump affairs.

5.20 p.m.

I want to assure him that the question of the project in St. Lucy is engaging the attention of the Ministry and it will not be in any form that he knows of, the form that will be put forward and that will be implemented by this administration will be completely different from the one he might have heard or known of, but the project for the Spring Hall development is well in hand and in the fullness of time the plans will be laid before Parliament and the people of this country.

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

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

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

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

Clauses 1 to 6 inclusive were called and passed.

Clause 7 was called.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: In Clause 7, Mr. Chairman, in the second line, I want to move that in line 2 "on" be deleted and "off" be inserted in its place. With that amendment, I beg to move that clause 7 stand part.

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

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

Clause 8 was called and passed.

The Schedule was called.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to move that the Schedule be the Schedule to the Bill.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, seconded by Hon. H. deB. FORDE, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill with amendment in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, seconded by Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW, the Bill was read a third time and passed.
5.30 p.m.

BILL TO AMEND FIREARMS ACT, CAP. 179

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, in moving the second reading of this Bill let me say that the purpose of the Bill is to provide for a revision of the fees payable for firearms for sporting purposes, and an increase in the penalties under the Act. You will recall that in the 1977 Budget Proposals the rate of licences for firearms was increased from \$20 per annum to \$50 per annum, and that proposal was implemented by the Fees (Miscellaneous) Provisions Act, 1977. The Barbados Rifle and Pistol Federation, however, made representations stating that many of the club's members owned more than two firearms which were used purely for sporting purposes and they requested the introduction of a concessionary rate for firearms used for sporting purposes only. Consultations took place with the relevant Ministry and the Sports Council and it was recommended that it would be reasonable to grant some concession, and as a result the proposal in this Bill is for the payment of \$50 for the first gun and \$25 each for every other gun used for sporting purposes.

Essentially the proposal is contained in the new Section 6 of the amended Act. However, when the amendments came to my Chambers, it was felt and recommended that the opportunity be taken to tidy up the Act to correct certain mistakes and to bring the penalties more in line with penalties obtaining in the Caribbean and elsewhere. Members may be aware that a trend started from about 1973 for the revision of penalties in Bills, and we are trying wherever possible to standardise the Bills and relate them to the penalties. Maybe before the end of the year or early next year we will be having a consultant in criminal law being made available to the Law Revision Section of the Attorney General's Ministry to carry out a complete overhaul of all the criminal laws and examine how penalties are related to the various types of offences — moral, social, economic, etc., and the other evils we may want to correct in our present legislation. We cannot do the total scientific study ourselves without outside assistance, but in the mean time we are taking the opportunity to tidy up the Acts and bring them more in line with present day penalties, and this is the main reason why these recommendations have been made.

In the Committee stage there is a technical amendment which I will probably introduce myself but in Clause 5 we will have to insert a comma immediately after the word "words" appearing in the second line thereof, and in Clause 8 to close the inverted commas after the word "months" appearing in the penultimate line thereof.

With these few remarks I ask that the Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

Clauses 1 to 4 were called and passed.

Clause 5 was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, for the purpose of tidying up the Bill I beg to move that a comma be inserted after the word "words" in the second line thereof, before the word "penalty".

With that amendment, I beg to move that Clause 5 stand part.

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

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

Clauses 6 and 7 were called and passed.

Clause 8 was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that inverted commas be placed after the word "months" in the penultimate line of paragraph (a) and I beg to move that Clause 8 as amended stand part.

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

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

Clauses 9 to 12 were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee with amendment, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, the Bill was read a third time and passed.
5.40 p.m.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that you do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply on Resolutions for the service of the island.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

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

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE NOTE
TO ITEM 1 – QUEEN ELIZABETH
HOSPITAL, UNDER HEAD 117

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution seeks to amend the note to Item 1 – Queen Elizabeth Hospital, under Head 117 – Ministry of Health and National Insurance of the 1978–79 Capital Estimates be amended by inserting subparagraph (d) to read as follows: "Revote of \$40,000 to provide for the installation of equipment in the X-Ray Department of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital."

Mr. Chairman, this is really a simple oversight and error on the part of the printers, perhaps, of the Estimates; and it is important that we amend this note so that payments from this sum of \$40,000 can be made.

The installation of X-ray equipment at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is virtually complete. There are essentially two new machines. One is a general unit and the other is a skull unit. It is expected, Mr. Chairman, that these two new units will expand the services which the X-ray Department at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital now give to this country, and also, in a manner of speaking, I suppose, to the Lower Developed Countries; because figures will show us, Mr. Chairman, that for the Calendar year 1977 the total number of patients examined in the Radiology Department at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital was approximately 25,000. The total number of procedures carried out, which is quite separate and distinct from the number of patients examined, were approximately 100,000; and the number of patients which we saw from the IDCs was approximately 2,500.

We have a staff in the Radiology Department which we consider to be quite adequate at this time. There are two Consultant Radiologists. There is one Senior Registrar, one Senior Radiographer. There are 10 Radiographers, three Trainee Radiographers, three Dark Room Technicians, one Departmental Aide and four Orderlies.

The Government, Mr. Chairman, is in the process of designing – in fact we are at the stage of ground floor drawings of the network of polyclinics. It is proposed that the Oistin Health Centre will be rebuilt and expanded into a full blown polyclinic. It is expected that Enmore will be rebuilt, and it is expected that Warrens will be expanded, and new clinics will be built at the Glebe in St. George and at Wildey. It is hoped that early next year we will make two starts, one at Warrens and one at Oistins; and early in 1979 another two starts, which will be at the Glebe and at Wildey.

The physical network for polyclinics, Mr. Chairman, is an essential part of the infrastructure of the National Health Service which the Government was presently designing and planning, and we hope that part of the role of the polyclinic will be to decentralise the out-patient operations at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital which are grossly overworked; and non-emergency cases which go to the Casualty for lack of other accommodation. It is hoped, Mr. Chairman, that the X-ray Department which is presently housed at Enmore, and which caters mainly to those people who are going overseas for the farm work programme on matters of that sort – it is hoped and certainly designs which I have in my office will show that we will be upgrading the X-ray facilities at Enmore. It is also hoped that with the expansion and redesigning of the polyclinic at Oistin that we will have an X-ray Department there also; so that the general programme of upgrading and expanding these services is very much underway.

As I said, Mr. Chairman, the installation of the equipment at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is almost complete, and it is very important that this Resolution should pass this House with as much speed as is decent. I therefore, Mr. Chairman, beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

DR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, it is expected that even under the great combination, errors do occur; and I think that one recognises that we are all human and these things will happen. However, it was suggested that the error was a printer's error, and I hope that the error can be explained in this way and that it was not due to a failure of consultation with the technical staff and other staff in respect of the preparation of the Estimates; because I think that they too are important in the Ministry of Health.

However, Sir, I would like to say a few words in general about the X-ray Department at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Over the years there has been a substantial investment in equipment at that hospital, and indeed we find a situation where certainly about two years ago the period of waiting had been reduced from some 90 days to approximately 21 days. I think that the average figure still remains somewhere at that level. It is far too long and I feel that when you make an investment of this kind it is important that it should be maximumly utilised. At the present although they have very expensive equipment which is capable of doing very sophisticated procedures, such as angina cardiography coronary cardiography and so on, the work of the department is sorely held up because we do not have enough screening rooms.

5.50 p.m.

For example if on a given afternoon one particular patient is involved in some procedure that might last three or four hours, all other routine screening procedures would have to come to an end in order to accommodate that patient who might be an emergency.

Now, it is important to understand the effect of costs and utilisation of expensive infra-structural development such as an X-Ray department. There are many Institutions that are so geared that the maximum waiting time for an X-Ray, no matter how complicated, is something like 48 hours. And when you translate that into the cost of keeping a patient in Hospital, then it should be recognised that it is important to expand your facilities and not allow minor problems such as inadequate screening facilities, among others, to prevent the utilisation of the existing plant.

All X-Ray equipment is most expensive. There is no use having equipment unless it is good equipment, and equipment which will last. I have always felt that there is a strong case for utilisation of such equipment on a 24 hour basis. I do not mean a situation where you start work at 8 a.m. and finish at 4 p.m. and between 4 p.m. and 8 a.m. you simply do emergency work. I am talking about a plan for full work around the clock and in this way you can multiply the output of your existing equipment by a factor of at least 2.5 with a further investment in capital cost because not only is there the question of initial investment but also the question of maintenance and the question of parts, etc.

I myself believe that in a small country like Barbados 21 x 14 miles, there is hardly any need for more than one well developed Radiological Department with adequate academic stimulus and adequate facilities. I think that we in the long term would need a minimum of not less than 6 radiologists. I think that this is important since these are rare birds so to speak, and very hard to get. There are very few doctors who really go into the sub-speciality of radiology and it is important then when one comes on the horizon, then you should anticipate his arrival and have everything geared for him when he comes.

In this particular situation we are very lucky to have a Barbadian Radiologist who would probably be qualifying in a year or two, and it is important for the Ministry to start planning to accommodate a third Radiologist. It might be ten years or it might be fifteen years before you can recruit another Barbadian Radiologist. As a matter of fact, in my experience, I think certainly within the last 20 years, we have only had two Barbadian Radiologists.

This has important implications, because as a matter of principle, when you utilise a plant like this, you are also generating tremendous employment opportunities so

that you may find a situation where you can multiply your output in that department by a factor of 2.5 whilst at the same time you can create employment opportunities for three times the number of Radiologists, and this has a very important bearing on the ultimate costs because whatever expenses in relation to salaries you might be involved in, the fact is that you will make 50 times that saving if you can reduce the waiting period for diagnostic radiology from 73 weeks to 48 hours. So I think that it is a matter of planning, but in the immediate situation, the crucial things that have to be done will be to try and get another room for screening with your existing equipment there, and also I think there is a very good case for another automatic processor of films because this has a very important bearing on the potential efficiency of the department and the maximisation of your investment in that particular area.

It is regrettable, I think, that this mistake has occurred. I do not know how long the equipment will be lying idle as a consequence of the error, but nevertheless I think that with effective planning in the future that perhaps such things can be over looked. It is important to make sure that this does not happen again because we have had instances, not necessarily in Barbados, where equipment for diagnostic radiology might be bought and by the time you get around to getting the new accessories to put it into a useful state, either the equipment would have deteriorated substantially or in some instances, the guarantee on the equipment would have expired before it started to work and it is important to maximise that period when the equipment is guaranteed and between the arrival of the equipment and its utilisation, there putting it in an effective state for use. It is most important that it should always be in continuous use.

Again, this question of continuous use of equipment of this nature is very important because there is no doubt that this kind of sophisticated equipment works better. You have less maintenance problems when the equipment is in continuous use than when it is in periodic use and this is also a very good reason why you should consider round the clock utilisation of existing equipment, whilst at the same time, of course you have to look at your long term plans in terms of expansion to ensure that you have a plan well organised in advance, particularly in relation to personnel when it comes to minor specialties like diagnostic radiology, because there are very rare and no X-Ray Department could be of any substantial benefit unless you have specialised personnel to read and interpret films and there can not be a spreading in the X-Ray Department when in effect you do not have the personnel to keep with it so therefore, I think the policy should be one of expansion of existing facilities whilst at the same time making sure that any equipment that you are purchasing should be maximised whilst at the same

time generating employment opportunities and reducing substantially the cost of hospitalisation.
6.00 p.m.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, perhaps there is one thing I omitted to say, and it is that the X-ray unit which is required to cater to Oistin is contemplated to deal with very simple procedures. We certainly are not planning to establish something anywhere near the size of what exist in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital at Oistin, but it is part and parcel of our policy to take the delivery of health care in the community to our people, and this daily trek of hundreds and sometimes thousands of people to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for what is indeed primary health care is not part of the function for which the Queen Elizabeth Hospital was designed. I am grateful to the hon. member for the observations he has made. I am not aware that there is any particular one which I need to answer. He seems to have appreciated the expansion aspect of the matter involved here. I know that it is very difficult to recruit a consultant radiologist, and that is why I was careful to make the point and draw it to the attention of the Honourable House the number of people who receive treatment from the Lesser Territories. It is very important that Barbados continues to play this role; we cannot overlook it. Having borne all these points in mind and bearing too in mind that this Government has a plan and that there is long range planning in the process, I am not aware that the hon. member is in any way in opposition or at all critical of the revote of the \$40,000 and the way in which it will be spent. Consequently, Mr. Chairman, I ask that this Resolution do now pass.

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

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE NOTE TO ITEM 15 –
EXPENSES OF COMMISSIONS UNDER HEAD 8(1)
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, the object of this Resolution is to amend the note to this Item to include the words of the Resolution as follows:

“Provides for expenses of Commissions of Enquiry and other Commissions.”

The notes to the present Resolution are rather specific and the Ministry of Finance is of the view that it is necessary in order to include the cover of expenses of the Commissions which have been appointed that the note should be wide enough to include Commissions of Enquiry and other Commissions.

Accordingly I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I think this is an important item on which we should try to get some information. As I understand it, the Deputy Prime Minister in introducing this Resolution indicated that the note which is in the Estimates at present refers specifically to providing expenses for the Duffus Commission for which there are expenses here allocated of \$100,000. As I understand it, the Minister is seeking to widen the scope of this Item 15 to provide for expenses of Commissions of Enquiry and other Commissions.

Now you are aware, Mr. Chairman, that this Government seems to be a Government either by Commissions or a Government of Commissions. The number of Commissions of Enquiry and other Commissions which have been established since the present administration has taken over are many, and one sometimes wonders about the effect and indeed the wisdom of a number of them, and in as much as public funds are involved, Mr. Chairman, I feel that Government owes it to this country and to us in the House of Assembly to tell us something about the expenses which are incurred in the establishing and in the operation of these commissions. I certainly would expect that on an occasion like this the Government would be prepared with the information because quite naturally they would be expecting us to raise these questions. I would like the Hon. Minister who is in charge of this Resolution to give us an idea of the expenses so far of the various commissions, the Duffus Commission and the various Commissions which they would expect to be covered by this amendment. I think it is important, as I say, that we get this information because I think that this is of national import and we would want to know something.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. member is perfectly entitled to raise the question as to the cost of the commissions to date. I disagree with him of course in his observation when he says that the Government is a Government of Commissions. The Government is entitled having been endorsed by the electorate to govern in a manner that suits public opinion by such well-known devices as commissions. The fact that others have refused in the past to use this well-known method of investigation is a matter for them.

In 1977–78 the amount appropriated to the Duffus Commission was \$148,274. The total expenses at March were \$65,753.66, so a sum of \$82,520.34 lapsed. Now in the new financial year, in the present Estimates a sum of \$100,000 was appropriated and that is the note that we have here, and that was reduced in accordance with certain policy directives by the Ministry of Finance earlier in the year by \$10,000; so that the amount voted was \$100,000 but the amount that could be legitimately spent by R.I.E. was \$90,000. The expenses to date are

\$52,180, so that there is a balance in the fund. It is that balance which we are asking really to amend the note today. It is expected that the Gambling Commission which will come up will cost \$25,000. The appropriation for the National Housing Commission is not within that vote. That is under Housing, but notwithstanding that I will still be able to give the hon. member information. The position is that the amount that was appropriated in 1977-78 was \$67,000. The amount expended at March was \$22,000, so that the sum of \$44,000 lapsed. In this year's appropriation \$47,000 was appropriated and to date \$3,800 has been spent; so that has not been expended.

The Constitutional Review Commission, if the hon. member wants that, I will give him too. The amount appropriated in 1977-78 was \$48,000 and expenditure is \$18,000. These figures do not total anywhere near \$1 million; so that I am very glad that the hon. member has provided me with the opportunity to give him the figures to date, and that is the position.

6.10 p.m.

These figures do not total anywhere near a million dollars, so I am very glad that the hon. member has provided us with the opportunity to give him the figures to date. That is the position.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I wonder since the Minister is in the mood for giving information if he is in a position to tell us whether these sums which he has read out include the total expenditure connected with the Commission. For example, we are aware that when Sir Herbert Duffus was here he stayed, as far as I remember, at Culloden Farm. Would this expenditure which the Minister has just outlined include a part of the cost of maintaining Culloden Farm during the period when the Chairman was there? He talked about the National Housing Commission. Does this include — and this applies to the other Commissions as well — the public officers who have been allocated to these Commissions? Is he in a position to tell us what is the cost factor of those public officers who used precious man hours in the course of giving evidence etc., and could he tell us if these figures include such costs, because if he is going to indicate by his arithmetic that these costs are not near a million dollars, then one would have to assume that he has done the true cost as opposed to the apparent cost.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I have been asked a number of specific questions. As I understand it, Sir, Sir Herbert Duffus stayed at Culloden Farm which is unoccupied at the moment. He was paid a fee and so his living expenses fell upon him, the Government did not undertake to stock Culloden Farm for Sir Herbert Duffus when he was there. The normal operating cost for Culloden Farm irrespective of whether Sir Herbert Duffus, the Tourist Board or any other Ministry uses it for social functions

was the same when Sir Herbert Duffus was there and it did not in any way interfere with the normal use of Culloden Farm which this administration has decided to use it for.

The cost of public servants who attend the Commission, with the exception of the payments of an honorarium to individual public servants who have to perform extraordinary duties does not fall within this vote, it falls on the general Treasury, because part of the work of a public servant in Barbados is to carry out such legitimate duties as have been assigned to them by the respective Heads of Departments, and if you are a shorthand/typist and you take shorthand in a Ministry and you take shorthand with the Commission, with the exception of a claim which recognises the additional work outside normal hours, I do not think that calls for an additional charge on this vote. I recall that during the course of the Jackson Enquiry which was set up during the last administration public servants were called upon and were assigned to carry out certain functions on behalf of the Commissioner so that in accordance with the normal practice public servants are assigned to do this.

Obviously the final Bill is not complete but when they are finished the total cost will be given. I do not think you need to make any issue on this because I know sometimes the costs are greater when you look at them than they really are, but in truth and in fact the costs that have taken place to date are what I gave you.

Mr. TAITT: I think therefore that the Minister will be willing to admit that the cost given by him might not be the true cost because of the various Commissions which are still sitting, and it will be a very facetious argument to suggest that when you move one public officer from doing a particular job to do another one that you do not have to replace that public officer to do the job which he was doing originally. If you take a typist from somewhere or a shorthand writer you have to replace them, and I think the Minister will agree with this, but I am satisfied with the information as given so far.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, Accountants disagree on costs so it is no wonder that politicians disagree on costs, but I believe that with a certain amount of deployment within the public service the departments should not suffer. As far as the legal department is concerned, I understand that the officers' time with the Housing Authority has not been interfered with because in truth and in fact the practice of the Housing Commission is to sit at times when normally they are not called upon to work in the public service. That is the answer to this.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, let me explain the legal costs because as far as I am concerned

the work of my department has not suffered by giving advice sought by any of these Commissions at all. The normal work load of the department has been carried on without any increase in staff, or indeed any increase in costs or any delay in Government's business, or any deficiency in the standard of our work. For instance, an opinion was sought by Sir Herbert Duffus on a legal point, the Deputy Solicitor General who was Acting Solicitor General gave that opinion. He did it without a thing at all suffering. It depends on how people conceive of their duties; every night, as far as I am aware, all of us take home work that has to be done and we do it.

In relation to the Housing Commission, Mr. Carlisle Payne works on a Saturday and I expect he will get an honorarium, like anybody else would get an honorarium, and the honorarium is paid out of that vote. In the case of any opinion that they need from the Solicitor General he gives it in the normal course of events, but I cannot say that we have delayed Government's work in any way, in fact the productivity in the Ministry of the Attorney General has improved considerably, particularly since I have been there, as a matter of motivation, motivating people, getting them to do work, getting them to do things, a matter of organisation. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central may laugh at this, but I think a lot deals with motivation and staff relationships, the sort of things that you get out of people. It is a well known thing. Sometimes you cannot blame your workers, you have to blame your managers as well, and in this case I believe that neither worker nor manager can be blamed, we are working as a team, I supervise, down to the point of legal trainees, and so does the Solicitor General. When I am wrong they tell me I am wrong, and they convince me at times that I am wrong in a particular opinion, but we do not lose any sleep over it, we do the work, so I want to say that the hon. member need not worry about an increased cost on these matters.

Let me say, however, to the hon. member that if he wants the cost of the National Commission on the Status of Women I will get that for him in due course, but I am sure when he has had an opportunity to read it he will see that it is a good thing that the Government had a Commission in this respect. (*Aside*). I have to repeat it for him because he is talking about a Commission Government, and let me say that one of the worthwhile things are Commissions. People in newly independent states such as ours in particular are apt to listen to rumour and convince themselves that it is a fact, and it is always good to have people to look at the facts and ferret out the facts. In Britain between 1948 and 1978 there have been two Royal Commissions set up on the subject of gambling alone in order to get out the basic facts, and there has to be no burning political issues, the point is that you must have facts to make proper policy.
6.20 p.m.

We cannot just go ahead without getting basic facts. The country must more and more understand the purpose of Commissions of Enquiry, not only in political circumstances but in non-political circumstances as well. I would for instance welcome a Commission of Enquiry into the delivery of legal services in this country; it might show up somethings that are wrong in the private sector. I would welcome an enquiry into the delivery of medical services, for we would then see whether the claim is correct that there is this standard of efficiency that we do not need a medical health service. And I think the country should get accustomed to Commissions of Enquiry into aspects of Government. I can understand the other side's objection to the Duffus Commission because obviously the political overtones of such an enquiry are greater than the political overtone of an enquiry into, say, the Status of Women. But it would be a fallacy to run away from the well-recognized concept of Commissions of Enquiry, and I am willing to share the literature at my disposal with any hon. member to show how in many countries of the world today the Commission of Enquiry is a recognised tool of Government and is one that has performed extremely well. And no amount of decrying commissions is going to make them any less worthwhile. I will recall for the benefit of the hon. member the Commission of Enquiry instituted by the past Government into Local Government in this Island. A lot of song and dance was made about areas of local Government but the facts were ferreted out and action was taken. As a result there was the total abolition of Local Government, although no doubt at the time some people would have said that the sole purpose of that Commission was to rid the City of Mottley if they could not take the City from him. At that time Mr. Mottley was the hon. member for the City and perhaps saw that Commission only in those terms; but yet the alternative point of view put to the Government was that Local Government was expensive and time wasting, and some of the conclusions of the Commissions under Mr. Jackson, a distinguished gentleman belonging to the right university, whom I happen to know personally, made a report that is well known.

I will conclude by saying that I do not think we can condemn Commissions of Enquiry as one of the instruments of Government when we realize that they have been used so effectively in several countries of the world. Further in our Manifesto we agreed to set up a Commission on this matter and we believe we had a duty to pursue that. I am sorry if members do not understand the little pleasantries of debate. There must be a certain amount of pleasantry and banter. There must be a little humour as we tease each other at times. We need a little humour in politics. But in all seriousness I think Commissions of Enquiry have proved to be very worthwhile aspects of Government.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, sometimes in this Chamber I believe members on both sides are reluctant to utter the odd word for fear that the Hon. Attorney General will launch out on his famous lecture. No matter what we are doing the Attorney General manages to deliver that particular lecture; he has managed it twice today. But I wonder whether the hon. member who introduced this Resolution is in a position to tell us if it is the Government's intention to follow the recommendation of Sir Herbert Duffus that counsel who appeared on the side of the former Government should be treated in a manner similar to that for counsel representing the Government.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Until Sir Herbert Duffus has reported I would not be in a position to state whether he will recommend in the form and manner as suggested by the hon. member. But what assurance I can give the hon. member is that the Government will pay great heed to any recommendation by Sir Herbert Duffus.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I am sure the Hon. Leader of the House clearly understands the difference between true costs and other costs. I sure that as a business man he will be able to understand what is being asked of him. For example we would expect that when we ask for information on the cost of commissions that we would see, let us say, that if a Permanent Secretary had spent 500 hours on Commission matters when in point of fact he should otherwise have been employed, we would like to see the cost of those 500 hours included. In other words, let us see a realistic cost of the Commission, because eventually we all have to pay for it.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, accountants disagree on cost, and obviously politicians will also disagree. But my immediate reply to the question is that if the Permanent Secretary does not have anything else to do with his 500 hours and he spends it on the work of a Commission, the five hundred hours are a

cost to the people of Barbados; they have to pay whether he has worked or not. And I am not at all sure that any of the officers involved or the work they have put in has had any effect on their other work. As a matter of fact, the hon. Attorney General has told us that in respect of the Legal Department it has not interfered in anyway with the work of that department. When the Commissions are over and hon. members have questions we will give them what information we have and indulge them in a academic exercise as to the meaning of true costs, real costs, variable costs, and all kind of costs. If hon. members would like to engage me in that type of debate I will be quite willing; I have had a lot of experience in that kind of subject.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. SPEAKER, who resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.
6.30 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chairman has reported to me the passing of two Resolutions in Committee.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that these Resolutions be now agreed to.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, that concludes Government Business for today, and I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 26th September, 1978 at 12 o'clock noon.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly at 6.35 p.m.