
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1976 – 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 23rd January, 1979.

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); Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P., Hon. L. S. CRAIG, (Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment); Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B., (Minister of Communications and Works); 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), Mr. M. C. C. WARD; Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, Q.C., LL.B., (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry) (Leader of the House); Mr. V. L. JOHNSON, M.A.; Hon. L. R. TULL, M.A., (Minister of Education and Culture); Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW; Mr. L. L. SISNETT, Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, M.Sc., (Econ.); and His Honour E. E. ALLEYNE, LL.M., (Deputy Speaker).

Prayers were taken by Fr. F. A. Cayless.

Dr. HAYNES entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday 16th day of January, 1979.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no observations by hon. members those Minutes stand confirmed.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Dalkeith and Paddock Roads, St. Michael for road improvement.

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Free Hill, St. George, for the establishment of a Pulverisation Plant.

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Prescod Boulevard, St. Michael for vesting in the Industrial Development Corporation.

REPORT FROM SELECT COMMITTEE

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Interim Report of the Joint Select Committee set up by this Honourable House and the Other Place be adopted.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Unless there is a contrary intimation the Report stands adopted.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 2 be the first Order of the Day.

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

Order No. 2 was called – to move the Third Reading of a Bill to make provisions respecting property.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Bill has been the subject of exhaustive examination by the Joint Select Committee of both Houses and we have just adopted the Interim Report of the Joint Select Committee. In moving the Third Reading, Sir, I would only like to reiterate a few points so as to make clear in the minds of hon. members and in the minds of the public the full impact of the acceptance of this Bill.

The Bill eradicates a number of the historical anomalies in relation to the land law of Barbados and brings the unregistered land law and the unregistered Conveyancing System in this country up-to-date with similar legislation throughout the British Commonwealth. I note that of late increasing concern has been voiced by a number of people as to the tardy way in which land transactions are concluded in Barbados. It is the hope of the Government that as a result of the enactment of this legislation a considerable amount of the time wasting exercise here which was rendered necessary by the considerable length of time for which titles have to be traced would be reduced.

In addition, the time necessary to implement the clear intentions of parties to a transaction will be considerably reduced. The Bill itself also provides for a radical departure in the method of securing sums lent for the security of real estate. Hitherto it was necessary to have a conveyance of the whole interest of the mortgage. Under the provisions of the Bill that has been accepted by the Select Committee and by this Honourable House money lent and secured on land will be in a similar position as any other third party lien and a simple deed of charge acknowledging the loan and making use of the appropriate words will bring into operation certain statutory functions, powers and rights with respect to both the mortgagor and the mortgagee.

In short, Sir, we regard this as an exercise which we are pleased to be associated with for all of us at the same time in our respective occupations have recognised that in the last quarter of this century the intention of our existing archaic land law will only result in a frustration of legal transactions relating to land in Barbados.

I commend, Sir, the Bill to the House and I beg to move that this Bill be now read a third time with the amendments that have been forwarded by the Joint Select Committee.

There is only one final point, Sir, that I would like to mention and that is that it is the intention of Government that this Bill should come into force as from the 1st May, 1979. The legal profession and the general public have been given every opportunity to comment upon and digest the provisions of this Bill. It

has been in circulation for over a year within the legal profession.

The Joint Select Committee, in addition, through public notices in the *Official Gazette* and in the daily newspapers of this Island, invited comments from the general public. We do not feel that this Bill should be held up any longer and I just want to forewarn the legal profession, the real estate agents and others concerned in this matter that it is the intention of the Government to bring it into operation on the 1st of May this year.

12.25 p.m.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, on this side of the House we welcome this legislation not only because we are hopeful that it will speed up the operation of property transactions, but we also are very much concerned about the cost of these transactions to the general public. We sincerely hope that when much of the legal rigmarole is removed this will be reflected in a substantial reduction of cost. This is perhaps most seen in property developments where, for example, a legal firm or two legal firms might be involved in the overall transfer of a given area or property and then that property is subdivided and sold as readily identified lots, and when you look at the number of legal transactions and the amount of fees involved in the sale of those lots I myself think that it amounts to a rip-off of the general public. I would hope that this kind of legislation would make a substantial contribution not only to the speedy transfers but also to a substantial reduction in cost.

Only yesterday, Mr. Speaker, I came across a situation in the constituency which I have the honour to represent, namely, St. Michael South Central, wonderful people in St. Michael South Central in the Martindales Road area where there are people there who have fully paid for property in the Martindales area as far back as 1962 and up to now have been unable to get conveyances in their hands. They are being pushed around between the various solicitors and the Town Planning Department.

Mr. SPEAKER: I just want to draw to the attention of the hon. member that this is the third reading of this Bill and as such the hon. member cannot be heard to make a second reading speech on this occasion. It is a Bill which has had considerable amendments introduced. If the hon. member had directed his attention to those amendments the Chair would be willing to hear him, but I am afraid that I cannot in the third reading of a Bill entertain a second reading speech.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I bow to your better judgement in this matter, but I felt that the remarks I was making reflected globally the amendments as

accepted by the House a little while ago and were not, in fact, a significant departure. However, I would just like to repeat that I hope that not only speed but reduction in cost would result from this legislation, and finally, Mr. Speaker, that the administrative structure in the introduction of this kind of legislation will be so streamlined as not to cause confusion and further delays as has happened in a neighbouring Caribbean territory for a period of two years after the introduction of similar legislation.

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

On the motion of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, seconded by Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, the Bill was passed and cited as the Property Act, 1979.

THE TRUSTEE ACT, 1979

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, like the previous Bill this Bill has been the subject of exhaustive examination by the Joint Select Committee appointed by this House and by the Other Place, and the Select Committee Report sets out the amendments which were recommended and which were adopted previously.

Accordingly, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a third time.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, seconded by Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, the Bill was passed and cited as the Trustee Act, 1979.

12.35 p.m.

BILL TO MAKE PROVISIONS RESPECTING CHARITIES

The seventh Order was called – to move the Third Reading of a Bill to make provision respecting charities and for related matters.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, this is the last of three Bills on which the Joint Select Committee reported, and again a number of recommendations were made in respect of amendments which have been accepted by this Honourable House. I beg to move that the Bill be now read a third time.

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

The question that the Bill, as amended, be read a third time was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Charities Act, 1979.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

The first Order was called – to move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the Island.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the Island.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1978–79 No. 23

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, the Government is seeking Parliamentary approval in the sum of \$69,324 from the Consolidated Fund for the work which is being done – and I am led to understand that it is in its final stages – to what is known as the Motor Services building on the Harbour Road. A part of that building will be occupied by the Board of Tourism – I believe some time next month or thereabouts.

I am happy as Minister of Housing to present this Resolution since I feel very strongly that if tourism is one of our major industries it should have the necessary face lift and the surroundings of the staff of the department of Tourism should reflect what the industry means to Barbados. I have been informed that over 300,000 visitors arrived in Barbados last year and I must admit that it is a great credit to the pioneers of the tourist industry in this country. You will recall, Mr. Speaker, that it was the Barbados Labour Party Government way back in the 1950s who set up the then Publicity Committee, now known as the Board of Tourism, with the idea of bringing visitors to this land of sun, sea, peace and happiness. I have no doubt that great credit must go to all those who over the years had anything to do with tourism – the former administration now in Opposition and now to the present hard working Minister of Tourism.

As Minister responsible for Housing in Barbados – or so to speak the Government landlord if I might put it that way – I am very happy to present this Resolution to

Parliament which will afford proper accommodation to the staff of the Ministry of Tourism, and I only hope that by the end of this year we will not be hearing of 300,000 persons but a few more hundred thousands, in spite of those irresponsible persons who make silly and irresponsible statements — which can only come from a senile brain — that the Government of Barbados should allow unlimited importation of food for the visitors who come to Barbados. We need the foreign exchange here in Barbados, and the more food we can produce and the less we import, the better off this country will be financially.

I make this reference in response to a statement made by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition a few weeks ago when he was addressing a Meeting of the Hotel Association. The policy of the Government is to cut down on our food imports bill and therefore I will advocate and support any policy whereby this country can produce as much food as possible, not only for the people of the country but for the visitors as well. I think, Sir, that you are aware of the fact that if you go to Puerto Rico, Brazil, Canada, Europe, the United States of America — in fact in any part of the world — when you travel you have to eat the food grown in that country, and I would therefore hope that the members of the Opposition will support the Government in any endeavour whereby an agricultural policy will be framed to assist us in cutting down our food import.

I am very happy to introduce this Resolution in the sum of \$69,324 and I beg to move that it do now pass.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman, in seconding this motion I just want to make a few remarks. First, I would like to say how thankful we are to the Minister for providing us with the quarters to which we are going. It is in a central spot which people can get to easily and it is of vital importance that we occupy better and bigger facilities.

But what I would like to speak about is the error that we are expecting 400,000 visitors this year. I do not think it is wise to set figures like this which cannot be accomplished and this is therefore misleading. I would say that a 10% increase this year would be a more accurate projection, but to speak of 400,000 visitors coming to Barbados in 1979 is misleading.

I also want to mention that, as hon. members are probably aware, we are having a good season at this time, but many people are worried about crime in the Island and how it is affecting the tourist industry. We recently had a meeting with the Attorney General and I can assure hon. members that the Attorney General is very much concerned with these petty crimes and is working on the matter. I would also like to compliment the Police Force who are really on their toes, and I would also like to ask the Minister who just spoke — who is also responsible for Parks and

Beaches — to speed up the arrangements for having wardens on the beach, who will be operating in an area where the Police are legally entitled to operate, but it is not practical for the Police to operate on the beach. Anything at all that can be done to make it absolutely certain that a handful of lawless people do not try to wreck a good thing for the entire population of this country will be greatly appreciated. 12.45 p.m.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the entire Caribbean, including Barbados and even Jamaica, despite all of the hostile publicity it has had over the past three or four years, has experienced an extremely good tourist season. Indeed I think that the economy of this country has been kept afloat over the past two years particularly because of our earnings from tourism; and we must regard tourism now, as mentioned earlier, as one of our major assets in the future. The present situation which we have reached is that in fact we can accommodate 300,000 visitors in any given year, and that is not a matter for propaganda. It is a matter of comfort to demonstrate that in a democratically oriented country with a free administration, one can see a continuum of the development process in a given industry over a period of many years, which was not only the precursor of the Tourism Board, but the hotel industry made a significant impact on the development of facilities for the accommodation of tourists in this country.

If as I understand it that 300,000 visitors came to this country last year when the occupancy rate average somewhere in the region of about 96.4% — I saw that in some publication recently and I do not know if it is accurate or not. However, we should not be alarmed about occupancy figures of that order for hotel resorts because it is always natural that hotels that are city based always have higher occupancy rates, and they are concerned when occupancy rates drop below 85%; but indeed it cannot be gainsaid that it was the sound capital structure of the industry, the sound promotional policies, and indeed the very, very, cold winters experienced by North America recently, and a genuine upturn in the economy of North America and European territories which have contributed very much to the increase in visitors which we are seeing now. Fortunately we are in a position to accommodate these numbers of visitors and we are in a position to accommodate more.

Now, I have said it before and I do not know where this conclusion arises that the economic development of this country will depend on a secure linkage between agriculture and tourism. I believe that it is in the recognition of the importance of agriculture that the hon. member for St. Thomas recently took the decision to make certain changes at the top in that Ministry in order to get something begin to happen in agriculture. But we are looking forward to seeing a

situation where after the mammoth mouthings of many years something effective is taking place in the agricultural sector. We on this side are concerned where you have a situation as important as tourism, which is in fact at the moment the most important hard currency earner in this country.....

At this stage Mr. CHAIRMAN ruled that certain remarks be expunged from the record.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I am saying that in a situation like this I am shocked that the Government can find it possible to appoint a Minister of Information, and my understanding of the English Language is that information and propaganda mean the same thing; and at the same time to have a Minister of Constitutional Affairs, who is not even a lawyer, while you cannot find it possible to emphasise the primary importance of tourism in this country and to have the same Minister saddled with Tourism, who is saddled with another important Ministry — Industry and who is saddled with another important Ministry — Trade — and who is saddled with another Ministry — Caribbean Affairs and God knows what, and who is also Leader of this Hon. House, and who is also Deputy Prime Minister.

This is the level of importance that the present Government is attaching to tourism. There is no way with any one person working even a seven day week, 24 hours a day that one of those Ministries would not necessarily suffer; and you have two Ministers virtually doing nothing, and who will be paid, if they had to pay tax on their income something in the region of \$85,000 a year. I am not questioning the ability of the Minister who is presently holding the portfolio of Tourism. All I am saying is that these two Ministries of Tourism and Agriculture must occupy the greatest part of the attention of the Government when they separate them in terms of the development process of this country the next 10 or 15 years, because it is important to know that these 300,000 visitors are a consequence of the promotional efforts made over the past five years the benefits of which we will be reaping in 1981-83, which ever side holds the Government — it will be a result of the promotion being done now, and it is very important to clearly understand that that Ministry must be given the importance and the kind of attention that is absolutely necessary as a prime earner of foreign exchange.

Mr. Chairman, I have been trying to see what are the new initiatives taken by the present Government in respect of tourism. I have searched with the naked eye, and I can find none. I have searched with the microscope and I have found none. We see the same pattern of promotion. I am not quarrelling with it. It has worked and no doubt will continue to work.
12.55 p.m.

We see the familiar receptions at Culloden Farm. We see the various sales promotions abroad. We see the various package pictures put together and I hope that when these packages are put together some basic additions will be made to the actual dollar retention in Barbados and indeed we see that now that Sir Herbert Duffus has come and told them that there was no crookery either on the part of any individual or any Company or any person involved in the Heywoods project or any other project....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I must confess that I did not wish to interrupt the hon. member for St. Michael South Central but I must draw it to your attention that we are dealing with a Resolution for \$69,324 and I see no relation to Duffus, crookery, nothing of this sort. I just want to draw this to your attention.

I know that the member is a parliamentary clown but really, believe me, I do not think you can clown everyday of your life in Parliament. He seems now to be an expert on everything in here. The other two members are seated there. He spoke on Agriculture, Housing, Tourism, every single subject simply because he told me that he is going to speak on everything and the House has got to write something, and that he can buy a Press furthermore a Reporter. I just want to draw it to your attention, Sir, the absolutely nonsense that he has been carrying on about Duffus and Golden Mile because I am going to reply to him when he is finished.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That was not a point of order. That was more of a mini-speech.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I do not think that I will seek to respond to this. Quite clearly we are talking about a tidy sum of money. It is important that this side of the House should have an opportunity to present its position and that is what I am seeking to do. If it is being done in a manner that does not meet the approval of the hon. member, that is his problem.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please carry on with the debate on the Resolution.

Dr. HAYNES: I am also pleased to know that the Government has recognised the close association between the availability of seats on aircraft and the possibility of filling our hotels in Barbados. I am also pleased to note that they have recognised the importance of Caribbean Airways, not only in the historic role that it has played in the generation of tourism for Barbados but that it has given its full support to the new efforts of Caribbean Airways.

I have heard the word "clown" used in here. I have chosen not to object, but you would have to be a

clown, Mr. Chairman, if you go as a representative of this Government, you get on to an aircraft, you fly over Boston, then you arrived at Baltimore Airport, and when you were flying over Boston, the captain told you you were flying past Boston, when you arrived at Baltimore International Airport and you are making a speech on behalf of your Government — you refer to Baltimore Airport as Boston Airport. As it was a Minister of Government I can tell you this that it went down so badly that three persons, three Managers of that Airport, Mr. Chairman, refused to attend a dinner that night.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This seems rather irrelevant to the Resolution.

Dr. HAYNES: It cannot be irrelevant. They are talking about clowning and let them find out who is the clown.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member has one minute more to continue.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I have a major address to make on Tourism and if you cannot allow me to do it.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You will have appropriate time.

Dr. HAYNES: We would like to hear what new initiatives have been done in tourism. I wanted to question the policy whereby in a situation where you have excessive liquidity in Barbados and the benefit of hotels aids, whether the Barbados Development Bank should in 1977-78 disburse the sum of \$5.9 million in an Apartment Development providing some 154 beds I think, and only 7 hotel beds and for that kind of disbursement generating something like 173 or 174 jobs, I wonder whether or not that kind of developmental fund, seeing the liquidity that exists at the moment, seeing the falling interest rates, seeing the low deposit rates in Barbados, seeing they are already getting the benefits of hotels whether or not the money is from the Development Bank, could not be better diverted into other areas in order to further enhance the retention effort of the dollar that comes in from Tourism.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time is up.

(Certain remarks were ordered to be expunged at this stage.)
1.05 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for St. Michael West.

Mr. WEEKES rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what do you rise?

Mr. WEEKES: May I remind you, Sir, that on several occasions I rose to speak?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Unfortunately you have not caught my eye; you will have your opportunity. The hon. member for St. Michael West.

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for St. Michael South Central in presenting his address to the Hon. House of Assembly a few minutes ago outlined in some detail the functions now carried on by our Minister of Tourism, and it is heartening to note that he has a fairly full and comprehensive grasp of the enormous responsibilities which that Minister is able to undertake, which can only mean that he also appreciates that the man has the necessary intellectual mettle and managerial competence to deal with the portfolio that the Prime Minister has given into his care. That is the whole nature of this Barbados Labour Party.

In dealing with this Resolution here for \$69,324 to renovate headquarters for the Board of Tourism, a number of thoughts were expressed by the various members who have spoken, in particular the member for St. Michael South Central, including the idea that agriculture has a vital role to play in the field of tourism. I can recall that last week or two weeks ago, Sir, when the hon. member for St. John was addressing the Hotel Association he had the temerity, the absolute irresponsibility to stand up there addressing that group and say that they ought to be given any licence they apply for, or words to that effect, so that the tourists can be properly fed. That comes from a man who has been Prime Minister of Barbados, who himself on a number of occasions had to put forth a case of our having to be careful as we deal with tourism because it has a way of creeping into our lives insidiously and creating all kinds of problems. Here he is now in opposition saying that the Barbados Labour Party Government should give the Hotel Association permission to bring in any kind of food that they want.

I believe the Hon. Minister responsible for Agriculture is capable of dealing with this portfolio, but I am mentioning this only to point out how irresponsible utterances in this Chamber can become, when people are going to come up and talk all sorts of nonsense just for the sake perhaps of getting a few brief lines of notice in the national Press, albeit the fact that those notices might not necessarily be flattering or complimentary.

I should like in the couple of seconds I have to point to the tremendous growth of the tourism industry, and particularly the unprecedented growth rate that has come to tourism ever since 1976 when the Barbados Labour Party assumed leadership of this country. Tourism

is the single most important contributor, I believe, to the income of Barbados. It earns money which we cannot do without, but it has problems, because as the industry continues to grow it is obviously going to pose some serious social problems of which we need to take note at this particular juncture. It is good that we are constructing new offices for the Board of Tourism. No doubt, Sir, they will be able to prosecute their task more diligently, and I see that task as trying to extract from the tourist industry every available dollar that it can give to this country, but I have on a number of occasions looked at the consequences that certain societies had to pay for accelerated growth in particular industries.

In the tourist industry, the north eastern part of the United States, as an example, had to pay the consequences of unprecedented growth. There were times when the New Jersey coastline stretching all the way from Newark down as far as Atlantic City was a flourishing tourist resort, but because of growth out of control, because of unprecedented growth, because of failing to take note that too much growth is bad in some instances — there is a point of diminishing return — because that was not taken into consideration the north eastern part of the United States, particularly that New Jersey coastline to which I have just referred, became a graveyard and the only thing that was left were the shells of once great hotels. In Miami I believe all you have to do is to go around and see the once gracious structures that commanded phenomenal prices a few years ago that are just lying there like little wrecks on the shores, and I should like to caution here in Barbados that we as we go must at the same time be conscious that there is a price you pay for growth, and I would strongly urge this Government not to become so enamoured of the income that can be derived from tourism as to be unaware of these kinds of consequences that can only hurt our nation if there are not kept firmly under control.

I should like to point out that with the growth of tourism as well there are a number of infrastructural considerations that have to be borne in mind. Four or five years ago tourists came to our island, they lived amongst us and they drove cars and engaged in other activities that tourists engage in. Our roads meanwhile have not grown any bigger, our buses have not grown any smaller, and indeed the vehicles that vie for that same road space have grown alarmingly, because once upon a time a truck, the standard lorry in Barbados, was the only kind of traffic that one encountered, but now we are finding increasingly tractor trailers carrying containers, we are seeing long machines that carry caterpillars and things like this along our roadways, and this is posing a problem which is obvious to anybody who opens his eyes to see, and I suggest as well that we ought not to let the growth of tourism outstrip the infrastructural modifications that have to be taken in order to accommodate that growth.

1.15 p.m.

Insofar as food is concerned, I submit that if we are going to encourage the growth of tourism we have to bear in mind that the tourist will want to eat special kinds of food, but I do not subscribe to the notion that tourist will not eat food grown in Barbados. Indeed, I believe if you examine the eating habits of tourists you will find that they are very adventurous people as far as eating is concerned, and far from coming with their suitcases full of cornflakes and caviar and things like that you will find them eager to try out local dishes. So I don't think there is any need for us to be constantly telling ourselves that you have to import special food for tourists. Food coming into Barbados supposedly for tourists is finding itself on the shelves of supermarkets and it is corrupting the tastes of our own people. And I suggest that the persons responsible in the Ministry for Food bear in mind that not every mouthing that comes from the Opposition has merit when it is put alongside the needs of tourists. Tourists will eat pickled breadfruit, rice and peas, flying fish, and I think we should continue to encourage our tourists to eat locally produced food so that we have a growth not only in tourism but in agriculture as well.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, in dealing with matters pertaining to tourism, I must say that we should all approach it in a non-partisan manner, owing to the fact that it is indispensable to the economy of this country. Sometimes I wonder what would happen if we were to have an epidemic in this Island; and therefore when we are dealing with tourism I do not think that any of us should shower kudos on any particular party for the successes of the industry. But having heard the acting Leader today, I consider it my duty to clear the air about a particular statement he made when he said that his Government did this or his party did that.

Now, Sir, let us face the facts. The extension which is going on at the airport was begun under the guidance of the former Government and the present Government is carrying on where the former Government left off. The former Government obtained all the funds for the improvement of that airport. That proves beyond a shadow of a doubt the importance which the former Government attached to tourism.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: May I remind the hon. member that we are not discussing the principles behind the Resolution. It seems to me you are more on a second reading speech.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, we are in Committee and we are dealing with tourism — not that I am challenging your ruling but we are dealing with tourism in Committee and I feel that this is an appropriate time to discuss any aspect of tourism. On the other hand, I am willing to go along with your ruling because your decision is final, I shall continue, Sir.

Even Golden Mile, in St. Peter which was dealt with by some Commission, the present Government in the interest of tourism has found it necessary to carry on with that project, and I congratulate them for their commonsense and sound judgment in continuing this important matter.

I have made these points to prove to you, Sir, that both sides have made a contribution to tourism, and especially under the former Government tourism has gone from strength to strength. You will remember, Sir, that long before this present Government got into power it was declared by others that Barbados is the freest country in the world. Some people say people from overseas must be encouraged to come here and enjoy themselves with the sunshine, seabathing and the wonderful climate of this country. Mr. Chairman, I said not long ago that there should be a non-partisan approach and my reason for making the statement is because of the number of people from all constituencies who are employed in this industry. I am therefore confident that the community realizes the importance attached to the industry, and it is the duty of all members of Parliament and all Barbadians to do everything to encourage the visitors to come to this country to enjoy the amenities which we have to offer them.

Mr. Chairman, as I see it, tourism takes top priority in this country and it is our duty to maintain the high standard of the industry which was set by the former Government. At the same time I wish this Government success in carrying on where we left off.

1.25 p.m.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, as Minister responsible for Tourism, among other things, I do not think that I could allow this occasion to pass without adding a few remarks, even if only to say that the object is an attempt to defuse a situation which is unnecessarily arising in relation to the matter of Tourism which upon an examination of its history in Barbados, any objective examiner would recognise that successive Governments of this country have made their respective contributions towards the encouragement, the development and the further growth of the industry.

In view of that history, Sir, I find it difficult to understand that what is essentially a bi-partisan matter can become the subject of partisan speeches. The sole object of the Resolution is to vote a sum of money in order to improve the physical accommodation for one of the Government's agencies — namely the Barbados Tourist Board. The Barbados Tourist Board for a long period of time was subjected to various physical moves in that it never had a real permanent home. It is now physically situated at Marine House, and the offices it uses there are necessary for the Town and Country Planning Department

consequent upon the Government's decision to include Town Planning as a subject within the Ministry of Housing and Lands.

Motor Services Limited Building which was built on a part of the reclaimed area of the deep water harbour, and which got into financial difficulties, was put up for sale. Part of these buildings on the harbour, were erected upon the land which was leased from the Government of Barbados; and the Government of Barbados had a valuation done on the unexpired portion of the lease and entered into an agreement with the receiver. Mutually acceptable terms were agreed on and we took over the unexpired portion of the lease together with the buildings and we said that as a matter of policy that we would house the export Promotion Agency on the top floor of the building, and underneath the Barbados Tourist Board. This is a place which is ideally situated. Renovations have been done in conjunction with the Ministry of Communications and Works and with the concurrence of the Tourist Board. They are nearing completion, and the sole object of this Resolution is to pass the necessary financial provisions to ensure that the completion date at the end of January is adhered to.

Now, because of our peculiar Parliamentary practice, these occasions are used for all kinds of statements in relation to the subject of tourism, and I only want to deal with a few. This Government when it was in Opposition, and when the previous Government was in power between 1956–61 always argued that tourism was a subject which impinged upon a number of Ministerial portfolios; and at that time tourism was part of the Ministry of Trade. If you go back through the creation of the Tourist Board, you will see that it was created at that time by the then Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce.

If you do an examination of the independent countries of the world, you find that the subject of tourism falls within Trade and Commerce and industry in most countries. It falls within Transportation and Industry in some countries, and in other countries it is the subject of a separate Ministry. It is sometimes combined with aviation and it is sometimes combined with information. The previous Government had a Minister of Aviation and Tourism.

Now, Sir, it is well known that under our constitutional practice, it is the prerogative of the Government in power to so distribute Ministries in accordance with its own ideas. What you must look at is the machinery that is established to ensure that it can be effectively run; and as I pointed out previously, in another place, this Government has created a separate and co-equal division within the Ministry of External Trade, Tourism and Industry, with its own Permanent Secretary, with its own Assistant Secretary, with its own research

section and with all the subsidiary staff to deal with all the subjects of Tourism because of the fact that Aviation for us is regarded as predominantly, not exclusively, and adjunct of tourism; and that is why we have done that. There is no point in the neophytes in this House waving their hands, and saying that it was always so because under their administration Aviation was a subject of the Prime Minister's Portfolio.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of elucidation. When I said that it was always like that, I was not speaking structurally; but the policy of the previous administration, as far as I recall, was based on the fact that since we were depending on tourism, then our Aviation policy must be tourism oriented.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, when the previous administration was in power they had the right to structure it as they saw fit. Now we are in power, and the hon. member had better get that in his head. These people over here are in power and not the previous administration, and we are structuring it as we feel like structuring it. The subject of tourism and the subject of aviation lends itself to a convenient combination under a permanent secretary, an assistant secretary, a research section and all of the rest of the staff within the portfolio of the Ministry of Trade, because invisible trade is essentially an integral part of trade in Barbados, and whether you consider visible trade or invisible trade, it is a convenient section of the Ministry of Trade. Truthfully, it is not that which they are attacking. They are attacking me personally, and I will deal with them.
1.35 p.m.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I was most particular in saying that I was not reflecting on the competence or the ability of the Hon. Leader of the House and I take very serious objection when he gets up and says that because he is not telling the truth because in the middle, before I talked about a number of stages that he was dealing with I made it quite clear that it was not a question of his integrity, competence or ability and it is unfair for him to get up and say this now.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member did not originate that thought. That thought came out of an article by the former Minister of Tourism and I am going to deal with him now. That is only second-hand. That was not the original thought of the hon. member. He is only going like a yoyo of the man who originated the thought.

As Minister, Sir, I have time to devote myself to all of the subjects in my Ministry because I regard myself as a full-time employee while the former Minister

of Tourism and Aviation was running his hotel in St. Lawrence and it took more than half of his time. I do not run any other practice. I am a full-time employee of Government for which I have to be adequately paid and for which I will give my unstinting attention so let them get that in their pipe and smoke it.

Secondly the performance of the various works under my portfolio in the last two years.....

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I want to point out that some 16 minutes have passed since the hon. member has been speaking.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: If the hon. member interrupts me, he must deduct the time that I have been deprived of speaking. I have more manners than that. I am unlike the hon. member. I display some kind of manners in here.

Since I assumed the responsibility of these two Ministries there have been both in Tourism and Aviation significant increases and growth. Secondly, Sir, and I am going to point them out, we have initiated studies in relation to the economic impact of Tourism on the Barbados economy. We have initiated a research project on the potential demand of European tourists in Barbados. We have negotiated directly with others in the Caribbean Research Centre of which I was Chairman for two years, demanding money for the whole of the Caribbean area. We are negotiating with respect to a comparable study in relation to North America with the Inter-American Development Bank.

In addition we have engaged on the aviation side in bilateral negotiations with Nigeria which have been concluded. We have negotiated with Canada which those negotiations have not been satisfactorily concluded, according to us, and we have decided to sign an Interim Agreement and talks will be resumed. We are in the process of having talks with Venezuela and the United States of America.

In addition to all of that, in conjunction with the Ministry of Housing and Lands and the Ministry of the Attorney General we faced up to the problem of competing users on the beaches in Barbados, and we, the three Ministries, brought recommendations to this House which have the endorsement of the Attorney-General, the Commissioner of Police and others and we have the courage to bring it to this House.

In addition to this, in conjunction with the Ministry of Communications and Works we faced up to the problem of discrimination which was created by the former Minister of Tourism when he granted a monopoly in this country to one Organisation for Island

tours in Barbados when there were at least six other Taxi Associations in Barbados who had applied prior to 1974 and we had discussions with all the Taxi Co-operatives in Barbados and came up with a rational plan to solve that. We agree to have a certain number of transportation units bearing in mind the new demand.

I could catalogue many more things that have been done despite the fact that they say we have too much to do and we are not doing it.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The 15 minute Rule has to apply to this side and it has to apply to that side too.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Am I to understand that the hon. member is alleging that the Chair is being unfair?

Dr. HAYNES: No, I am drawing to your attention.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member please take his seat.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: If the hon. member interrupts me he has to take off the time of the interruption. He must do it. The hon. member cannot interrupt me otherwise he would be able to interrupt me for the whole 15 minutes and the Rules would not make sense.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have two minutes, Sir.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Yes, Sir, I am finishing now. I can catalogue many other things that have been done, Sir. When they would come and try to mislead the public that the business of Tourism is being neglected because of the fact that it is part of the Ministry of Trade, they are only manifesting their lack of knowledge of how tourism has been organised in other countries of the world and they are only acknowledging that they have not understood how the Ministerial Portfolios and consequential administrative machinery have been allocated under this Government whose prerogative it is and we shall not accede to them except after a General Election that they win. Let them get that in their heads and keep it there.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The member for St. Michael South West.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak on this particular Resolution and I welcome the proposals contained in the Supplementary Resolution to the extent that they should provide improved physical facilities in which the Department of Tourism should be able to carry out its duties and functions. I think that

anything that will work towards the improvement of this particular sector of our economy will be welcomed by all persons who are interested in the development and improvement of this country.

I do not think, however, that the Minister responsible for Tourism should get so hot under the collar if from this side it is suggested that in terms of the allocation of portfolios in this country there is a great unevenness in the workloads among Ministers in this country and that he for one has too much on his plate. We believe and I have made this point in this Chamber before that in terms of the subjects for which he is responsible there is obviously too much on his plate and there is a grave need for the Government to look at the allocation of those portfolios and ensure that more time is devoted to the tourism sector in particular. That is the charge that the Government has to answer and it is the case being advanced by my colleague, the member for St. Michael South Central and I spoke on that and I have made the point already and I stick by it.

Now this whole question of Tourism development we will have to get in its proper perspective. It is clear that when the Government gets up and tries to give the impression and I am glad that the Minister responsible tried, as he put it, to diffuse the situation, when they get up and try to give the impression that it was because of their activities that some 300,000 tourists arrived in this country last year.

1.45 p.m.

And there is an implication that the previous Government did not do as much for tourism as it could have — these implications have been made, I am not talking about this particular debate but they have been made elsewhere — when there is all of this chest thumping from this side we have got to defend the record of the previous administration, and we have got to tell the existing administration what steps are needed in order for this particular sector to be further improved. Because our work in this particular regard, in spite of the abuse that was heaped on the head and shoulders of a previous Minister of Tourism — I refer to Mr. Peter Morgan — I have heard him called Robinson Crusoe being washed up on the shores of Barbados, and such unkind references, for a man who made a significant contribution to the development of the tourist sector in this country.

Now, if we look at it, in the year 1964 the number of visitors coming to this country was some 57,625. By 1974 that number had risen to 230,718 visitors. I cannot tell you what is the figure for 1976 because I cannot find in this Parliament any report of the Board of Tourism later than the sixteenth annual report, 1973-74, and I would hope that the Minister can tell us, because this is a very important sector of the economy, when the work of his Ministry in terms of getting the annual report of the

Board of Tourism up to date, because he said he has time, so he must tell us now why the reports are so far behind hand, because he has time to do it. But I look at the figure for 1974 — 230, 718 — and when they thump their chests and say they have made some big improvement, going from 230,000 in 1974 — almost 231,000 — we do not know what it was in 1976, it has been put in perspective as though 300,000 visitors arrived as a result of the activities of the existing administration.

We welcome the increase in the number of tourists coming here, but we must also get this in perspective, because the increase in tourism which Barbados has seen, and I dare say is seeing, is part of a world wide development in tourism, and we must make this point, and Barbados, like the rest of the Caribbean, is only getting the washings off this world wide development, because the major destinations, the major countries in which that tourism is developed still remain Europe and North America, and let us not get on with all this chest thumping, because if in a particular year we show a 12% increase, a 6% increase, whatever it may be, let us recall that the major countries of Europe and North America have had a massive development in tourism. There is a massive development in tourism taking place world wide.

I have some statistics here from the World Tourism Organisation, also known as the International Union of Official Travel Organisations, I believe that is the official name. That body estimated that by the year 1980 there could be some one thousand million tourists in the world. Between 1955 and 1965 the United Nations itself indicated that in some 76 countries tourist arrivals trebled from 51 million to 157 million persons. Those are the figures, so let us not think that there is some special magic going on here, that this "great combination" has been able by some magic to bring all those people here, it is part of a world wide development.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I know of your knowledge of anecdotal history and you will know that this question of travel has a very long history. It must have been Herodotus who in his travels talked about his own wanderlust, and Homer himself in his Odyssey talked about the interest of the Greeks in travelling. I recall also it was the poet, Geoffrey Chaucer, in his Canterbury Tales — and I note that my friend, the hon. member for St. Michael South East has his arms folded listening on — but Chaucer spoke of some 29 pilgrims who gathered at an inn to go on a pilgrimage for a summer season, as he said, in the Middle Ages. So this whole question of travel has a long history, but the mass movement of people is a modern post war phenomenon.

Barbados itself, in the early fifties — I live on the west coast and I have seen the developments — was the centre for the privileged, the very wealthy, who would leave their homes and come down for the winter to get

away from the rigours, but a lot of developments have taken place since then. First of all, more income has become available for disposal by the middle classes in the developed countries of the world. There has been an improvement in transportation facilities and persons skilled in the mass movement of people. It is a whole new industry that has come up. More than that, we must also look at the work of Trade Unions in pressuring employers to provide more leisure time for people. Indeed, as the technological age becomes more and more geared to the monotony of work people have got to take their break from that type of humdrum monotony and get away, and this is the result of it.

We could look at other countries in the Caribbean who have registered higher increases in tourism than Barbados, and we have got to watch out, because let us not believe that it is only by advertising the sand and the sea and the sun that we are going to attract people here, we have got to look at our tourist facilities, we have got to look at what in the trade is known as the motivators, why people travel, we must respond to those motivators. The Board of Tourism which will be moving into these new facilities must do a number of things. First of all, it must let us have on a regular basis the statistics relating to the tourism industry.

1.55 p.m.

That is very important because what happens in that industry they must be planning for it and the people planning for it must have reliable information on which to base their decision. I must look also at the whole question of the amenities available for the tourists because when I spoke of the motivators — the people who come here for rest and recreation — I could refer to the cultural motivators, those interested in Art, Music, Literature, and we could include under that folklore, etc. These are areas in which there must be a greater input from the Board of Tourism because we have to get at the fundamental reason why people travel and respond to that. And we would like to see a greater input into these particular areas, and I am hoping that these new facilities which are being provided will assist the Board in terms of getting to grips with these particular problems.

Then there are some definite factors in a country which may tend to deter tourists. If there are a lot of potholes in the roads this may cause some discomfort and be an eye sore. If we have these scars on the physical aspects of the country, it would be a deterrent, so let no one get up and say that this is not the time for the politics of potholes or such like. I think Your Honour would know the people who talked about potholes and I think, Sir, that it was one of the last questions you asked that I can find. This is an economic thing, because every time a car drops into a pothole that is an economic thing and we have got to

ensure that what scars there are on the physical face of this country must be improved whether this is improvement of the infrastructure in terms of roads or in terms of unsightly motor car repair operation which detracts from the overall beauty of this country and which would represent a disincentive to the development of tourism. I would like to say that in all of these areas, whether in terms of road improvement, development of the airport facilities or development at the sea port — in all of these areas an outstanding contribution has been made by the previous administration (*Asides*) I will stop now and speak at another time.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, it is past 2 o'clock and I move that you report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: The time is now 2.05 p.m., this Sitting now stands suspended until 2.45 p.m. 2.05 p.m.

RESUMPTION

On the resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed. It is now Question Time, but there being no replies to questions, we go into Private Members' Business. There is one item under Private Members' Business in the name of the hon. member for St. Michael South West whom I do not now see in his place.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, before you move from this item, I would like to know the status of this matter in the name of the hon. member for St. Michael South West.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am happy in the knowledge that the Hon. Minister of Agriculture was duly served with a copy of this Order Paper, and therefore he could familiarise himself with what was included on it before coming into this Hon. House; and I do not think that the Chair can add more to this, the matter not being properly before this Hon. House.

RESUMPTION OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now time for Government Business to be resumed. When the suspension was taken, the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it now reverts.

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

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, as you are aware, one can speak for 15 minutes only at one time; but you can speak on more than one occasion when the House is in Committee. I wish to make the point.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think that it is only fair that before I permit a member who has spoken already to speak again, to find out if there is any other hon. member who has not spoken and who wants to speak.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, as the Minister who introduced this Resolution, I would like to get a clear ruling from the Chair if hon. members who have spoken already for 15 minutes can speak again. That has been the subject of controversy in here already and a ruling was given in this House that a member could speak for only 15 minutes at one time. I just want to get the procedure clear, Sir; and I am asking you to seek the advice of your Clerk, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The ruling is that a member may speak for 15 minutes at any one time. This means that provided the time limit of the debate accommodates such a situation, a member may speak twice. If no other member wishes to speak, a member can speak for 15 minutes again. That is the ruling.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I take it, Sir, that that is within the three hours.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Within the time limit.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I want to get this straight once and for all.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have got it clear now.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Thank you, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for St. Andrew has caught my eye.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the fact that you have said that I caught your eye; but even without that, I am sure that the hon. member for St. Michael South Central would consider that he has spoken very copiously on this Resolution; and certainly, except that he wants to repeat himself — certainly we have got accustomed to such an attitude on his part — that he would want to hear the views put forward by other hon. members rather than stand and hear himself as he likes to hear himself.

The hon. member has certainly asked a number of questions in the course of a very rambling speech, and I

repeat, rambling speech. He discussed the question of the Minister of Agriculture asking for co-ordination with the Ministry of Tourism and a number of other matters to do with the Tourist Industry. As far as the present ruling party is concerned, we are not at all in doubt as to what our priorities are and what course we should take in connection with any matter, nor are we in any doubt as to the matter of co-ordination.

We are fully aware as to what we should do in all matters. It is for the hon. member for St. Michael South Central to lecture to his party which has been always in disarray on matters of this kind. In lecturing his party, I would like to advise him very strongly to lecture his Leader as to the propriety of going before a group of people who sometimes get very unscrupulous in their demands. (Aside: Now you are repeating yourself). I do not know what I am repeating. I do not think there is any person in this Hon. Chamber who has the authority to speak as I have to speak about my Ministry; and even though somebody may say something, they can say it certainly with less emphasis than myself.

Therefore, I speak with full authority about the Ministry of Communications and Works as spokesman for that Ministry. It would be a good thing if the hon. member would lecture to his party on the propriety of going before a pressure group who seek to make from time to time demands upon the Ministry of Consumer Affairs to issue them with licences for commodities which can be acquired in this country. There are a number of people who feel that it is very palatable to play to the public gallery for their own political and selfish games and aggrandisement. But no party can succeed, and no Government can thrive, with such behaviour, I would hope that in future the Opposition Party will see the need to support the Government in its effort to see that people, especially people who are coming here, can utilise the things that are produced in our community.

I take it that when tourists come to our island, they do not come because they want to have the same conditions as they have in their own lands. They come here because they want to seek a new place, new activities, an invitation to different food and drink; and to tell us that in the new activities that we are embarking upon in the area of agriculture, we should not seek to have agricultural substitution is certainly very strange and surprising to me. What is the point of living in an agricultural community that we are living in, trying to diversify the economy and then suggesting that there should be no question of no import substitution and not asking tourists to use local commodities. That is nonsense. Nothing in my opinion could be more treasonable, more unpatriotic than such behaviour

coming from anybody in this land, let alone an hon. member of this House of Assembly.

2.55 p.m.

Mr. SANDIFORD: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw to your attention that it is a grave reflection of any member of this House to refer to anything that is said or to accuse him of treason or treasonable behaviour and I would ask that such words be withdrawn and struck from the Records.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I do not know how the hon. member for St. Michael South who is always sound in his approach to debates of this manner is asking you to rule on because I am not reflecting on anyone in this Parliament and I want to assure you that I am not going to withdraw anything at all that I say with respect to any matter which has taken place outside of this Parliament. Let us be very clear on that. That it is treasonable to have said it and the remarks I referred to is a fact and nobody can deny that. If the hon. member wants me to withdraw "treasonable", in what sense does he want me to withdraw it. I did not reflect on any statement made in this Parliament, and you, Mr. Chairman, cannot.....

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The member for St. Michael South drew to your attention the remarks which were made by the member for St. Andrew, the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, relative to a member of this Chamber and I think that a ruling has to be made on it because the remarks submitted are unparliamentary remarks and should be withdrawn and struck from the records. As a matter of fact if you were to take May's Parliamentary Practices, the 19th Edition, page 445, you will see there that treason is specifically mentioned as one of the unparliamentary remarks and I am submitting that the remarks should be withdrawn.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: With reference to the conduct of another member, but the reference by the Hon. Minister is not a reference to the conduct of another hon. member and I find there is no reflection on his character.

Mr. SANDIFORD: On a point of order, I wish to draw your attention to Rule 28(5) "It shall be out of order to use offensive and insulting language about Members of the House." In (7) it says "No Member may impute improper motives to another Member." That part of Standing Order 28 does not refer to inside or outside the House and I am suggesting that to state, not only imply, but to state that anyone who has been a member of this House has been indulging in treasonable behaviour is an unparliamentary statement and is offensive to Rule 28 of the Standing Orders of this Honourable House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I thank you for your statement but I do not accept that the hon. member's remarks in anyway reflect on the character of any hon. member. Will the Hon. Minister continue.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, if we are to continue the whole orderly progress towards the establishment of the valuable tourist trade and industry in this country we have got to conduct ourselves in a very orderly fashion and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs has played a very vital and important role in the development of such an industry. That that point has been agreed to by the other side I am certainly happy to hear, and we can only do this with the knowledge and conviction that when we seek to introduce import substitutions that we may be given the support which we expect from all people in this country.

There are certain matters, whatever be our political convictions, however we might feel politically on matters, that we must approach from a non-partisan point of view and there are people who still believe that they must seek political mileage on every aspect of public life in this country, I want to assure you, Mr. Chairman, that the people in this country are well aware and *au fait* with all that is developing in this country and no amount of cheap playing to the public gallery can deflect them from the fact that this Government in a very short period of time has performed the herculean task of pulling back the country from the brink of economic disaster and putting it on a safe course of a stable economy.

The Tourist Industry will play a vital role in that department and I assure you, Mr. Chairman, and this Honourable House that the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs will not fail to play its role in this vital task. I want to make a very strong appeal to the Opposition Bench and the Trade Unions in this country, as well, to do nothing whatever to sabotage the hard work which the Government is doing and embarking upon in order to stabilise the economy by way of agricultural diversification and, further, I have read and I want to state here frankly, a paid advertisement comes out from the Barbados Workers Union that I refer to from time to time and I have looked and failed to see any request made by them to people in the community to make sure that the vital sugar cane crops are not destroyed by arson in the land.

Since that Union is represented by no less a person in here than the hon. member for St. Lucy (*Asides.*) — I would reply but I am told that I should let it pass but I wanted to say something on that but it is a question of how you feel about what is a long time. There are certain things that have a life of 9 days, some of a year or two years and some of even shorter

duration and when we speak of a life of 9 years and it lasts for 10 years you believe it is a long life, and certainly that is in the context in which I wanted to reply.

3.05 p.m.

I want to call upon the people in this island who are capable of appealing to some segment of the community to make sure, regardless of how they feel about this Government and the fact that they are bent upon overthrowing it before the constitutional time for the expiry of its period in office. Even at the end of that time they will have a difficult task to perform, and I want to suggest to them that they had better be sure that their numbers are not further dwindled when that time should come, that they make sure that they do things which are in the overall interest of this community. In the final analysis, when all the heat and anger are over, we still have to live in this island and whoever is called upon to preside over its destinies will be called upon to perform the task, no matter how difficult the task may be, in order to bring stability to the land, and it is in that regard that I make this appeal to them to be very concerned about statements made to the Press, statements made generally to pressure groups. I want to say something further, that only this morning it was my privilege to see a file in which it was clearly stated that there was no request made to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs by the Hotel Association that was not dealt with. There is no outstanding matter whatever to the Ministry by the Hotel Association, and when people go shouting their hats and their mouths off, they should be very careful lest they say wrong things and imply wrong motives to people whose only interest is to create a better atmosphere and better conditions for the people of Barbados.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I thought it was patently clear that the position of the Democratic Labour Party was one of a secure linkage between agricultural development and tourism, and I think to some extent there have been certain distortions. It is quite clear that the only reasonable policy to be pursued by any Government must be to supply as much food as you can produce to the tourist industry. It is also quite clear that there are many things that will be used in the tourist industry which we cannot produce, and therefore there will always, so long as you have a viable tourist industry, be a mixture of what you can produce agriculturally and what you will have to allow to be imported to meet the demands of the industry.

I, when rudely interrupted, had made the point.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will you please.....

Hon. L. R. TULL: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member is out of order. This is about the tenth time for the day he has made remarks of that kind. I wonder when Your Honour will take things in your hands. He must withdraw that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must withdraw.

Dr. HAYNES: I withdraw and I will not use the word "treason" about anybody on the other side either. I had raised the point that when you disburse some \$5 million in loans from the Barbados Development Bank for apartments and only seven hotel rooms, as distinct from apartments, were built, then it is optimistic even to expect that you are generating 175 jobs, and even if you did generate 175 jobs it seems to me to be an awful lot of money to be putting up for the generation of only 175 jobs and that such monies could be used in other areas in view of the liquidity existing in the banks, in view of the presence of hotel aids, and in view of relatively low interest rates.

I was making the further point that I believe that the point has been reached when we have to look into further supportive areas that would help the long term development of the tourist industry. It is a question of training, and I would want to suggest that, for example, in Italy, a principle was established some years ago where they departed from the typical hotel school type of operation and set up as a training centre a viable hotel itself which was the place of training, a viable commercial unit, and that this contributed not only to significant youth programmes in the area but it was through that stream that the industry was fed, and I will just throw out the idea as a possible area of development and a possible area of training.

I also want to make the point, Mr. Chairman, that has disturbed me somewhat. We have hoteliers in Barbados, we have recently had condominium legislation. I understand that properties built under the Condominium Act and which are resold are not eligible for hotel aids, but I understand that certain projects are going up in Barbados now where this is being got around, and instead of selling the unit you build it as a condominium, you get the hotel aid, you get the benefit of the capital write-off under the hotel aids, but instead of a transfer of the units, instead of conveying the units as such to the purchasers, what you do is you sell shares and therefore you get a major capital appreciation at that point, and you also get the benefit of the hotel aids. Now, I am quite sure that that was not the purpose of the Hotel Aids Act, and that is a matter I think the Hon. Minister should probably look into, it is a very important point. At least I think so.

One final remark I would like to make, Mr. Chairman, and I must say that it is with the greatest

regret, and I have given great thought as to whether I should make the remark at all, but I think that public interest demands that I should. There are problems at the Tourist Board. Among the international community, not only in the Caribbean but elsewhere, there have been problems relating to the Chairman of that Board. The latest incident was one which took place at Sam Lords Castle at a meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. Paul Southwell, the Premier of St. Kitts. I do not wish to go into details, but I would like to assure the Hon. Minister, because here we have a problem when we appoint backbenchers as Chairmen. But the Hon. Minister would have our firm assurance that he would not be accused of nepotism on this side if he finds it necessary to effect changes, and indeed there are certain problems, Mr. Chairman, and I do not think that the Tourist Board should have been used as the place to find a job for a political columnist who served the Barbados Labour Party well when the Tourist Board itself did not welcome the appointment and they were forced to take that person on their staff.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to refer to the last remark made by the hon. member. He is referring to Mr. Glyne Murray in his present office as Public Relations Manager. Mr. Glyne Murray applied to the Board of Tourism for a job in an overseas position many months ago, at which time I told him bluntly he was not suited and we could not give him the job. He was not trained for it.

3.15 p.m.

He then applied for a job as Public Relations Manager with the Board, and after interviewing a number of persons he was found to be head and shoulders above any of the other applicants and he was given the job as Public Relations manager. I may add that for the two and a half years I have been there he has been the most capable person that has headed that department. In no way did the Minister ever tell me to appoint Glyne Murray, as indicated by the hon. member nor has the Minister ever indicated appointing anybody else, and to say that the Minister gets involved in saying who is to be employed at the Board of Tourism is in my opinion a subtly, ugly thing to introduce into Parliament. I have never had instructions from the Minister to employ anybody, and as far as Glyne Murray is concerned has has proved himself over and over again very easy to get along with. He mixes well with journalists from overseas and does an excellent job in journalism.

To get back to something else: I didn't hear too well, as the hon. member has been speaking quite often today and it is not possible for one to listen to everything he says; but he did say something about Mr. Paul Southwell and myself at Sam Lord's Castle. Mr. Chairman, if you have the authority I would like you

to ask the hon. member to repeat the point, because Mr. Southwell has been a friend of mine long before I was ever in politics. We met in New York on occasions. On one occasion he came here and I went out to the plane to meet him and accompanied him in; and when Mr. Southwell left Barbados we left on the best of terms. We have never crossed swords so I do not understand what the hon. member is talking about. As a matter of fact, Mr. Southwell suffers a bit from one of his legs and I went to the people at Sam Lords and asked them to provide him with one of the little vehicles they use for getting around Sam Lords, for which he thanked me very much. I am amazed to hear of any dispute between us.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, it is a very serious thing, the two allegations made by the hon. member, because I am very well aware that there is a subtle campaign going on by certain employees of the Tourist Board to try to discredit the Chairman of the Board. I want to make it clear that since I have been Minister of Tourism in Barbados I have always insisted on proper procedures being carried out for the appointment of people at the Tourist Board, because when I went in there I found that people like Clennell Bynoe were appointed on directions of the Minister, and I vowed that to none of the Boards that came under my responsibility I would give directions as to who should be appointed, because the Act is very clear that the power of the Minister is either to approve or disapprove. So when they put up a recommendation and I agree with it, I approve it. If I do not agree, I write back to the effect that having regard to the candidate you have put forward I think such and such a person has the better qualifications, and I ask them to explain why some one else was preferred over that person. That procedure has been carried on with respect to general appointments. But there are others at the Board of Tourism who are employees of the Board who feel that previously they were able to use their influence to get appointments in particular posts, and because they cannot get an appointment in a particular post that suits them, they are going to use that as the basis for a public relations and political campaign in an attempt to discredit people. I have absolute faith in the fact that the relationship between the Barbados Board of Tourism and the Eastern Caribbean Tourist Association, the CTRC and the ECTA is at its highest level. I do not sit on the ECTA or the Eastern Caribbean Tourist Board, but fellow Ministers who sit on these Boards are constantly in touch with me and we discuss common strategies with a view to ensuring that the Caribbean Tourist Association, the Caribbean Hotel Association and CTRC are run by Caribbean people and not by North Americans and expatriates who hitherto dominated these organizations.

Now in respect of the policy on overseas offices, this Government has repeatedly said that its policy is that overseas officers should be rotated, not only in the Foreign Affairs department but also in Tourism and now in the incipient service of trade counsellors. These directions have been given to all Boards having officers serving overseas. We feel it is a mistake to let anybody believe that he has a vested interest in remaining in a particular country for his whole period of service. This applies also to the people in tourism who were appointed during the Democratic Labour Party regime and who have received promotion under the Barbados Labour Party Government, so long as they do their work and do not attempt to carry on any vicious campaign to discredit their employers. But I warn them that if I find any such it will not be a question of transfer but of dismissal, because this is not the standard I expect of any Government employee. The Board of Tourism or the Government must not be used as a tool in the attempt to use the media as a means of promoting division in the country, and if such actions come to my attention I will deal with them. It is the efforts of all members of the staff of the Tourist Board, local and overseas, that have resulted in the success of tourism in Barbados, and not the efforts of any one individual.

As far as visitors from Britain are concerned, the increase last year was 42%. An article that was published in relation to the sort of campaign that I talked about contradicted itself between the headline and the body of the article. I know what is going on and they had better understand whom they are dealing with. I do not like to interfere, but when the chopper comes down it is going to chop. I am well aware of what is going on and the hon. member is doing a disservice in coming in here and giving vent to such views merely because one person cannot manipulate the Board for his own purposes.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am the mover of this Resolution which falls under the Ministry of Housing for which I am responsible; and I am amazed after I made it abundantly clear on the floor of the House that both the present Government, former Governments should be given credit for the important role they have played in the development of Tourism in this country.
3.25 p.m.

It amazes me how this debate fell into almost personality clashes, Sir, and I regret the inclusion by the member for St. Michael South whom I have always recognised for the past years in Parliament as one who has always approached matters with a degree of sanity unlike other hon. members who recently had been given the privilege to adorn this Hon. House of Assembly. I

have tried to some degree to understand what the hon. member for St. Michael South Central was talking about all evening. He spoke on two occasions; and I regret, although I accept the principle of the people of a country giving their choice, it is really depressing how the people of St. Michael South Central could have found it possible to elect a person who seems to know all things about everything. We had the spectacle of the interim Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Frederick Smith, who knew everything about all things, and now we have the spectacle of the member for St. Michael South Central. Whenever he addresses this Chamber, he must find something to say, something which provokes members of this side, and I believe some on his side — you will only know that when you are in the dining hall. He brings in things that are completely out of context with the Resolution, Sir; and I imagine, Mr. Chairman, that you probably have to chair this Committee under great strain.

You have wicked accusations made about a Mr. Glyne Murray. Now, that is where I came into a bit of trouble in the month of July about the Chairman of the Board of Tourism or the manager of that Board giving Mr. Murray a job. Now, if I had to give Mr. Glyne Murray a job — and I want this to be very clear — I would give it to him because he is an able young person. His articles as a journalist were imaginative. The duties which he performed, I am told, at the Board of Tourism are duties which none of his predecessors has ever performed as well as he has.

Now what on earth is the reason why this Resolution for \$69,324 to provide accommodation for the Tourist Board to carry out its functions in pleasant surroundings in keeping with the Tourist Industry has to do with Mr. Glyne Murray being dragged into the debate?

I have warned the member for St. Michael South Central. I have known him for a number of years, and if there is a person that I am disappointed in, it is he. I thought that when he won the by-election on that night and I walked across and congratulated him as two gladiators that I would have seen a performance in accordance with the Blue Rib and that he won in Classics in Barbados. I feel that there should be room in the gallery provided for people of St. Michael South Central to come in here and sit down — just room for them alone — to hear and see the performance of their representative. It is something that is really depressing. It hurts me to see his conduct and behaviour at parliamentary level. It is nothing that any young man or woman in this country can be proud of. Even his physical stature makes him look like some lion or elephant stepping on a velvet cushion. I can only feel and come to the conclusion that he needs mental treatment before he comes into this Chamber on Tuesdays.

He said nothing at all during his debate except that there was a haranguing attitude and all kinds of accusations. I must confess that it is really distressing to me. Sir, the other contributions are not worthy of note. The member for St. Philip South — I am well aware of the fact that he had in the gallery guests whom obviously he would like to see him perform in the evening of his years; and therefore his speech had absolutely no depth or contempt. He spoke about the expansion of the airport. We could talk about the infrastructure of the country that is responsible for tourism and its growth in this country. We could talk about the deep water harbour, the building of Seawell Airport, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the communications links and all of these things; and if I were on the Opposition bench my approach would be to draw to the attention of the Government the conduct of some of the visitors to this country, particularly when they are scantily attired on our streets along Bridgetown. I would say that I do not mind seeing bikinis; but I feel that they should be confined to the beaches rather than seeing our visitors in our City stores and supermarkets attired that way — I would probably ask the Government to look into a matter of this nature.

I would try to find out from the Government what they are doing to restrict the area of dope which is alleged is brought into the country, and I want to make it clear that it is alleged that it is brought into the country by some of our friends from overseas. But they come in here today and talk about Glyne Murray. We could talk about Tony Vanterpool, about Mr. Alistair Greene or Mr. Bynoe; but they have all made their contribution. Therefore, why should an individual be brought into a debate? It is pathetic.

I do not know why T.V. should not be on you to see your display and hear what you say. I am really disappointed in you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you addressing the Chair?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Not the Chair, Sir. I am referring to the hon. member for St. Michael South Central. We come here Tuesday after Tuesday to hear him make some salient point that would lead the Government of this country to provide a better way of life for the people.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of elucidation.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I am not giving way on any point of elucidation. Let the hon. member take his seat and know his place. There are economic aspects of the country, but they are talking about Glyne Murray and making a lot of stupid and wild accusations. I do not like to say things that people tell me in confidence, but

when a person can say that he can buy a whole newspaper, furthermore a journalist, that is something that one must think about.

3.35 p.m.

Do you know that one shopkeeper asked me if she has to pay \$100 a week to a shop attendant, one of your big supporters. You come in here and say that the shop attendants should have \$100 a week. You do not remember that, when you brought in the Shop Order here. You do not remember these things. You are too wise. You know where Mr. Mayhew lives?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No cross talk, please address the Chair.

(Certain remarks were ordered to be expunged by the Chairman at this stage.)

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member please take his seat. The remarks have been withdrawn and have been asked to be struck from the records.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman,.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Does the hon. member realise that when the Chairman is on his feet you cannot be standing either and that that applies to any other hon. member on either side of the House. Now on what do you rise?

Mr. GREAVES: On a point of order. My point of order, Mr. Chairman, has to do with the procedures of this House. I have noticed that on more than one occasion when a member from this side is making a point that the person who is operating the loudspeaking equipment cuts off the equipment to prevent a member from this side from speaking.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have a complaint with the technician, that is it?

Mr. GREAVES: The person operating the equipment just now.....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Why do you not sit down, you joker? Why do you not talk about Frank Walcott and \$7,000?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Sit down. Order, please, order, order. That matter will be looked into, the question of the unsatisfactory state of affairs of the technicians. I will have that looked into.

The hon. member on what do you rise? *(Asides.)*

Mr. JOHNSON: On a point of order, Sir, the hon. member for St. Michael South Central has just been heard to say that we come in here with fascist ideas. I am submitting, Sir, that that is a very unparliamentary remark and he must be asked to withdraw it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That has no place in the records.

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, Sir, he said it. Ask the Clerk to read back the records. He talked about fascist ideas.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please, order please.

Mr. JOHNSON: He must be asked to withdraw those words. Nobody here is a fascist.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to have a ruling on this. He said fascist ideas. Ask the Clerk, ask the recorder to read it back.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would have to get a record of the words used, please.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I would say that the remark probably was an outburst of power, but that is alright, Sir, if he refers to me as a fascist. It is quite alright with me. I can take care of myself against people like this. I have done it to his former Prime Minister. He is only a joker.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. I cannot have two hon. members on their feet.

Mr. JOHNSON: I do not mind what the hon. member for St. James says. I am in here.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I take it that you are complaining about the remarks made by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central has not risen to withdraw. I have asked for a copy of the report and I will rule on it. If it is found in there well then I will decide what is to be done.

It would appear that the remarks made by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central could have been an aside which were not recorded by the Reporter and form no part of the record of this Honourable Chamber.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Now, Mr. Chairman, it is a very important matter as to the recording of Parliament because the hon. member stood up and he made his statement on a point of order and I heard him say

about coming in here every week with these fascist ideas. You could never tell the truth in your life from the time I knew you, my friend, so therefore I do not deny that, but, Mr. Chairman, it makes it very discouraging that Your Honour report circumstances where members on one side have challenged a statement made in Parliament and it is not recorded and I think the Debates Committee will have to look into the recordings of what go on in this place.

If the hon. member made a statement while on his feet and now you hear it is not in the record, well woe betide me what goes into Hansard.

Mr CHAIRMAN: It will be recalled, too, that — let us continue.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I tried to settle that by saying it was quite alright. I would like to go on record once again in commending all successive Governments for their important role they have played during the time in office for the outstanding work which they have done to bring to this country and for the economic benefits of tourism, Sir. That is what I want to make abundantly clear and therefore I do not see the need that we had to go into this lengthy debate, a debate which I do not feel particularly proud of to know that my name is going to be mentioned in the Hansard.

Would that I as a Minister could, but which is a difficult thing for the other side to do, give credit to us on some occasion or some good which we have done for the last two years. We cannot be all bad, for God cannot be so. I know there is a just God. We have done some good within the past two years and several months that we have been in office. At least this has been reflected in the months of November and December and we were able to reduce the unemployment in the country.

We were able to save the country from economic disaster and we have not heard a single word coming from the Opposition bench to deny that the economy has taken a turn for the good. We have not heard this yet. You would hear talk about Mr. Trudeau and President Carter looking after theirs. We look after ours. The electorate will judge us in 1981. You are in a hurry to get an election. You have problems of power. That is your problem, power and money. That will send you to the Mental Hospital. You have a few years to sit around, take it from me.

3.45 p.m.

I do not see what is your big hurry. The first three days he came in here the member for St. Michael South Central called for a budget. Now today he is reshuffling the Cabinet. Which Minister has too much work and

therefore cannot look after tourism! Yet in the same breath the member for St. Michael South Central said, like me, that all Governments have done so good — the Minister of Propaganda, but all roads led to Barrow, they will not go to you, you can rest assured about that. Whether they were roads of corruption, roads of dishonesty, roads of decency, roads of integrity or roads of economic success, all roads led to him. You hear about the Duffus Report, a lot of waste paper basket jargon. Do you think an electorate will remember you and Duffus in 1981? Too many people will be working, if you do not understand what is going on \$100 million alone in road construction! That is business you are talking about. In 1981 nobody will be talking about Haynes and Sandiford, they will be too busy working for money, they will be talking about bottles of whisky, not rum. What nonsense is he talking about? Every minute he wants an election, or he wants an invasion — everything with a "tion" — invasion, election, all these sorts of things he wants all the time. (*Asides*).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. Order.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Rather than sitting down and doing your parliamentary work before coming in here....

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I hope that the hon. member is not suggesting that every minute I want an invasion, because if he did say that I think that remark should be withdrawn, because I wish to make it absolutely clear...(ASIDES).....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order. Order. (*ASIDES*). Please, please, Order!

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman,....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I cannot have two hon. members on their feet; please take your seats. (*ASIDES*). Will the Hon. Minister please take his seat! That is not a point of order, will the hon. member please take his seat.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

Dr. HAYNES: This is an important point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will you please continue about the Resolution before the House?

Dr. HAYNES: The hon. member is suggesting that I.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is this a point of order now to a point of order?

Dr. HAYNES: This is the point of order I am trying to make that the suggestion is being made that I want an

invasion of this country. Now that is a serious matter, and that remark should be withdrawn.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair does not so interpret the remarks of the Hon. Minister. Please continue.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I would even go further, you know a lot about the invasion. It touched your corns.

Mr. CHAIRMAN ordered certain remarks to be struck from the record at this stage.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. Some very serious things are getting out of hand in this Chamber. I want to refer you again to Rule 28(7) which states: "No member may impute improper motives to another member," and if a member on either side of this House is accused of wanting an invasion and you say there is nothing unparliamentary about that, I believe that things are getting out of hand in here, and that is a matter which the hon. member should be asked to withdraw and it should be struck from the record. If that is not an improper motive, what is, Mr. Chairman? I am asking for a ruling. We cannot sit down here when members are being accused of being treasonable and things like that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will you please take your seat? (ASIDES). Order, please! There must be order in the Chamber. The hon. member for St. Michael South is challenging the ruling of the Chair? I have already ruled on that. The Hon. Minister may please continue.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1978-79, No. 24

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is necessitated by the fact that subsequent to the submission of the Estimates a number of important visits from distinguished persons from abroad took place in the current financial year. These visits were not intimated to the Government at the time of the formulation of the expenditure in March, 1978. In order that the usual and customary hospitality be afforded to these distinguished persons, Government finds it necessary to supplement the Estimates.

The visits are very clearly set out in the Addendum to the Resolution, and they are —

- (a) the delegation from the European Parliament in June 1978;
- (b) the President of the Republic of Venezuela in October, 1978;
- (c) the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom in January 1979; and
- (d) the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada in January 1979.

As hon. members would be aware, some time this year it is necessary for a successor Agreement to the Lomé Convention to be renegotiated, as under the terms of the existing Convention it expires in the year 1980 and the provisions for a review of the Convention are very clearly set out. Discussions had to be initiated in the year 1978 and should be concluded in the year 1979 to permit a passage of time for ratification by the nine European members of the European Economic Community and the some 56 odd Parliaments or Executive Agencies in the African, Caribbean and Pacific States.

The European Parliament is an integral part of the European Economic Community Institutions, and in order for them to familiarise themselves with the current of opinion prevailing in various countries within the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, a number of visits were suggested to these respective countries on the part of parliamentary delegations.

3.55 p.m.

The Caribbean Area was visited in June, 1978 by a number of members of the European Parliament and I am very pleased to say that in Barbados, Trinidad and Jamaica where these ladies and gentlemen visited we were able from the point of view of industry, agriculture, tourism, and other sectors of the economy — both private and government — to indicate our views on the workings of the existing Lomé Convention and thoughts on its defects and the provisions for the successor agreement.

In respect of the visit by the President of Venezuela, for some time the incumbent President of Venezuela had been known as a champion of the cause of the Third World in a number of international fora. As a result of certain representations, a visit was scheduled to Barbados in October, 1978. Again hon. members on both sides of the House would have had an opportunity to observe the extent of the hospitality which was provided by the Government of Barbados and also the extent of the opportunity which was given to all sections of the community to indicate clearly to the incumbent President our views on the Caribbean-Venezuelan relations. I may say that as a result of the visit a number of bi-lateral arrangements between Barbados and Venezuela were brought into focus, and I think it is true to say that there is greater understanding of the complexities of the

bureaucratic system in the Republic of Venezuela, I also believe it is true to say that both at the private sector level and at Governmental level a number of methods have been devised to ensure that these bureaucratic systems can be overcome and meaningful progress made in the development of our relationships, trading and otherwise, between the republic of Venezuela and Barbados. Indeed, during the time of the visit of the President of Venezuela the opportunity was taken specifically to deal with such questions as discriminatory tariffs arising under the Andean Pact and other matters.

The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom also visited Barbados in January 1979. I do not think anyone could have foreseen in March last year that Guadeloupe in the Caribbean would have been the venue for a Heads of Government Summit Conference early in 1979. In view of the fact that these Heads of Government were visiting a territory in the Caribbean as near to Barbados as Guadeloupe, the opportunity was taken to invite the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom to pass through Barbados for discussions with the Prime Minister and other Ministers, to lobby and enlist support on the point of view of the Caribbean in relation to a number of thorny matters within the European Economic Community and of a global nature. And in January this year, consequent upon agreement having been reached at Trade Ministers level in the negotiations for the successor agreement to the Canada West Indies Agreement, Foreign Minister Jamieson of Canada who had been designed to sign the successor agreement between the Caribbean states and the Government of Canada was officially entertained by the Government of Barbados. The Government of Canada is one of our most reliable donors and a number of projects are being financed in Barbados at this very time through Canadian International aid. The most obvious of these are the airport extension, the Water Works extension and the activities of CIDA in a number

of other areas. It is for these reasons that the Government thought it worthwhile to incur the expenditure which we incurred, and accordingly it is necessary to supplement the Estimates to the tune of \$40,000 to ensure that when the commitments come in in respect of these visits there will be sufficient funds to meet them within the current financial year.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. SIMMONS: I beg to second that.

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

On the motion of Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN, seconded by Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of two Resolutions in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN seconded by Mr. SIMMONS the Resolutions were read a second time and passed.

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, 30th January, 1979 at 12 noon.

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 30th January, 1979 at 12 noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
4.05 p.m.