

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1976 – 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 2nd October, 1979.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.15 p.m.

PRESENT

His Honour W. C. B. HINDS, J.P. (Speaker); Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW, LL.D., (Leader of the Opposition); Mr. R. St. C. WEEKES, J.P.; Hon. L. S. CRAIG, (Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment); Hon. H. deB. FORDE, S.C., M.A., LL.B., (Attorney General and Minister of External Affairs); Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, LL.M.; Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, (Minister of Health and National Insurance); Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs); Mr. J. G. ODLE, B.Sc., (Chairman of Committees); 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); Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW, (Acting Minister of Communications and Works); Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, M.Sc. (Econ.); His Honour E. E. ALLEYNE, LL.M., (Deputy Speaker).

Prayers were read.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES entered the House and took his seat.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meetings of the 24th and 31st July, 1979 were confirmed.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to lay the Report of the Accountant General for the Financial year 1978-79.

Accounts and Statements for the month of May 1979 prepared by the Accountant General.

Accounts and Statements for the months of June and July, 1979, prepared by the Accountant General.

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

The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1979.

The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 3) Order, 1979.

The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 4) Order, 1979.

Also the Report of the Standing Insurance Committee and Statements of Account of the General Insurance Fund for the year 1977-78.

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 7) Order, 1979.

The Consumption Tax (Amendment) Order, 1979.

The Hire-Purchase and Credit-Sale Agreements (Control) (Amendment) Order, 1979.

The Motor Vehicle Tax Order, 1979.

Also, Mr. Speaker, the Report of the National Insurance Board on its Operations under the Sugar Workers (Provident Fund) Act for the period 1st January to 31st December, 1978.

Report and Statement of Accounts of the Severance Fund for the period January – December, 1978.

Report and Statement of Accounts of the Severance Fund for the year ended 31st December, 1978.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the Second Annual Report of the National Housing Corporation for the period 1974-1975.

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

Statements showing sums advanced to the Postmaster General for the payment of Money Orders for the months of March to June, 1979.

Statements showing Money Order Transactions through the Crown Agents for Overseas Government and Administrations for the months of March to June, 1979.

The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Regulations, 1979.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the Report of the Audit of the Accounts of the National Insurance Fund for the year ended 31st December, 1978.

NOTICES

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:-

Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1979.

Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 3) Order, 1979.

Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 4) Order, 1979.

Resolution to vary the conditions governing the payment of gratuities to officers appointed on contract by providing for the inclusion of the "House Allowance" in the computation of the gratuities.
12.25 p.m.

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

Resolution to approve the vesting of certain lands in the National Housing Corporation for the purpose of Housing development.

Resolution to approve an amendment to Clause (c) of the Schedule to Resolution No. 66/1978 of 13th November, 1978.

Resolution to approve of the sale of land at Bridge Road, St. Michael, to the Misses M. and E. Gooding.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, there is one other item I am aware of which has not come down, and I shall be seeking leave at a later stage to give notice of that Resolution.

I beg to give notice of the following Bills:-

A Bill to amend certain enactments relating to the payment of pensions, gratuities and other allowances.

A Bill to grant an additional sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and appropriate the sum for the service of the Island for the financial year ended 31st March, 1979.

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

A Bill to amend the Registration of Judgments Act.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On motion of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN seconded by Hon. H. deB. FORDE, a Bill to amend certain enactments relating to the payment of pensions, gratuities and other allowances, was read a first time.

On motion of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN seconded by Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW, a Bill to grant an additional sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and appropriate the sum for the service of the Island for the financial year ended 31st March, 1979, was read a first time.

On motion of Hon. H. deB. FORDE seconded by Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW, a Bill to amend the Registration of Judgments Act, was read a first time.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 34 asked by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, is ready.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42 and 45 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting.

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Government Business be now taken.

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is the instant order of the day.

Mr. SANDIFORD entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Order No. 5.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY
ACQUISITION OF LAND AT COLLYMORE
ROCK, ST. MICHAEL**

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 5 stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Collymore Rock, St. Michael for housing development.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution which seeks Parliamentary approval for the acquisition of the property known as "Valery" in the constituency of St. Michael South Central is one which I am particularly happy to have piloted through Parliament. It consists of 67,558 square metres of land and is owned by H & G. Limited.

The purpose of the Resolution is for Government to make sure that its housing policies be met, and in spite of the growing number of applications, Government is doing everything within its power to provide for the people of this country a better way of life, particularly in the field of housing.

I came into contact soon after I held the Ministry of Labour and Community Services with certain aspects of "Valery", but it was primarily due, Mr. Speaker, to having no playing fields in the very densely populated area of Brittons Hill in the constituency of St. Michael South Central that I took it upon myself at that time to try and make sure and to commit myself and the Government that we were going to provide for the people of that constituency a proper playing field and housing programme. But as Government continues to push on with its housing programme, it is regrettable, and I am going to make this plea, and I believe it is my final plea, to the residents who occupy Government rental units and those who occupy houses which Government built for the purpose of selling, to pay their rents and rent arrears, and to live up to the tenancy agreement which they have signed on the occasion of getting the houses. There are some \$6 million outstanding for houses that were built in the past at Oxnards, in Friendship and in Eden Lodge. Some of them have only paid the down-payment, but you cannot always blame the people.

Dr. CADDLE entered the Chamber and took his seat.
12.35 p.m.

Some people have only made the down payment but you cannot always blame people because if certain guidelines are not taken they are not going to be met and many of the lands were not even vested in the National Housing Corporation whereby the National Housing Corporation could have taken the necessary

action and today we are saddled with some \$6 million in outstanding arrears.

I have directed the National Housing Corporation to write letters in the legal luminaries or in the court boys' language as would come from W. H. Bryan and of which I would know better than anybody else in the world, I am asking them to write letters to them, appealing to them that if they pay their arrears their families, their brothers and sisters would be able to enjoy the facilities which the Government provides in the field of Housing. I will go out of my way, Sir, to write them a third letter appealing to them again.

I have made the appeal in the Press. I have done the public relations job myself, appealing to them. Many of them have responded and I have been assured by the Legal Department of the National Housing Corporation that by the end of December there should be some \$3 million collected. This is in the Housing affair, Sir, but what is really hurtful is to see some of the Lawyers in Bridgetown have collected the people's money and have held the cheques in their office and when they are called upon by the National Housing Corporation for payment they have replied that it slipped them, some of them 7, 8, and 9 months.

Now this is outrageous and I have asked them and given a directive to the Legal Executive Officers to report the culprits. I have asked them to report those legal culprits in Bridgetown to the Bar Council, Sir, and to do everything that is within their power to bring them to Justice. I want to put my hands on some of these big boys. Too often the little boys get caught. I am going to tackle the big boys. As I have said in the past, like over there, I have instructed them and I know that I am going to hear about the bitter perils which the people have had to go through for the past three years. What is important is to have that money paid in and I have made very sure that they are going to be brought to Justice. All the Smith and Smiths and that crowd I am going to tackle single-handed.

Secondly, Sir, in the rental area, there is something like \$2 million outstanding. Can you imagine, Sir, that some people pay at the rate of \$6 per week and they owe something like \$3,000? Now we were not in power then. Some of them owe \$3,000 and have had the gall to say that Barrow, and I do not believe Nigel Barrow, that Barrow told them do not pay. I have warned them, Sir, I do not know if they mean Nigel Barrow or John Barrow or who, but they say Barrow told them do not pay at \$6 a week. Some of them owe \$3,000 in rent.

When you send out a Collector to collect rents at \$6 a week and pay them 10% of that \$6 it is \$5.40 in truth and in fact that the person is paying for that house and I am going to say on the floor of the House of

Assembly, Sir, and I make this statement boldly that Barbadians can be proud of the finest housing in Barbados and of the National Housing Corporation, in the Caribbean and in some parts of the World and I have just seen a lot of them. Barbados can be justly proud. They have a three-bedroom house with toilet and bath. A new stamp from this Government.

Barbadians can be proud of this and that is why we are putting up a land bank. We are doing this to make sure that there will be no time lag, no friendship that you are going to build a house before you have the land vested, you put the people in them and then the Government cannot get back the money to help other persons, Sir. We can be proud.

We started a Housing Programme for lower income earners in this country. I think it was sometime in 1947. I am subject to correction, Sir, and for the first time houses were built at the Pine. As a matter of fact, I am reminded that they started in Goodland, Sir, although we were criticised that the toilets were in the yard. I remember this. People had to put up a curtain to go into the bathroom. I remember that. There were difficult times in Barbados.

I have just come from certain parts of the World with the newly appointed Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I would like to gracefully congratulate him today for outpacing his old rival who fought so hard against him for a very long time. Indeed, I would still like to warn him to beware of the Greeks when they bring you gifts. That is what you have to be beware of. It is indeed with a degree of satisfaction that my long time friend has been relegated, the member for St. Michael South West, to the post of Minister without anything. I know that according to your constitution, Sir, that in three years' time you will no longer be President and no longer be Leader. There is a strange wind blowing through.

Mr. SPEAKER: But we are now listening to the Minister for Valery.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: All of that is in it. I am dealing with the assignment of the new portfolios, those I would have to be shadowed by. When I am Acting Leader of Government Business I would have to be shadowed by the Barbados Scholar and the Economist. That is what I am dealing with, Sir. All this is with the acquisition, Sir. It is all part and parcel of that. Sir, I think it would be undignified of me if I did not congratulate him after rubbing shoulder to shoulder with him on the Great Wall of China.

I know that there are some of those people who would like to burn down our houses and talk about killing us. I hope they would recognise the fact how we

walked shoulder to shoulder, while they want to kill us and they had our pictures in the papers on that slow boat to China and so on.

Sir, today I had the opportunity to lay here a Report from 1974. The National Housing Corporation did not submit, according to Law, an Annual Report until today.

12.45 p.m.

By May next year you will have 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977 and 1978 in hand. That is the stand you always talk about, the Great Combination giving account of the country's funds and managing them. If you do not know that, you are living in a dream world. I heard a speech the other night, and I will say this. The Prime Minister likes to bat at No. 3 and the Leader of the Opposition will come last to bat because they are the big popes, but you come in the middle, the middle man, in the middle again. However I try with you, middle management. As my constituent I will try to defend him when the occasion arises. I wish you well, I hope you will carry out your research as well as you can, I know you will make sure that Mr. Speaker.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the hon. member addressing the Chair?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Yes, Sir, I would not address the Gallery, Sir, I have been in here too long. I know that he will make sure that the debates are going to be lively. Of course, I am no economic adviser on planning and finance, but since my colleague has a B.Sc., and he said he sat at the foot of — what is the gentleman's name now? — I cannot remember now, but I thought he would have had finance and planning works. Of course, I know he went to the University of Jamaica and he knew every little thing, how to get the money cashed as soon as you get to the airport in China, so he is the ideal person to be in charge of civil aviation, foreign affairs and tourism, but the economic planning thing I am going to really enjoy with the budgetary proposals. Of course all this would be the acquisition, because we have to deal with the Estimates to get money for the acquisition of lands, and the Prime Minister in his budgetary proposals should introduce some proposal to help with the acquisition of land, to raise the money, and I am looking forward to that great debate between the present Minister of Finance and Planning and the shadow Minister of Finance and Planning. I recall the Leader of the Opposition saying on one occasion when we were on that side that we were only shadows of doubt, we were not shadow Ministers, but you have now taken your rightful place as a father of Parliament, you now sit on the left hand of God, not on his right.

Sir, it gives me great pleasure to introduce this Resolution for the acquisition of land. I sincerely hope

that my plea from the highest place of the land will not go on deaf ears. I am appealing to the residents who occupy Government houses to face up to their responsibility. They can find time to go and pay DaCosta & Musson and Manning & Co. for their televisions and refrigerators before they repossess them, and if Government is providing this type of housing for the people of Barbados at such a low rental I feel they have a responsibility not to me, Lionel Craig, but to the country and to themselves. I also appeal to them that they should make around where they are living even more beautiful than Golf Club Road and The Garden. I am going to try and assist my colleague with the litter, Sir, I want to feel very very proud of my housing programme and I am going to do everything I can.

We have just brought in a number of garbage bins which were imported here, I think, for \$26 duty free, and I think one would cost some \$40 or \$45 in Bridgetown, and we are going to give them to the people for the \$26 and arrange a small deduction per week to make sure that they can take care of the litter properly. The Minister of Health will have to let the trucks go around and we will sit down and hammer out the approach to it, so that when we give them the gold medal they will have the stamp of the Great Combination, because we have been given a gold medal for good management in trying days and difficult times. I am justly proud to be a member of any organisation that the World Bank, the IMF and the Times newspaper, a newspaper of international repute, can say has done a good job. The World Bank said the Government of Barbados would have got a gold medal for good management especially in trying times.

With those few remarks, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, my vocal chords cannot resonate today in the usual manner because of a slight cold, however in the interest of the best parliamentary practice, as I understand it, the Resolution which stands before this Hon. House asks that it be resolved that the House of Assembly approve the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of a given parcel of land known as Valery, and I propose to confine my contribution to the purpose of the Resolution.

The Democratic Labour Party before leaving office was very concerned about the provision of adequate amenities for the people of Brittons Hill. The people of Brittons Hill and the people of St. Michael South Central were given a solemn undertaking by their representative that he would do everything to make sure that this property known as Valery be acquired by Government and made available to the people of Barbados, including

of course the people of Brittons Hill and the associated areas.

12.55 p.m.

I am pleased to say that as their representative, by many public statements made outside this Chamber and elsewhere that one has been able to apply enough pressure to make sure that this acquisition will go through. One aspect of this Resolution — that concerns me specifically is the statement that it is being acquired for the purpose of housing. I would like on behalf of the people of St. Michael South Central, and on behalf of the people of Brittons Hill, an area which has produced some of the greatest sportsmen of Barbados, an area where people under the greatest physical difficulties have been able to produce players of the highest calibre in various games. Indeed the quality of soft ball cricket at the Valery playing field is perhaps one of the highest in this country.

But I would have liked to hear and know whether the opportunity could not be taken to provide within the context of a housing area some sort of social centre. And I would like to make a plea for some consideration to be given for that particular area to have some part of it designated for community health care. I believe that because of its nearness to a major industrial sector it presents an opportunity to make a beginning in the area of industrial health care. I believe that all of this can be accommodated within that particular area as one looks at the existing physical structure. I would also hope that an adequate playing field and pavilion would form part of any development of that area. I would also hope that adequate provision would be made for those people who already have houses and rent spots on the land to be given the opportunity to purchase these spots; depending of course on the state of the houses, that some kind of financial help would be given to purchase these spots and so assist the people with housing. I would therefore have preferred this Resolution to state that the property which has a tremendous potential for the development of the area would not only deal with housing but with other aspects of development which should be considered.

In summary, the provision of a social centre, the provision of a community health centre — depending of course on the plans of the Ministry of Health — the possibility of looking into industrial health care facilities because of its proximity to a major industrial centre, and recognizing the historical value of the small bit of land provided by the late Laddie Challenor who always gave his support to the youngsters in the area and did his best to allow them to play in the area — for these reasons I hope that the present administration will enlarge on the facility. And finally, I hope that those people who have been renting spots on Valery will be

given the opportunity to purchase those spots at the cheapest possible rate.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this is a victory for democracy; I believe it is a victory for the people who through their representative have made it absolutely clear that they will settle for nothing other than adequate facilities in that area; and indeed, because of the strength of this present Opposition, because we are prepared to come out and articulate the needs of the people of this country, the Government finds itself in a position that it has to respond to these needs. In that respect I am very happy to give my support to this Resolution, bearing in mind that I have taken the opportunity to suggest to those ears that might be willing to hear other possibilities for the use of the particular area.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Resolution of the Minister of Housing for the acquisition of land at Valery, Brittons Hills.

One of the most urgent and pressing social needs in this country is housing, and those of us who are daily accessible to the people of this country will realize that large numbers of people, particularly young people, are daily trying to get a house from the National Housing Corporation or indeed from any other available supplier.

The record of the Democratic Labour Party in housing, as everybody knows, is a very sordid one for a number of reasons. One reason is because there has been a wide gap between promise and performance. Year after year they promised people a certain number of units but usually they fell short. The record of the Democratic Labour Party is also sordid because of the various shenanigans that took place by a number of the people involved.

I heard the Hon. Minister say that the Government is acquiring portions of land to build up a land bank in order to carry out the thrust in housing in this country. But I want to sound a warning. The Democratic Labour Party also acquired land to set up a land bank for housing, but every time they acquired a parcel of land a number of leading members of the Democratic Labour Party made sure that a piece of the land was set aside for them. I want it understood that Government housing was intended to provide housing for people who did not already own a house. The Democratic Labour Party as a Government said this but did something different. 1.05 p.m.

I know, Mr. Speaker, that John Yearwood has houses in one housing area which he owned when he was Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Housing. I know that the hon. member for St. Michael South West had a house at Wanstead. I know that Philip Greaves who

was Minister of Housing had property in a Government housing area. I know that the hon. member for St. Michael South Central who gets up making pious statements about a victory for democracy owns one down in Wanstead.

Dr. HAYNES rose.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the hon. member rising on a point of order?

Dr. HAYNES: I would like to draw to the attention of this Hon. House that I have never owned any house in any housing area in this country or anywhere else where I have worked.

Mr. SPEAKER: Point taken.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I am glad that the hon. member has answered, because it affords me an opportunity to bring to the attention of the people of Barbados the member's attitude towards these things. You do not hide these things, Mr. Speaker. The records of the Registry are available and I give an undertaking that I will stand by what I say, that the hon. member owns a house or has ownership of a house at Wanstead. He can get up and deny it as much as he likes.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do I understand that the hon. member is giving this House an assurance that he will produce this evidence? Is the hon. member giving that undertaking?

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, I can get the information from the Registry.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the purpose of the production?

Hon. L. R. TULL: It is because the hon. member gets up on the floor of this House and denies what he knows is the truth. Mr. Speaker, I understand that Frederick Smith owns some land up in the same land bank area that the Government is acquiring for housing; and when the hon. member gets up and makes emotive statements about a victory for democracy, and that type of statement, it is time that a bluff of that type be called.

I do not know, Mr. Speaker, precisely what has been acquired so far by this Government for housing; but I trust that my reference to the Democratic Labour Party will not creep into this administration. With respect to the acquisition of Valery, I am glad that the Minister has acquired this land because the people of Brittons Hill are entitled to have the same social amenities and the same facilities as people in any other district in Barbados. I do not believe that the people in Brittons Hill should

be hard done by because of the nature of its representation; but in the anxiety of the hon. member to get up in here and say in his usual way "I am the only jack in the sea", he reveals his alarming ignorance of what is happening in that area.

It is common knowledge, with the exception of the hon. member who has just sat down that the Government is building a polyclinic at Wildey; but when people appeared to be foolish and ignorant, they are not always foolish and ignorant. When the clinic starts to go up, the hon. member will speak and buy a \$1 500 spread in the Nation Newspaper and he will say that on the 2nd of October he said that there should be a polyclinic in that area. He gets up and speaks about a victory for democracy when the Minister of Health has repeatedly said the polyclinic would be built at Wildey; and there is nothing in the world that will convince me that the hon. member did not know this.

I do not know much about health matters, but I would like to know what is the difference or distinction between a polyclinic that performs a service for people and an institution that performs a similar service because of an industrial accident. I have always made the point in here particularly in respect of the past administration's development in housing that there was a lack of integration in planning. They would go into areas and would not think of health services and the like. I believe that we should see about the provision of such services; and I have the undertaking of the hon. member for St. James that the housing development at Valerie will not be one of those housing developments that will become associated with Democratic Labour Party planning but with a development that will take into consideration all the social needs of the people, and will have all the facilities for recreation, health and the like. We are not going to throw a lot of developments up in Barbados without taking into account the social needs of the people. Mr. Speaker, I have the greatest pleasure in supporting this Resolution.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I have great pleasure in supporting this Resolution, particularly since it concerns an area of Brittons Hill which I have had the honour to represent for something like eight years. I want to congratulate the Minister of Housing, Lands and Environment for acquiring what is something like 16.964 acres of land, and if you go into the metric system, something like 67,568 square metres.

It is important to emphasise that this is 16 acres of land and it is important to emphasise a few other things. The Government is acquiring this land in circumstances where a private individual was trying to get it for other purposes which might not necessarily have led to the proper development of the area. I want to

make that point so as to go back to something which the hon. member for St. Michael South Central has said. 1.15 p.m.

He would make it appear in this House as though he has been able to apply enough pressure to get the Government to bring down this Resolution to the House. It is a pity that he is becoming so self-centred, a real great pity. Every movement that he thinks he makes is suffering by his I-ism. There is no pressure that he can apply on any Government at this stage to get them to do anything at all. That is the first point he must get straight, and I will tell you why, because he stands condemned in his association with the Democratic Labour Party and on this very issue. The hon. member should know that in the very Brittons Hill area there is an area of land which was used by all the clubs and people up there including Radcliffe Club. He did not know Radcliffe Club until he came into politics. Some of us dealt with clubs a long time before we were in politics. Radcliffe was using this area of land in the Brittons Hill area, and the last Government gave permission to their Jewish friends, Bernstein and crowd, a leading white member of the Democratic Labour Party, because they like to talk whiteness now in this country, to purchase the area of land to put houses on it and chased off the poor Radcliffe cricketers. That is a fact. If the hon. member for St. Michael North Central can speak freely he will know, because some representation was made to him too. I told them to make representations to him.

I raised the matter with the past Government; not one thing was done on their behalf. The hon. member for St. John had better keep quiet. The same area was represented by Mr. Frederick Gladstone Smith who was then a Minister of the Government in a position to put pressure. No pressure was put to do anything about it. I will go a little further. I have got the history about their pact. In addition to that, when I raised the issue on the floor of the House, two Ministers of Government asked what must the Government do? Are they to go all over the place looking for playing fields for people? That is how they treated the people of Brittons Hill. The hon. member was then a leading member of the Democratic Labour Party. He never fails to remind us that he was a school-boy member. The hon. member for St. Michael North Central might not remember, but he was then the second most powerful man in the land and I would like to remind him now because he thinks he is buddy dovey until the times comes for you. Nothing was done by that Government at the time. Truly a victory for democracy occurred on the 2nd September, 1976, when we threw out a lot of you because it is only since then that any actions are being taken in Brittons Hill to look at the serious problems of development in Brittons Hill that existed then.

I brought a Resolution in here dealing with Bonnetts. Private Members' Business was set aside on several occasions, you will recall, Mr. Speaker, because you used to complain about the fact that we could not get Private Members' Business done, until the Resolution went through the door. We have never been able to acquire Bonnetts, Crane Pasture, or Bourda pasture to do exactly some of these things we are talking about for the people of Brittons Hill. Yes they had to wait. They waited for 15 years and now 18 years and we are getting to the position where things are being done for the people of Brittons Hill. That is why I got 89.6% of the votes up there and I am getting 95% next time too because I am talking facts. I am not getting up with any great I-ism all of a sudden as though you did anything. You did what for the people of Brittons Hill? Since you managed to fluke a set, you walk about pretending you did something for the poor people, but you never did anything for any poor people in Brittons Hill prior to the time you ran for a seat. Look at the record. Not even five cents you even gave to anybody to buy a soft ball in Brittons Hill prior to 1976 when you became a candidate. I like to get these things straight on the record so that it would not be forgotten in this country, because people have short memories.

In the Bonnetts area now we are acquiring the equivalent of this area for proper housing development and we have acquired Valery for proper housing development and proper playing fields, and the Minister of Education has spoken about the development of the polyclinic further up the road, and I am sure the acting Minister of Communications and Works will get up and speak about another development, a proper primary school in the Wildey area, and they will all be completed between now and the next two to three years. That is what the people are going to get up there, a total development of this area with proper shopping for poor artisans who have not got it. I do not want to hear the hon. member get and blow his own trumpet again around here. He can blow it for people who do not know the history of these things, but for those of us who have been monitoring the fact that for 15 years his party has done nothing, could you believe that he has any political sense to get up and talk about a victory and applying pressure when he was in Government for 15 years. He had a representative for that area; he had two representatives before they went to single member constituency; he had Mr. Patsy Springer in there for a long time; he had Mr. Sleepy Smith, he had his Government in power. All he is doing is criticising the Democratic Labour Party for their gross inefficiency. That is all your speech amounts to. Perhaps the hon. member today is greater than all the Democratic Labour Party put together, but it is a complete criticism of his Deputy Leader, a criticism of the first Deputy Leader, his Deputy Deputy Leader. I do not think he will ever criticise the big McGuffy. I do not think so; but the hon. member had better be careful.

When he is on a platform alone he has a lot of mouth, but when he comes in here with facts and direct confrontation, I will challenge him on the radio too on some of the points he is making. Direct confrontation one must have with you point by point so that you do not mislead this country. That is what it is coming to. I have warned the hon. member to be very careful of how he is speaking in here in future, because every time he gets up he is going to get a reply and every time he has a meeting I am going to come for you too in the very area point by point, so that you will be exposed for what you are, an aspirant to power and power only at any cost; nothing else but that; not for service. You see politics in terms of power to the top, nothing else. You have not deviated at all. You come in here with what victory for democracy what! Victory for democracy no doubt across your back. Applying pressure? The only pressure you can apply is to the Pressure Group, nay-nay people. That is the only body you can apply pressure to, nobody else in here. I told your leader ever since he cannot apply pressure on anybody other than yourself perhaps either. Nay-nay people you can apply pressure to.

For years we have been begging your past Government to do something up there. You sat in the party and did nothing. You sat in the party near to the throne and did nothing. Now that the man is toppled from the throne and you see yourself creeping up behind, you come up and say it is me who has done it. I wish Frank Walcott was in here and was speaking on my side because he has the sort of language to deal with you that I cannot even find. That is the whole point, and that is why we will consistently have a proper position of planning for the whole of the Brittons Hill area. There are other programmes too, but I am not going to tell you about them now because I know you will go up there this evening in the shop as the hon. member runs behind Minister Blackman. Every time he goes through the area he is behind him. I know you will go up there this evening in the shop and say it is your ideas, but I will leave it for Dr. Blackman though.

Mr. ODLE: Mr. Speaker, like all the other members who have spoken I would like to congratulate the Minister for taking this step to acquire Valery. I am indeed very happy for the people of Brittons Hill. Nonetheless I must confess that I am not altogether happy about people in another area, namely, Belair, St. George, and this is land which is already acquired by Government, which is owned by the people of this country, and I would have liked to ask the Minister when will Belair be vested in the Housing Corporation and when we.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Did I hear the hon. member say Boscobelle?
1.25 p.m.

Mr. ODLE: I believe you will be hearing about that from the Hon. Minister, Sir, but I would certainly like to know when the problems at Belair will be resolved as they are indeed very pressing and very urgent and I do hope that something will be done quickly. That is all I want to say.

Hon. DeL. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want first of all to say that I am very disappointed in the hon. member for St. Michael South Central. Today he got up and had the gall to say that it was because of his putting pressure or articulating the grievances of the masses that this Government was forced to, among other things, acquire Valery. Now I have said this before and I am going to serve you a warning once again. I am going to ride your back right up to 1981 because you never seem to come.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it that the hon. member is addressing the Chair.

Hon. DeL. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am addressing the Chair but I am referring to the hon. member for St. Michael South Central. I will repeat that up to 1981 I will be riding the hon. member for St. Michael South Central.

Mr. SPEAKER: All around Valery?

Hon. DeL. BRADSHAW: Yes, all around Valery and even in St. Peter when he comes down there. You see, Sir, Valery was an area that occupied the attention of the former Government for a long time. The position was that they were unable to take positive action on Valery.

As the Hon. Attorney General has said, Valery had a cricket pasture. There was a team playing on Valery Pasture. Radcliffe was the name of the team. People like Barabbas, people like Neblett and all of them belonged to the Radcliffe Club. Time and time again the members of that Cricket Club approached the former administration asking them to allow them to keep or even purchase Valery Cricket Pasture.

I will go as far as to say that the representative for Brittons Hill, who was then Minister of Communications and Works, Mr. Frederick Smith, was patron of the same Radcliffe Cricket Club. His name used to appear on all of the leaflets and letterheads. That is what I know. Although he was patron of the Radcliffe Cricket Club he could not find it convenient to allow those cricketers to have or continue to use Valery Pasture. There were other pastures in the area that the Radcliffe Club approached the same representative asking him to see if he could help them get. Nothing was done.

Let me move on a little further. I do not want the hon. member to run out because I am speaking on the

acquisition of the Valery land about which the hon. member says that he was applying pressure because I want to expose him for what he is. The acquisition of Valery was initiated well before 1978. I took an active part in that. I visited the Valery lands and I saw on record where the Hon. Minister, who introduced this Resolution today, had taken steps to enquire about Valery and its acquisition. So the hon. member should not have the gall to come in here today and say that he has caused this Government to acquire it because Valery was occupying the attention of this Government in 1977.

In 1977 I was Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Housing and I acted as Minister of Housing and I went on the site and spoke to the residents there. How could he have the gall to come in here and say he put pressure on the Government? Does he not understand that Valery was there way before 1978 when he came into the House of Assembly? What pressure could he have applied? But to me it is just like the playing field. Can the hon. member deny it, when he went into St. George in Parish Land and told the people that he was buying it or that it belonged to him and that he was giving them a playing field? They are accustomed to that sort of thing from him.

I would go as far as to say that nothing he says in my life time I will believe, absolutely nothing. I have no respect for anything the hon. member has to say because I have often found him to be a stranger to the truth.

Mr. Speaker, in congratulating the Hon. Minister for acquiring the land at this site I want the people of Barbados to understand quite clearly where we came from. We did not wait until an Election year to purchase Valery. We did not go out to the other areas because there is a tendency to feel and believe that this Government is a Government that applies more victimisation tactics and that if a member on the other side wants something done in his constituency that this Government would deny him his wish. Here is a classic example of the democracy displayed by this Government.

We have found it fit to go into Valery where we were resoundingly beaten and still acquire the land, and it is because we feel that the interest of the people come first and that is why we have set about to acquire Valery to provide the amenities and facilities including playing fields for the people of that area.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt in my mind that proper playing facilities will be provided. That is part and parcel of the proper planning that this Government is well-known for. We will not do like the former administration and develop an housing area without proper services with no provision for schools, no provision for a Community Centre and no provision for a playing field. That was the sort of planning that transpired during the last administration.

Whenever we embark on or decide to have a Housing Development we have included services such as recreational facilities, playing fields, hard courts. Let me make the hon. member understand. The Pine Hill is adjacent to the Valery Lands and there was a Community Centre there and the people from Brittons Hill used it. I have said the people from Brittons Hill used it and I know this better than the hon. member.

There is also an area within half a mile distance of Valery with a playing field and there will be very shortly within a quarter mile of the same Valery a hard court but the hon. member does not understand. He does not read and see that provisions are made in the Estimates for these. The people in the Valery area will be serviced by hard courts as well as a new playing field which is at present under construction.
1.35 p.m.

It is hoped to be completed by the end of this present month, so then let him not claim that there was any pressure put on us, we see community services as a must. As far as his wanting or appealing to the Government to build some health centre, let me tell the hon. member, let me endorse what the Hon. Attorney General has said, that there will be a polyclinic which will be within reasonable walking distance, and I am quite sure that when the Hon. Minister of Health decided to build the polyclinic there she took one very important factor into consideration, that this is a densely populated area of Valery and Brittons Hill, and those people will be serviced by that polyclinic, and that is what I have always referred to as proper comprehensive planning by an administration.

Now, Sir, in 1966, I think it was, one of the Opposition members referred to the houses that the Barbados Labour Party had built in Princess Royal as pig pens. The representative of Pinelands referred to the houses that were built by the Barbados Labour Party as pig pens, he said the only creatures deserve to live in them were pigs. Now 1961 to 1976, 15 live long years, the pig pens were there and absolutely nothing was done to them. But what have you seen? The return of the Barbados Labour Party administration, and we have started, not only started, Mr. Speaker, completed two units, and very very shortly, during this month, we will be embarking on another programme to rectify the whole area.

Mr. Speaker, it would be useful for me to let the Chamber know what really happened, the living conditions of those people. People lived upstairs and people lived downstairs. It is true that when the houses were built it suited the particular age, that was the "in" thing. If they knew that the houses were not fit it was for them to improve them. Health standards need to be improved and we are doing it because we feel that we

owe it to the people of the area. Not only that, we have seen the roads in the housing areas in a very bad state of disrepair and we have decided to make funds available to correct this great problem. So you see we have not only decided to acquire land, I want to give the Hon. Chamber the assurance that I firmly believe that the Hon. Minister will make sure that the housing areas are fit places for people to live, and I am sure that the people will be justly proud of the services provided in the housing areas by this Government, and in particular the Minister of Housing, and I feel happy today to associate myself with this Resolution.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, successive Governments in Barbados have been purchasing land and have been constructing houses for the masses of people in this country. After listening to this debate, one would have thought that this was the first time that this particular policy of constructing houses and of providing facilities was being embarked upon. A massive housing programme to improve the housing stock and to improve the quality of housing was developed during the regime of the Democratic Labour Party. Prior to that the Barbados Labour Party also had a housing programme. We are confident enough from this side that we can say that the housing programme developed in the period after 1961 was a decided and definite improvement on the housing programme prior to 1961. We would hope that with improvement in technology, with improvement in training, that the programme developed after 1976 would be an improvement of what went before. All of this is what should be part of progress, but we will have to wait and see what are the fruits after 1976.

Now, from the attack that has been launched on the member St. Michael South Central we would have thought that he had asked, one would get the impression that he had asked something that was outrageous, and when we examine the points that he made we wonder what is all the sound and fury about. He asked that there should be a playing field provided. This is part of integrated planning, and it is quite desirable that in any substantial housing development that amenities ancillary to housing should also be provided, one of which is playing field. The last project in which this was done, to the best of my knowledge, was in the Eden Lodge area where not only houses were put up but there was land provided for playing fields, land provided on which a school could be placed, and indeed a nursery school was provided. The land was there for development, so this concept of integrated planning is nothing new. The same competent officers, or some of them, are still in the Housing Ministry and still in the Housing Corporation.....(Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Marshall is not there any longer).....so what is all this new thing now?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: If the hon. member would give way..... (Pause) on a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: The point of order is fraudulent. The Hon. Minister rose asking the hon. member to give way, the member did not give way, and the Minister then said he had risen on a point of order. Any hon. member who attempts this is fraudulent.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, my apologies to the Chair, I just wanted to tell him that Mr. Modeste is still there.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Man, sit down, you are fraudulent.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the hon. member address the Chair?
1.45 p.m.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, what we are doing on this side is insisting that with the purchase of this area by the Government there should be an adequate playing field provided for the residents of the area. Secondly, the question has been raised, and we would like to know what will happen to those persons who may have rented spots or houses on the Valery lands that are now being acquired. We have not heard anything from the Minister in this regard. To the best of my knowledge there are persons renting spots on Valery who may have houses on those spots and we want some assurance that these persons would be given some kind of security of tenure as far as the land is concerned. We feel that whenever a Minister comes to this House with an acquisition of land one of the first things he has to address himself to is with respect to the tenants on the land. We would like to know about this because we are interested in the people.

Thirdly, we hear about how many square meters — I don't know why the hon. Attorney General wants to go back; he wants it to be known that it is 67,558 square feet — sixteen point something acres — so that people can understand that it is a lot of land. We would like to know that in the introduction of such a matter we are given information not only relating to the size of the land but also about the purchase price for the land. Up to now, in spite of all the talk, we have not yet been told how much money is being spent or how much it is proposed to spend in the acquisition of this land, and I am asking the Minister to give this information. We are in an area of open Government and we should know this; this should have been one of the first things to be mentioned; it must have been an oversight. Then again, what about the plans for the acquisition? It is now almost customary that such plans are circulated to the Opposition. Let us see some practical work; send the plans across and let us see them.

Another point is that there is a large building at Valery. Is it proposed to push down this building or to put it to some specific use? I think that these are matters which people are interested in. We are not interested in trying to squeeze the last ounce of political mileage from

this; we are interested in knowing exactly what is being planned, and this is the type of style I would hope the Government benches would adopt, because it is time we become constructive about politics in this country, not merely attacking an hon. member because he asks pertinent questions concerning the development and points out that he was making representation in respect of the same land. He is a representative of the people, and that is what we must expect regardless of when he came into Parliament.

These are the areas we are interested in, Mr. Speaker. We are supporting this Resolution. It is a Government proposal to purchase land in furtherance of a housing development programme in which the Democratic Labour Party had a massive part by the massive housing programme that it developed from 1971 to 1976, and no one can deny that. So we accept that this type of development is natural for Barbados, and we should not be spending our time belittling the contribution on this side but be telling the people what we will be doing.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, as the most recent ex-Chairman of the National Housing Corporation, this is a Resolution on which I should have a lot to say.

Before I deal with the record of the National Housing Corporation during the period of my chairmanship, I would like to say at the outset that, unlike some members of the Government benches who were disappointed with the contribution made by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, I myself am not disappointed because I understand the English Language, and the hon. member when he began his speech said that he was suffering from a cold — probably in the head. Therefore, the quality of what emanated from the mouth may have been affected by what was present in the head.

The hon. member for St. Michael South has tried to draw to the attention of this Chamber that his party embarked on a massive housing programme and that no one can deny it. Mr. Speaker, I sent off and obtained the report of the Central Bank of Barbados for 1975 and on page 17 of that report there appears this statement: "The number of houses built by the National Housing Corporation fell to 195 in 1975." Now if the production of 195 houses in the year that this country obtained receipts in the vicinity of \$3,000 a ton for sugar can be classified as massive, then I would like to know the hon. member's response when he is told that in the current programme in this financial year the number of houses to be produced is 654. This would have to be massive, massive compared with 195 houses in 1975. It is all well and good to make statements unsupported by documentary evidence, but I prefer to rely on the statistics of the Central Bank of Barbados.

However, I accept one point coming from the hon. member for St. Michael South, that the development of housing projects in Barbados has necessarily to be a continuing process, just as Government itself is a continuing process.

1.55 p.m.

But the basis on which the public is satisfied and which the society demands for housing in Barbados depends not only on the financial resources available to the Government, but it also depends on the will, thrust and dynamism within the Housing Corporation itself which is the funnel for Government policy; and it is clear that certainly in the last five years since the regime of the Democratic Labour Party, no Statutory Board has failed to operate in accordance with the ideas for which they were created. I believe that that had been responsible for the defeat of the former Government, because the Boards created ceased to function properly and failed to operate. This is one fault that I would point out.

Today I was reading the Report of the National Housing Corporation for 1974-75. I have already made the point that the Statute which established the Corporation said that it was charged with the responsibility of presenting Reports and Accounts by 20th September of each year. I have never seen one of them, but since we started, there has been a virtual crash programme to ensure that all of the Reports of the National Housing Corporation will be ready by 1980.

Another point I will make, Mr. Speaker, is that the Corporation has the power to go to commercial banks and raise loans, and this is in addition to the subsidy which is given under the Estimates; but no reputable local or international lending organisation is going to lend the Housing Corporation money if they cannot look at the balance sheet and see what they have been doing for the last year. It would be madness.

That is one of the shortcomings that we found in the Corporation. In the administrative staff and technical staff there was deficiency. I remember that when I was a member I tried to ensure that we could get reasonable staff on both sides. We cannot get all that we need; but in the meantime we are trying to put the Housing Corporation on a sound basis. We have a chief technical Director, and Mr. Redman has been brought in. He has a separate department at Glendon, Black Rock.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that it would be remiss in me if I did not take this opportunity to write into the records of this House my public tribute to the staff of the National Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, the land at Valerie which is the subject of this Resolution, goes back as far as my memory serves

me to early 1977; but I believe that the Minutes of the House of Assembly will show that I gave cogency to the establishment of a land bank. It might have been talked about before; but I am glad that the Government has seen some sense in what I was saying. We need to plan housing developments over a long period of time and acquire land in a way which would enable you to give satisfaction to the needs of people in various areas, and which would enable you to ensure the workers of the National Housing Corporation who are often ignored, that there will be continuity of employment. They need to be assured that if they are working at Wotton today they will move somewhere else tomorrow. If you are going to build houses in the financial year 1980-81, roads, water, light and such things should start in the previous year.

It is a matter of detailed planning. It is an established plan of the Ministry, and I am sure that we are moving towards that ideal. Members on the other side who were in Government will understand that the wheels of Government turn very slowly when you have to go through and between three or four Ministries, and not least, the Ministry of Finance.

I am not going to stand here today and say that the Democratic Labour Party did nothing for housing development in Barbados. I have tried as much as possible in politics to be fair; but I am not going to sit and listen to exaggerated positions by members of the other side. Of course they built houses; but in the management of the housing which they built there is much about which you can find fault; and there are lessons to be learned from their administration.

Take the question of arrears of rents. We have been able to get them down, but we are still dissatisfied with the level of arrears. A lot of the problems arose during the run up in 1975-76 when some people were put in houses purely because they were adherents of the Democratic Labour Party, and some of whom owed the Housing Authority over \$3,000. That kind of thing should never have happened. Similarly, the houses they sold in the Oxnards area. That Oxnards project is a failure. It was badly conceived. I will not go into that now. It has been reported to the Hansell Commission, and he has reported that from the very beginning the award of the contract was made to a tender who tendered too low; and since then there have been a series of problems, and the Housing Corporation has found itself having to carry the burden of those problems because of faulty planning.

2.05 p.m.

That originated in their time. You found people going into the houses without having signing the agreement, without having gone to Mortgage Finance Company and satisfied the loan conditions, and they were charged for the house and not the land; and you know

they are stone houses and therefore the house accrues to the land and they are all part and parcel of the land within the definition of land under the Real Property Act, and that is a problem that we have had.

Other members have spoken about the allocation of houses to former persons. I am not going into the specifics. I have not checked those facts. I know certain people had land; I cannot tell you whether they had two spots, four spots or not. But there was a lot of allocation based on party affiliation. We have tried as far as possible, Mr. Speaker, to remove some of those infelicities, and I believe now that the Housing Corporation is in a position where it can take off granted the necessary finance. I believe they have the will in the Corporation and I hope that the Minister will see to it that the staff at the National Housing Corporation get new premises. The premises at the Corporation are in a very rundown.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The premises at Valery?

Mr. SIMMONS: All this has to do with housing, Mr. Speaker, and there will be new premises erected at Valery, and I believe, because we are determined to develop an integrated plan, that at Valery we will have some facilities other than houses to take care of old people. Down at Fernihurst, for example, we are having an old people's place; we are having playing fields so as to have an integrated community development. If you just put houses, people are going to internalise their values and you have to give them some ability to live in a community as a community by the provision of what the Minister of Education would call ancillary services. Hon. members can rest assured that in all the developments which can take this kind of integrated programme the Housing Corporation is going to do it, and the Ministry of Housing which is responsible for the planning is going to ensure that this happens. But Valery is fairly close to another area which nobody has mentioned — Bonnetts. That is also to come next year, Mr. Speaker, and I wish to say that when Bonnetts was being discussed, Valery was being discussed and at the time when these discussions were taking place and the ramifications for acquisition were going on, the hon. member for St. Michael South Central was nowhere near the House of Assembly, because he had lost in St. George. He could not get in then. The resignation of Mr. Smith gave him a chance, but when he came in last year all these matters had already been discussed and primary work had been going on, and I wish to make this as a statement of fact; to my knowledge as Chairman attending monthly meetings at the Ministry, I can say that as a statement of fact.

I want to go further. The hon. member claims he applied pressure. I never in my time as Chairman of the National Housing Corporation received one letter or phone call from the hon. member for St. Michael South

Central drawing it to my attention that Valery would make a good housing development, and I would like to know if the Ministry ever received any such communication from him, because that is good pressure. To come in here and say on the blank day of blank I wrote this letter to the Ministry, he cannot do it. It is not his idea. It was not in his conception of development for the area. It originated with this Government and it must be clear that it started with this Government.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for St. Michael South raised the question about ensuring that we do not divest tenants who already have vested rights in the area. I wish to give him this assurance that as far as I am aware it is not the intention of the Government to seek that these people who may be affected are interfered with. It was his Government in 1965 by the passage of the Tenancies Control Act which sought to exempt the Crown and Statutory Corporations from the operation of that Act, and before my friend the hon. member for St. Michael South made the statement he should have looked back at his own legislation which was passed in 1965. This Government is not going to do it. So I believe he can be assured now of the position.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but I think this is the appropriate time for me to move that this sitting be suspended until 3 o'clock. The hon. member of course will be entitled to resume his speech. I hope it will be convenient for him.

I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 3 o'clock.

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

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

On Resumption —

QUESTION TIME

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Question Time be now taken.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Question Time.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Question No. 34.

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 34 standing in the name of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, Question No. 34.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: (a) 82 persons.

(b) The workers have been given priority in the filling of appropriate vacancies in the public sector and the Labour Department has assisted in placing some workers in the private sector.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, may I ask how many persons have been placed in the private sector and where these persons have been placed?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not an appropriate supplementary.

This brings us to the end of Question Time.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Private Members' Business will go until 3.45 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Private Members' Business until 3.45 p.m.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, under Private Members' Business, that the Debate on Item No. 1 continue.

Mr. SPEAKER: Item No. 1 in the name of the hon. member for St. Lucy to move the passing of the Resolution calling on Government to evolve a scheme to aid local policyholders of the First Federation Life Insurance Company.

Mr. GREAVES: Since no other hon. member wishes to make a contribution to this Resolution I would just like in moving the passing of the Resolution to refer....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order. May I draw to Your Honour's attention that on the last occasion when this was debated, as the hon. member knows, he was told that he could not reply in that it was critical of Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister is perfectly right. The hon. member for St. Lucy does not have the right to reply.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, while I appreciate your ruling I just want to indicate that the understanding....

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

Mr. GREAVES: I am seeking clarification from Your Honour.

Mr. SPEAKER: You can only challenge a Ruling on a substantive motion.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I am not challenging the Ruling. I never have and I do not dare to challenge a Ruling. As I understand it you indicated that my Resolution was critical of the Government which in truth and in fact it was and your Ruling was that the final contribution on the debate would have to come from the Government. This, as I understand it, would not prevent me from making any other contribution since I was the mover of this Resolution.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order and I wish to refer to Standing Order No. 29 (1) and (2) which states that "The mover of a motion may reply after all the other Members present have had an opportunity of addressing the House and before the question is put, and after such reply no other Member may speak, except as provided in paragraph 2 of this Order.

A Minister may conclude a debate on any Motion which is critical of the Government, or reflects adversely on or is calculated to bring discredit upon the Government or a Government Officer."

Now I would think that the Member for St. Lucy may reply on the final word. He cannot make a final reply after he has spoken now. It is for a Government Minister, in accordance with your Ruling that it is critical of the Government, to speak and I would think that the member for St. Lucy would have the right to speak now, with all due respects, Sir, if I could bring this to the attention of the House, so that the debate could be concluded then by a Government Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am grateful to the hon. member for St. Michael South; very, very grateful indeed. I would like the same hon. member for St. Michael South to provide the guarantee that a Government Minister would rise and reply if the Chair was so foolish as to permit the hon. member for St. Lucy to address the Chair. Where does the guarantee come from that a Minister will reply? I have already ruled that the hon. member for St. Lucy has no further right to debate on this matter.

Item No. 2 standing in the name of the hon. member for Christ Church East to move the passing of the Resolution urging Government to sponsor a revision of the Treaty of Chaguaramas to establish a Code of Human Rights and a Court to hear matters involving violations of the code.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not in a position to proceed with this Resolution today.

Mr. GREAVES: On a point of order, could I just inquire what has become of the Resolution? Is it still alive or is it dead?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is still alive and I will now put the motion.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before you put the question, Sir, I have heard the Ruling that Your Honour has given today in this matter. I was not present on the occasion when the issue arose on the question as to whether the hon. member had a right to speak again on the Resolution. I was not present on that occasion. I would like to say that I spoke but I was not giving the final speech on behalf of the Government because insurance comes within the portfolio of the Minister of Finance and Planning. It does not come under the portfolio of the Minister of Trade and Industry.

What I would assure Your Honour is that, as far as the Government is concerned, the Government is fully prepared to answer any statements which are critical of the Government in relation to the subject matter and we would obviously not be in a position to conclude the debate today because of the fact that the Minister responsible for Insurance is not present. If Your Honour would recall, on the last occasion I told the House that the Government had just undertaken an examination of the comparative treatment in other territories in the Caribbean and that there were a certain number of matters which were still the subject matter of investigation. So that the position is that if Your Honour needs an assurance the Government will be prepared to reply on these matters provided, of course, the speech that is made by hon. member merits such a reply. The Government at the appropriate time, not today, would be perfectly prepared in the event that the speech merits a reply to give such a reply.
3.15 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I have not had the advantage of seeing the Hansard which contains the speech. As far as I recall, I spoke on the last occasion. I am not sure whether I was the last speaker or not. Dr. Caddle spoke. At the time when I spoke I made it positively clear that the Minister of Finance, who was not present at the time, wanted to make a contribution in his capacity as being responsible for insurance. As I understood it, and how I envisage the debate would have gone, would be that after the final speech on that side the Minister of Finance, in view of the fact that it was a matter critical of the Government, would have made the final contribution, but I am not in a position to give that final speech today because there were certain particulars we

wanted to check. So that I do not know whether the mover of the Resolution would accept a motion, subject to Your Honour's approval of course, for further postponement of this matter until next time, and we will give the hon. member the assurance that just as today, even if the Standing Orders are suspended, that the matter would come up under Private Members' Business, because the suspension of Standing Orders is only to facilitate certain arrangements. I will stop there for the time being.

The question that further consideration be postponed was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:

Ayes: Hon'bles. H. B. St. JOHN, H. deB. FORDE, L. S. CRAIG, DeL. O. BRADSHAW, L. R. TULL, Miss B. A. MILLER and L. B. BRATHWAITE; Messrs. WARD, CHELTENHAM, JOHNSON, SIMMONS, ALLEYNE and ODLE — 13.

Noes: Messrs. WEEKES, HAYNES, SANDIFORD, CADDLE and GREAVES — 5.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Speaker, re the Resolution standing in my name which was mentioned earlier, I am not ready to proceed with it, and accordingly I am asking that consideration be deferred.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is asking that consideration of this Resolution be deferred. If there is no objection, consideration is deferred. This brings us to the end of Private Members Business.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to move that Government Business be now resumed and that Item No. 5 be the instant Order of the day.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Philip North was addressing the Chair.
3.25 p.m.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to be much longer, but I just want to lend my support to the appeal made by the Minister of Housing. The level of arrears in terms of those persons who have purchased houses from the National Housing Corporation and have not completed the purchase is still annoying me slightly. Many of the problems were inherited, but I would like for my part to make an appeal to those persons who are in possession of houses sold or rented by the National Housing Corporation to honour their responsibility to their fellowmen. This year, and I believe in recognition of the need to provide more houses for people and in recognition of the fact that many of the pristine problems of the Corporation have been straightened out, the Govern-

ment of Barbados invested in housing development an amount larger than ever before. This House voted \$8 million this year for housing. On no occasion in the past did a Government of Barbados put into housing any sum in excess of \$4.8 million, and I believe it was because the Minister of Finance recognized that we were able to clean up many of the problems and that now the National Housing Corporation is in a position to continue the thrust which has been initiated by the present Minister of Housing. And while I say that, it must not be taken that I am so uncharitable as not to recognize the quality of the work done by this Minister's predecessor in office, Mr. Ronald Mapp, because it was he who laid the foundation for the comparative take-off we are now having in housing.

But the \$8 million voted by this House cannot build all the houses that we would wish, because we should aim at something in excess of 500 houses a year by the public sector. The receipts which we get from the rental of units, which are in excess of \$1.6 million, are barely able to cover the maintenance of existing housing estates. Therefore, if we can only maintain the houses from what we get by way of rent, it is obvious that we must make an effort to collect as much as possible, and that is why the average tenant has a part to play. If he does not pay his rent he is putting undue strain on Government's finances and on the taxpayers of this country, and obviously there are people in the community who will feel themselves cheated by the fact that a person is not playing his part in keeping his account at a reasonably honourable level. So we must appeal to the public to pay their rents; and to those who have not complied with the mortgage conditions to see that they do so speedily. I would like to think that this is the last time I have to make this appeal, for after this more positive action will have to be taken. We have tried in soft terms to appeal to people. We do not want to use the threat of lawyers and say that if you don't pay within seven days you will be thrown out. But it can come to this, and the general public must understand that you cannot continue to make appeals which are going unheeded. Even if it causes unpopularity, one has at times to do what is right in the interest of the public of Barbados, and I make this final appeal in support of the Minister's appeal enunciated earlier today.

All the problems with the commercial side of the National Housing Corporation do not rest with the Corporation. As a matter of fact very few rest with the Corporation. There were problems prior to the establishment of the National Bank when the Mortgage Finance Company was not seised of all of the funds it should have had. The problem is now settled. The Mortgage Finance Company up to the time I left for China had given the assurance that the company was fully in funds. The problem in the past was that people went into the houses

without proper documentation. But I am not prepared to look back all the time and blame other people. Barbados is a developing country. Let us forget what happened prior to 1976 and put that out of the way. It makes no sense saying they did it badly, therefore we can do it this way. We must set our own standards and paths for development.

Some of the problems of the commercial sector of the National Housing Corporation stem from the dilatoriness of attorneys-at-law who work for the purchasers of the houses. This is an area of law which I do not practise. I know very little about it but I have gleaned a little over the years and in my time of office as Chairman of the National Housing Corporation I have found that a lot of the attorneys working for purchasers of houses have not ensured that the purchases were completed in time. This works a hardship on the purchasers, and the purchasers of houses from the National Housing Corporation are not wealthy people; they are comparatively poor people, and it is unfair for attorneys to do this. Attorneys have got in their hands moneys which they place on fixed deposits and they are entitled to the interest. If they are the stake holders they are entitled to the interest. That is the decision of the Court of Appeal in England in a case in 1976 and it has been recently approved in Barbados by the Chief Justice, that if an attorney holds a deposit as stake holder, he is entitled to the interest on that money. If somebody is buying a house and they pay me as attorney for the vendor \$30,000 as a deposit, I can put that money in my client's account or on an account to accumulate interest, and the interest is mine, according to the law of England and Barbados. I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that it may be the law of England and Barbados, but I do not agree with it, for I think it allows lawyers to profiteer on monies that are not their own. 3.35 p.m.

Rather than meeting that situation, I think that you are going to find that the flood gates are open for attorneys to hold money for other people as shareholders for as long as possible. I hope that I am making myself clear. I am not saying that this is illegal, but I think that it is improper; and in 1976 the Hon. Chief Justice here said he followed that decision.

Mr. Speaker, something has got to be done; and in my consideration the functions of attorneys-at-law should be one of the promotions of social justice; and it cannot be in the promotion of social justice with lawyers hanging on to other people's money for years and years.

I also want to make an appeal, Mr. Speaker, to lawyers who represent persons in transactions with the National Housing Corporation to ensure that they give speedy and urgent attention to the completion of the documentation of these matters. Mr. Speaker, I have nothing further to add to this debate.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, it is a bit depressing to see that a Resolution as simple as this could generate such cheap interventions on a matter which today has been accepted — certainly by developed countries — as the right to proper housing of people who cannot afford it themselves. It is also depressing to cast aspersions on the characters of people who at sometime in the past might have been associated with Government or the National Housing Corporation.

Sir, in an age in which we seek to reduce the standards of politicians it seems to be unfortunate to take anything that we find convenient to achieve that purpose. I would like to point out that politicians are also human beings; and are in fact entitled to their rights in a matter such as housing which is also one of their rights; and they can buy houses in any particular area. It is not nice to come in and bring a situation where you make accusations about people who are unable to reply, and to create the impression that they were double dealing.

I want to make it clear that I am not supporting politicians who for their own personal aggrandisement and the use of their positions would try to obtain advantages to which normally they are not entitled, and to which they had no rights; but in matters of the compulsory acquisition of land, I think that something has gone wrong in differentiating between the person who sets out to buy, and the person who has the property. I would like to hear from the Minister when he replies what has gone wrong that he had to seek this method of acquiring the land — whether there is no agreement between the Government and the owners of the land, or whether it is a matter of not being able to obtain an adequate title to the land being purchased.

I would join with others in this society in complimenting the Government for carrying on the building programme which is essentially for the welfare of the people of this community. In the area in which I live I have been able to witness the work that is going on, and I hope that the Government will continue to carry on this programme of improvements; because we are living in an age in which we need to be aware that there are certain technological advantages. I do hope that this present Government will take advantage as soon as possible of any technological advantages. Therefore it is my hope that there will be an improvement in the quality and quantity of the houses being built, because this is a Democratic Labour Party programme that that party started; but since then technological changes have taken place.

I have been impressed with the type of machinery and equipment which I have seen in Black Rock; and I would like to throw out to the Minister that I hope that we will see further improvement in this type of equipment so as to improve the quality and quantity of the

housing units that we build so that we can even build more housing units.

As regards the plans for housing, I think that we have gone a long way. We have to look at things like proper roads, gardens, playing fields and all of these things. I have no reason to believe that the present Ministry of Housing like past Ministries of Housing will not take into consideration the provision of these facilities; and there are a lot of other facilities that they have to take into consideration.

I believe that the Ministry is so geared that when they put up a housing estate all of these facilities are contemplated; but I would like to draw to the attention of the Minister that for some time the conversion of the land, houses and property in this island posed some problems; and I am not only dealing with the public sector but also the private sector; but from the point of view of people who are dealing with Government, I wonder if the Cabinet could not get together and come up with some standard of conveyancing. We were confronted with these problems when we came into Government. I do not think that it is fair to criticise the Democratic Labour Party because we did set out specifically to do something about these problems. I am asking the Minister to see if some standards cannot be introduced because in the area of Government housing and Government land the question of searching for titles is not so easy as in the private area. I think that it is for the Government to protect itself from that type of exploitation.

I hope that the next time that I hear the Minister resenting the behaviour of members of the legal profession that he will be in a position to tell us that these steps have been taken, and that he is inviting the members of the Opposition to join with them and try to eliminate or reduce some of the humbugs of the past. 3.45 p.m.

What may hold in ordinary delivery of health care will not hold good in the delivery of industrial medical care or aviation medical care, and I would like to believe that the hon. member for St. Michael South Central was on good ground when he was suggesting that in view of the heavy industrial development which is taking place not so far removed from the Brittons Hill area that some consideration should be given to the establishment of a special clinic which would deal with those problems which are likely to develop in an industrial area. We are not only dealing with injuries which are likely to ensue from the operation of certain types of machinery but we are also dealing with substances which can produce different types of injuries which normally are not met by the ordinary medical practitioner or general practitioner, and unless a person is properly trained in that particular discipline, he may do more harm although it would not be his intention so to do in giving care to such people

than a person who has been so trained and with facilities properly developed. Therefore I am throwing it out also that as we develop especially in the industrial area it will become more and more necessary to provide special clinics for workers in these areas.

I am aware of the fact that in the Ministry of Health a lot of attention in the past have been given to industrial medicine, but we have not yet got into operation the type of schemes which will be suited to the type of industries which are developing in Barbados, have developed or are sought to be developed in the future. So I think it is a matter that needs to be attended to now so that whenever problems arise we will already have the necessary operations there available to deal with the people.

Sir, I would like to make it quite clear that I do not agree with people withholding payment of their rents, or monies to the National Housing Corporation because I realise that it has a serious effect on the ability of the National Housing Corporation to carry on. This has been so in the past, and I would like to stress this very much. If you look at the history of the Housing Authority and its successor, the National Housing Corporation, you will find that there has always been arrears. There were arrears under the first Barbados Labour Party and there are arrears now. This must not be interpreted to mean that because of political condoning or attitudes of politicians people are not paying their rents or other monies due. When we examine the Barbadian society we have to feel regretful that it is a peculiar habit of Barbadians when they are enjoying Government property or using Government property they certainly do not give it the care and attention as if it were their own, and in this respect housing suffers. The people who are enjoying the facilities provided by the National Housing Corporation do not look at them as if they had provided them, and one of the consequences of such attitudes is that they do not feel inclined to pay. They feel they should be permitted to live freely in there, and they also feel that not only should they live freely but that Government should not harass them to get their money, and if we set about to harass them they generally tend to want to resort to our react by saying they are not going to vote for you on the next occasion but if you do not set about on a programme of education for these people which will cause them to appreciate that in withholding to pay their dues they are also depriving other Barbadians from adequate housing, maybe their own children or other relatives or in-laws, you will find it will be a very long time before we will be able to reduce this problem to manageable proportions, and I will join with the hon. Minister in appealing to these people who owe the National Housing Corporation money to get going and start the payments, because it will help those people who are waiting, and some people have been waiting for a very long time, to get a house quicker, because we cannot

expect that in a situation where Government money has to be spread out in so many sectors that you can keep on writing off large amounts of arrears, and in addition to writing off large amounts of arrears, finding new money to make good the writing off of the arrears and also money further still to continue the increased programme which we want to give people.

Sir, I would invite the Hon. Minister of Housing to pay some attention to the people on the Opposition benches who have made some contributions and some suggestions as to what needs to be done for the people of this country, and in so doing I should like them to bear in mind that housing is accepted as a right of the people. We are no longer doing them a favour and it is our responsibility as members whose first pledge is that they are interested in the masses of Barbados to join together whenever possible to indicate to the people that we are so concerned and we are doing our best to ensure that they get the type of facilities to which they are entitled, and I hope you will take into consideration some of the comments made on this side and do not permit the other feelings that come out of adversary politics to override this thinking.

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, I rise to lend my support to the Resolution for the acquisition of land at Valery, Brittons Hill

Mr. Speaker left the Chair and Mr. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

In doing so, I should like to comment generally on the performance of the Ministry responsible for housing during the administration of this Government. We are frequently criticised on this side under the claim that we have adopted lock, stock and barrel the former programme of the Democratic Labour Party, but I can point to Fernihurst. The hon. member for St. Michael South will remember that Fernihurst was for many years designated for a school, but that the Barbados Labour Party in responding to the urgent and pressing need for housing for low income earners decided that a housing development ought to be established at Fernihurst, and at least 157 terrace units are being constructed with modern facilities that go along with trying to shelter people.

There has been a great deal of talk, Sir, about establishing new housing developments, and I should like to draw the Minister's attention to the need in my view for a very close and urgent look at some of the pockets that still exist in the urban areas where tenancies abound. In the constituency which I have the honour to represent there is a tenancy at Crichlow's Land in Black Rock which has on approximately 28 houses with no services and which in my view requires a look by the Government, because I would like to submit that there is a great deal of merit to acquiring some of these tenancy

lands and making them livable, providing the necessary services such as water, electricity and roads so that people will be able to site their own houses. In the area of Eckstein Village right in the heart of Bridgetown almost, I believe we have one of the most depressing slum areas. It concerns me because I am the sitting member of that constituency and some of the worse examples of dilapidated housing to be found in St. Michael can be found in Eckstein Village. Again, Sir, I should like to urge that the Government take a look at some of these areas from the point of view of urban renewal so that these units can be torn down, proper road services provided, and people can be allowed to live where they want to live in conditions that meet the present and exacting standards which this Government is seeking to set for housing in this country. 3.55 p.m.

I, Sir, would like to see in talking about Housing to not only talk about the sheltered part of it but the need for water and road facilities. It is undesirable when somebody living one mile outside of the heart of Bridgetown has to wend his way through mud to fetch water in buckets. We make an examination, with the Minister responsible for Communications and Works in one of these areas not so long ago and we discovered that it was impossible to improve the road conditions in those developments, Eckstein for example, because of the fact that the houses are built willy nilly on Tenantry Lands and there is not enough room to accommodate the modern equipment owned by the Ministry of Communications and Works for the purpose of road building.

I would like to suggest that we take a critical look, not only at the building facilities but in going into some of the existing developments and improving them so that people can continue to live where they want to and under conditions that are acceptable to them.

When we look, Sir, at the work that the Barbados Labour Party has done in respect to general housing I believe that we cannot help but being impressed by the tremendous thrust that has characterised the Ministry under the Minister presently responsible for that portfolio. I am most grateful to him, Sir, for his work and I would like to invite him to take a look at Wavell Avenue and other areas so that the people of St. Michael West can enjoy pleasant living standards that are second to none in this country.

I will like him, Sir, while he is looking into the areas of re-development to take a look at the Farm Area Development as well to correct what has been a most pressing problem, that is the backing up of sewage and get all of that straightened up so that life for those residents who so ably supported this Government can be made more tolerable.

Finally, Sir, I would like to point out that we in the Barbados Labour Party do not need to be lectured in

the kind of integrated development that would include Social Centres, Health Centres and Centres for Industrial Development. We have as a policy been looking at Housing as a total living concept so that people who are brought together in large masses would have available to them in close proximity to where they live open spaces so that the eye is not jarred by a long line of concrete masses. We have open spaces for people to go, playing facilities for the children in those areas and suitable accommodation for them when their parents have to work. All of this is part of the enlightened approach to housing development that the Barbados Labour Party has been employing.

I should like to commend the Minister for his very fine performance in this Department and I would like to blend my views to those who have gone before in support of the project at Valery.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know that, somewhere along the road in my parliamentary life as a Minister of Government, members of the Opposition would at sometime give praise to the Ministry of Housing over which I have the honour to preside. I do not feel, Sir, that all of that praise should be offered to me. It has been for the past year a joy to work with the former Chairman whose stability, balance and integrity has made my job much easier than I thought it might have been and I would be failing, Sir, if I did not applaud the member for St. Philip North and the entire Board for the back-up support which they gave me, Sir.

I think, if I recall it, Sir, the member for St. Philip North gave high praise to the Technical and Administrative Departments as well as to the workers as a whole and I would just like to join in saluting them and look forward to their carrying out the outstanding job which they have been carrying out. I have to answer a couple of questions and then deal with the member for St. Michael South Central.

First of all, Sir, in spite of the queries coming to me from the member for St. Michael West, I am not allowing his pleas to fall on deaf ears but I cannot look at Housing only at a parochial level, I have to look at it from a national level.

The question about the sewage in the Farm, it is unfortunate because of the technical skills which were available for that purpose during the last regime; but the Technical Directors have informed me, after carrying out tests on them, that the actual wells were not designed to carry the workload which they are now carrying. If I am not mistaken, Sir, I think one well which was put down at the time could have only accommodated about 6 units, that is the design. They should have been designed to accommodate at least 16 units so we have decided to rectify this problem.

We have just received from the Ministry of Health through their Health Engineers a design for the Farm which I believe should also be for other places, to make sure that this problem of sewage does not arise again. I have visited the houses in the Farm. It is a beautifully laid-out area but I regret that when you go into some of the houses, because of the back-up of the sewage, one would be anxious and eager as ever to come out of them.
4.05 p.m.

They are nicely kept inside, some of the gardens are beautifully kept, but then you have this backup system which we are now in the process of rectifying.

He spoke about Wavell Avenue, but we have acquired the land already for the purpose of resiting the people from the Spring Garden area, and the work will be able to be carried on at Spring Garden.

Now for the member for St. Michael North Central, the third Leader of the Opposition, a former aspirant to the leadership, now No. 3 in the leadership and going downward all the time, I would hope that instead of coming in here and saying that people should pay rents, instead of getting on a public platform and calling the Prime Minister Pharaoh, that he would tell the people to pay the rents so that we would have an opportunity to give them better homes, not to get on the platforms talking about Pharaoh and victimisation. I am going to make sure that the people from St. Michael South — you heard about Fernihurst there are 157 units there, we started on April 1 and by the end of November I am going to be in a position to house 100 families at Fernihurst; in 11 months. Now, I am begging him to go into his constituency and those persons whom he knows are in dire need, like Pilgrim — I have some of the names here — Tyrone Beckles, Eileen Goddard, Sandra Straker and Brewster, and tell them that I have appealed to you on the floor of the House to go to the National Housing Corporation on their behalf. I do not usually intervene in the selection of tenants, but I am prepared on this occasion to give the people in your constituency all the houses they want at Fernihurst. I think you are the No. 2 now, and therefore do not say you are not going, I am going to give you all them.

The member for St. George South also spoke. Only today I gave notice of a Resolution to have lands vested in the National Housing Corporation, of which Belair is one, so that problem is solved.

The conveyances. This has been the problem for a very long time and it is no fault of the Government, it is the rip-off lawyers in Bridgetown, some of them. I hear my colleagues talk about the same lawyers in this high and dignified profession who are holding the poor people's money and refusing to give it to the National Housing Corporation, talking about the conveyances being

difficult to get through with. I am told that the amendment is going to be in the House before Parliament within a couple weeks' time. The first draft of the Resolution is now with the National Housing Corporation, so that problem should no longer, I repeat, no longer exist and the people should not be ripped off by some of the Bridgetown lawyers, many of them members and supporters of that party over there.

The doctor was in full cry the other night, though Dick Sealy's yard was half empty at 10 o'clock, and I could park and walk about freely.

Now I heard mention about having water and lights put in. There is in train an integrated urban development as well as a rural development scheme before the Attorney General's Office on which we are working, and not only have we examined Crichlow's Land, we have already done a survey of the Greenfields, and we are going to carry out one in Passage Gardens which is the place where we are examining the conditions of living because they are some things which would really make you feel sad. So far as Crichlow's Land is concerned, let me assure the hon. member that I will have it investigated. I do not know Crichlow's Land, and I will have to go and find out. Our programme for next year is a very interesting one.

Let me assure the member for St. Philip North, as well as the member for St. Joseph, the Minister of Communications and Works. I am having in St. Joseph a housing project as well as one at Duncans in St. Philip, and I think the member for St. Lucy is anxious to hear what he is going to get. Sir, in St. Lucy there is a bit of land at Maycocks Bay owned by Government which we are also examining and I have to determine what type of house I am going to put there. I believe in a socio-economic structure, is that the right term? My friend over there will put me right if I am wrong. In Checker Hall in St. Lucy again where there is also a lot of land, we are going to cut it up into quarter acre lots and give the people where they can put their houses. Those who need spots can purchase the spots. The Government is prepared to provide a low income house and with a quarter acre of land they can pay the rent for the land and purchase the house when they find it convenient to do so.

4.15 p.m.

This is looking after the small man you are always talking about. This is not the five lots of land that John Yearwood paid down on at Oxnards, or the house owned by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central at Paradise Heights.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. It is correct that I own a house in Paradise

Heights, bought from a private developer, Mr. Freddie Clarke of Suburban Homes. The Leader of the House would know perfectly well that this has nothing to do with the Government. It is a private development, but he is trying to give the impression to the public that I own a Government House. They are two different things all together.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I will speak now on one thing. You got up on that one, I hope you will get up on this one.

Mr. SPEAKER entered and took the Chair.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Now, Sir, a lot of heavy weather was made today when I introduced this Resolution, and the hon. member for St. Michael South Central tried to convey that he was responsible for Government's decision to acquire this land. Let me tell you where it all started.

When I was in the Ministry of Labour and Community Services a letter appeared in the Advocate of 7.9.77 "Recreation facilities needed in Brittons Hill". I would not like to read all of it but it says how the clubs there were in need of facilities — Valery Cricket Club, Radcliffe, Hampshire, London Rovers, Dalkeith — all of them. The letter said in part: "This land is part of the estate of the late Robert Challenor who passed away a few weeks ago. When he was alive he gave us permission to use the land but now that he is dead we do not know what to do. We are appealing to the Minister for Sport to get the Government to use priority in obtaining this land." This was in 1977. Now I do not know in which House you could have been at that time, whether the one in Wanstead, Paradise Heights, Golf Club Road — but in 1977 a GIS statement came out on 12.9.77 — five days after I had seen the letter in the newspaper — and the release said "Minister Agrees to Probe". The statement went on to say: "In this connection a release from the Ministry of Labour and Community Services stated that as a result of that a letter was sent to the "Advocate" that the Minister had met members of the Valery Cricket Club and had agreed to investigate the possibility of having the land donated or leased for recreational purposes. That is where it all started. That was in 1977, and from that day we have been negotiating.

In 1978 the Minister met with Rev. Holmes Williams and Mr. Ben Corbin. It would not be fair for me to say all that transpired during the discussion, but what I gathered was that you were in the work. They met with me and they wanted to buy Valery. They were more anxious to buy it than the man who was selling it, and in the discussions it came out about "the doctor". When I asked what doctor, he said Dr. Haynes.

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it that the Minister is not referring to any hon. member of this House.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: No, Sir, that was in 1977. But the purchase of Valery reminds me of how you went up and conveyed to the people of St. George that it was your money...

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I would like to convey to this Honourable House that at no time have I entered into any discussion with either the owner or any prospective purchaser or agent with relation to the purchase of Valery Plantation. I never had any interest in buying Valery.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I never said he was interested in negotiating Valery. The name Dr. Haynes came up, and now I am hearing today that he was instrumental in pressurizing the Government, that he forced the Government to buy it because he was involved in the purchase of it.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I again rise on a point of order. The hon. member has said that I forced the Government to purchase Valery because I was involved in the purchasing of it. I would like to draw to your attention that that statement is incorrect in that I was never in any way even remotely involved in the purchase of the property known as Valery.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: What I am saying, Sir, and all that I know, is that he had an interest in Valery. He pressured the Government to buy Valery, and I am going to tell people he pressurized us, but I will also tell them in what form.
4.25 p.m.

The hon. member talked about having a Playing Field, Industrial Health Care and so on. I do not know if he is too mischievous. I beg your pardon, Sir. I wonder if he has too much contact with Cameron Tudor, working on certain measures so that he does not have time to read the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party. In our own Manifesto under Housing we said that there would be facilities for playing, recreation and senior citizens' homes. I go a step further and say that in our development at Bonnetts I am prepared for the first time to have little shops for skilled men — the joiner, the tailor, the carpenter, the bicycle repairer and maybe the seamstress and the beautician — little shops, not a supermarket for them to come and say "you know you concern me and therefore I should have a supermarket".

It is also encouraging young people to become skilled. We have gone a step further. This is the stamp of a party that can be proud of its past performance and has a present policy instead of the nonsense that we have heard from bread and fish politicians talking at night. They go to Gwen Workman's shop and call for a bread and fish and a ju-c. That is the sort of thing you have

operating. When Mr. Sealy is finished talking at night he pushes down Gwen Workman's shop counter. He wants a pork chop and a ju-c. That is why you all keep him, because he is cheap. He is cheap and depraved, equally as your political advocate.

It is very cheap for the hon. member to tell anyone on the face of the earth that he is responsible for the Government buying Valery. It started back in 1977 when the people of that area were thrown off in 1966. In 1966 they wrote a letter to the Ministry saying that they were thrown off the grounds there. They said that they had to play in the Pine, they had to play at the Garrison; and they asked at that time when I was in the Ministry of Community Services what could I do. It was my suggestion then to the Government not to acquire all of the playing field, but to look at it as a whole project for housing. It started like that. I have the files.

Now, Sir, I have spoken about Bonnetts. Mr. Speaker, I know that you would not probably be able to sleep in peace tonight if I did not mention Boscobelle. Let me give you the assurance, Mr. Speaker, that recreational facilities are in the hands of the Labour and Community Services Ministry. We are waiting for them to tell us exactly how much land they will require. I will go into Boscobelle and I will be carrying you with me. *(Aside)* You are too old. You do not know what is going on. This is no parochial anything. Keep quiet. I have spoken about Duncans already.

Now, Sir, the hon. member enquired what they are going to do with the house at Valery. The Government is in need of office accommodation. The Ministry of External Affairs has shown an interest and the Ministry of Labour and Community Services has also shown an interest; but listen to the interest of the Ministry of Community Services. In late 1967 when the late Mr. Louis Lynch was in politics against us, Mr. Richard B. Moore donated a number of books to the Government of Barbados on black heritage. I am hearing about killing white people and Indians and Jews. They are in the killing work; but not one of them on that side — the former Prime Minister and the Minister of Education are now like Santa Claus. Now that he is so close to the left hand of God we hear about the white and blue stripes and the Star Spangle Banner; and meanwhile these books are lying somewhere in some place, I hope, at the Multi-Racial Centre looking for a home since 1967. We are looking for a home for these books which are catching cobweb. There is no home for these books which were donated by such a great man; and the member for St. Michael North Central does not know if he is black, white, if he is a Dem, if he is a Labourite, if he is PDM or an Eric Sealy. He does not know where he is. He is like a fish out of water.

The Ministry of Community Services is looking for a place where these books can be kept, and the Ministry of External Affairs is also looking at it for the purpose of having a department in there because they are cramped for space. I think that I have answered all the questions which have been posed, and I would like to salute again the former Chairman; and I expect as great things from the present Chairman as we had from the past Chairman. I look forward to that co-operation, stability and integrity.

I am happy to hear that I have been lauded this evening on both sides of the House for my work in the Ministry of Housing and Environment; and I would like to assure you, Mr. Speaker, Parliament and my colleagues and the public as a whole that this is not the end. I will continue to strive further and further ahead as long as I am in that Ministry. I would like to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

RESUMPTION OF GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, you will recall that earlier in the day I indicated that I would ask Your Honour's leave to defer this matter because there were two notices that had not reached us and now accordingly I am asking leave that the matter be now taken.

There being no objection, leave was granted.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to amend the note to Item 10 under Head 110 — Ministry of the Attorney General; and to grant the sum of \$1,086,557 out of the Consolidated Fund and place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1979-80 Part II — Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1979-80, No. 8 which form the Schedule to this Resolution.
4.35 p.m.

At the same time the Resolution also includes an amendment to Item 116 — Ministry of External Affairs.

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

Resolution to grant the sum of \$11,000 out of the Consolidated Fund and place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1979-80, Part I — Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1979-80, No. 9, which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

Resolution to approve an increase in the advance made by the Accountant General to the Postmaster General for the payment of public pensions.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, with your indulgence I am enquiring of the Leader of the House if the two Resolutions given notice of will be dealt with today.

Hon. B. B. St. JOHN: They are just ordinary notices that will be circulated and dealt with later.

RESOLUTION RE NATURAL GAS CORPORATION

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 4 stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House, to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the borrowing by the Natural Gas Corporation of the amount of \$3,016,132.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, earlier this year Parliament approved in accordance with the provisions of Section 18(1) of the Natural Gas Corporation Act the borrowing of money by the Natural Gas Corporation of certain sums of money for the purpose of constructing its new headquarters and for certain extensions to existing pipeline network. This Resolution now for the sum of \$3,016,132 which has been circulated and which is an amendment which I propose to move later on to the original Resolution is to carry out another of the capital development projects of the Natural Gas Corporation. This Resolution will specifically deal with the erection of a LPG plant.

We have been advised that there is a sufficiency of natural gas in Barbados which contains not only methane, but propane and butane of such a standard that it would be economic to extract the propane and butane from the methane and sell the propane and butane at such prices would repay the cost of the plant without in any way prejudicing the calorific value and the heating value of the methane which is delivered to consumers in Barbados. In short it is a further attempt on the part of the Government of Barbados to make the maximum use of any petroleum sources which we have in the broadest sense in Barbados. A feasibility study was commissioned in 1977 by the Government of Barbados into the potential of extracting propane and butane from the existing gas in Barbados. That study was evaluated by the U.N. Technical Assistance Adviser who was in Barbados as part of the UNIDO Advisory Services on gas and gas safety to Barbados. Subsequent to that international bids were invited from Dutch firms, from English firms and from Canadian firms. The general consensus is that the best proposals were put forward by a Canadian firm. The Government is insisting however that a majority interest is retained by the Natural Gas Corporation for and on behalf of the people of Barbados.

As hon. members would recognise, it is exceedingly important whatever one's political philosophy, to ensure that any resources of this nature that one has that it comes under the control of the Government. The total financial cost of this project will be in the vicinity of \$3 million BDS. The Export Development Corporation of Canada is very interested in financing certain component costs of this package, particularly the equipment. When the Resolution was originally laid certain terms were indicated by the Export Development Corporation of Canada whereby they would provide a very high percentage of the cost of the plant from their own resources, but in addition part of the finance they would provide would be provided by the Export Development Corporation of Canada borrowing on the Euro-dollar market, a certain proportion of that. The balance had to be financed by way of counterpart funds by the Government of Barbados. The Euro-dollar rate has moved so quickly over the course of time when these preliminary discussions had taken place that the Government had in the interim when the House was in recess to draw this to the attention of the Export Development Corporation of Canada, and have now come to the conclusion that in view of the fact that the total foreign exchange content of the purchase can be adequately covered by only borrowing \$1.4 million approximately from EDC and financing the balance locally which in essence will be \$1.584 million to finance the local cost, and since our interest rates domestically are much better than the Euro-dollar rate, we have decided to amend the terms of the Resolution, and that is why the new Resolution containing the amendments have been circulated.

The total amount of money that we are borrowing is \$3,016,132. The discrepancy between the \$16,132 according to my understanding is that if we are to raise the \$1,584,856 net by way of debenture issue, the cost of the debenture would have to be included in the borrowing if you are to arrive at the net, and the cost of the debenture was estimated at \$16,132. So that the amendment to the Resolution that has been circulated is to ensure that we only borrow from the Export Development Corporation of Canada that amount which is necessary for the financing of purely the foreign exchange element of the total amount, and that is at a fixed rate. We are hoping to do better than 9% so we have to put in "not exceeding 9%". They have stated that in view of the movement of the Euro-dollar rate and the domestic interest rates that they want to move from ten to seven years. That does not matter much to us. The balance of the money, instead of borrowing at the Euro-dollar rate which at the present moment is in the vicinity of 12%, we will borrow domestically out of our domestic resources, and we have a number of banks which have indicated that they are willing to take up the debenture issue of \$1,584,856 at a rate not exceeding 8%.

4.45 p.m.

The original Resolution is being amended and the terms of the amendment would be to increase the amount of \$3,016,132. It has been circulated. The original one was circulated previously. The original one was for \$3 million and the EDC was going to finance a higher provision and they were going to finance it from their own resources. They wanted to deal with the Euro dollar and we ourselves would finance the balance.

Under the Act no borrowing under the Natural Gas Corporation can take place unless we have the approval of the House and the reason for this is to get the approval of the House.

I beg to move that this Resolution be amended and be now approved.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that and reserve my right to speak on it.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, in dealing, Sir, with this Resolution and having served in the Ministry of Communications and Works, I would say, Sir, that in my opinion this Corporation is the most efficient that the Government had in those days. I have no doubt that if the standard has not deteriorated that the present Government has inherited an asset.

Now, Sir, as you are fully aware and as this Resolution states we are going to borrow \$1,431,276 from the Export Development Corporation of Canada at an interest rate not exceeding 9% per annum repayable over a period of not less than 7 years. I intended to query the Minister on the difference of the rate of interest but he has already clarified that but, Sir, (b) says "by the way of the issue of \$1,584,856 of Debenture Stock at an interest rate not exceeding 8 per cent".

Now perhaps the Minister would tell me, because I am not aware of it, the stipulated period for the Debenture Stock because he has stated of the Development Corporation of Canada that the loan which we get from them is for a period of not less than 7 years but he has not intimated the period for the Debenture Stock.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to know the policy of the Government on the extension of this service. Now in the constituency which I have the honour to represent, it is there where you are expecting to get a reasonable amount of the gas from, and the people in St. Philip are querying why is it that the extension cannot be given to that particular parish too. While I am aware that this area may be a problem to the Government I would still like to hear from the Minister what future plans he has for the pipeline network.

Mr. Speaker, you are fully aware, Sir, that the cost of gas which we purchase in small and large cylinders in this Island has been increasing from time to time and gone are the days when people will use wood and the coal pot. The poorest person in these days tries to use the bottled gas and with the price increases it creates a difficult problem for the poor people and therefore any solution which the Government can give to reduce the price will to a certain extent alleviate the hardship which people now suffer.

In addition, Sir, I am not parochial in expressing myself here today. There is a demand for Natural Gas throughout the entire Island and therefore when you come here to borrow money and a part of it goes to the pipeline network, it should be the policy of the Government, if not now, in the very near future, to submit a comprehensive plan to this House on Natural Gas.

4.55 p.m.

It would serve the interest not only of the hotels and the wealthy people of this island, it would also serve the poor people of this country and reduce to a certain extent the cost of living of these people. Now, Sir, the amount which we are borrowing I do not for one moment consider as exorbitant, because, as I have aforementioned, the money is being placed in the hands of efficient and capable officers, if there have not been many changes since my Government was defeated. But I can assure you that we on this side of the House will give this Resolution our wholehearted support and we do hope that the present Government will do all that lies in its power to see that not only certain parishes are given natural gas but also the parish of St. Philip and in the long run the entire parishes in this island.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I listened both outside and inside the Chamber to the account which was read by the Hon. Leader of the House of the reasons for the Resolution, including the amendment which was laid on the Table today. I wonder if he is clear because I am not, and I do not really wish to make a long speech, but I wonder if he is clear as to whether the nature of this joint venture is one in which bottled gas is going to be produced in Barbados by the Natural Gas Corporation or a company which is known as Barcan Gas Processing Limited. The reason why I ask that question is this. Some years ago we used to import all of the LPG (Liquid Petroleum Gas) that we used in this island in contradistinction to natural gas which the hon. member for St. Philip seems to be concentrating on. There is a problem with making natural gas available, which the member for St. Philip and the member for Christ Church South Central will appreciate in that the inhabitants of Barbados are not clustered into compact groups, and in order to make natural gas available to all the people who wish this service, which

we know now is cheaper than the bottled gas, will call for a considerable outlay in the digging up of roads.

The natural gas comes out of the ground in its natural state, it is not diluted, the pressure is increased or reduced according to the exigencies of the particular demand on any particular day or time of the day. Why I am a bit in the dark — let me put it that way — about this Resolution, it is a known fact that in order to produce liquid petroleum gas in the bottle, the temperature of propane gas has got to be reduced by something like 200° Centigrade. I am not a technical engineer, but I know that this is one of the problems, and I do not know of any plant you can get for \$3 million which would be capable first of producing this result, and providing the equipment, the bottles necessary to replace the importation which we now do from Trinidad. Trinidad has a super-abundance of gas. I have not seen a report of the Natural Gas Corporation for a long time. Sometimes it is my fault because sometimes these periodicals arrive at a time when I am either occupied with other duties or out of the island and I may not see them. (Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: 1978 was laid today). You see, I have to be careful because I frequently overlook things that arrive in my mail due to certain pressures, but now it appears that it was laid today on the hypothetical Table of the House.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am sorry. On a point of correction, Sir, the report for 1977-78 has already been laid, the report for 1978-79 is due and has not been laid.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Therefore any figures which I quote out of my head — I cannot deal with litres, millilitres and that kind of thing — let me deal with cubic feet. This is what I have been paying for and what I understand. The consumption in Barbados was something like 102 million cubic feet, it could now be 105 million or 110 million, but my recollection of the last ten to eighteen months ago, we have available, I think it is something like 1400 million. These are comparative figures, and again I speak subject to correction, I do not want anybody to get up and call me a liar, I am saying apologetically that I have not seen the figures for 18 months, but there is a difference between 102 million and 1400 million. While it is true that we could not expect to put a pipeline from Spring Garden to the remotest house — and I am sure you will appreciate this, Sir — in Boscobel, the Vicarage of St. Philip-the-Less, which hon. members do not know is the church of the area in your constituency, or in your home in the same area and up the hill, which is about one mile to the South of Boscobel, because of the tremendous capital cost.

5.05 p.m.

If we are speaking about energy conservation, we have industrial centres in Barbados that are tightly established, several factories clustered together. We also have places like the Light & Power Company which are high users of energy. The Natural Gas Corporation, before the new reserves Springvale 1 and 5 were fluctuating so that supplies on a regular basis could not be guaranteed, had a deliberate policy for the supply of natural gas, and I am not aware either under the Democratic Labour Party Government or this Government that I have really sat down and given a close look about making natural gas available for industrial purposes. The reason why I say this is because it is a consummation devoutly to be wished that every house in Barbados should have natural gas, which would bring the situation perhaps closer to Trinidad. In the 1950s when I went down there it was proposed to bring the gas in by tanker to Spring Garden. Mr. Gaskin assured me — and he was the General Manager and a West Indian — and he had made the proposal because it would reduce the price of LPG to Barbadians by at least 40%. But in true Barbadian fashion when they began to bring in the natural gas the price of LPG went up probably by 40% and has been rising ever since.

Now from time to time we read about great oil finds in Barbados, but we are producing very little more oil than three or four years ago. The Prime Minister and others — despite what appears in the Nation newspaper — found out that even if we discovered more oil the price of kerosene and gasoline without Government intervention would not be any cheaper than the OPEC prices. We did a study on this — the former Minister of Trade and myself. The Prime Minister has now come around and said so.

Now this company, BARCAN, is being set up. Are they going to use Barbados natural gas, reduce the temperature, bottle it here, give welders some work in manufacturing the containers, reduce the fantastic price of bottled gas? People in the 1950s, a little thing like that you put on a bicycle. I understand the Minister read the Riot Act and said people must deliver bottled gas to the homes but that will not work. The Barbadian really doesn't mind going for his own gas; the point is that he wants to be able to get it; and people are waiting three and four months now and cannot get delivery of bottled gas on their premises. They keep two or three cylinders and still have to wait and be at the mercy of those people in Trinidad.

Now I would like to know who BARCAN is and I would like to know if we are going to put up a plant, because I do not think we can build a plant for that kind of money. That would have to be a mini-plant as far as I can see, and you would have to have some mini-bottles the size of a Bim bottle or something like that or the size of a small fire extinguisher that you

might have in your car. I do not know if the people have told you that they are going to put up a plant which is going to reduce the temperature of what we call natural gas, but it cannot be done for that money; I do not think so. So I hope this money is not for a feasibility study, because it is three million dollars, or that it is not the building alone, because that is not going to solve the problems of the householders and the wage earners in Barbados who will like to get bottled gas when they want it, and the very time they want to get gas, like at Christmas time, you see people butting about with the cylinders on their bicycles, little boys with push carts going from one place to another and just can't find gas available.

We have a surplus of gas and we are lucky to have a surplus. But can we get it to the people? It is going to be costly to dig up the streets in the Bridgetown area and all the way down the West Coast, but there is no justification for having all those hotels down there and the gas available and not supplying them with it. We had a loop put in from round about Trents. But the loop does not serve any useful purpose because all of those hotels on the West Coast and the residences there can have their short connection; the people in St. James, not to mention the people in St. Peter. A little extension of a mile and a half, I think would bring the pipeline to Speightstown. The gas is there; let us extend it where it can be extended without too great a capital cost, but do not let us delude the people into thinking that Barbados is going to produce bottled gas and that it is going to be cheaper, because from my limited knowledge of things it cannot be done.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I rise to give my support to certain aspects of the presentation by the hon. member for St. John. It would seem to me that there is ample justification for further capital expenditure in relation to the Natural Gas Corporation for areas which are densely populated, and I am at a loss, for example, where to take the area of Delamere Land, Halls Road, Carrington Village — an area which I am very fortunate and happy to represent and there almost 90% of the people in that area have a desire to have natural gas and where I myself have taken the trouble to organize petitions to be submitted to the Corporation to support the contention that the desire and willingness were there for people to utilize the gas after the capital investment had been made, and where it is my understanding that there is already a pipeline along Martindales Road, and also there is a pipeline along part of Tweedside Road, and where, as I understand it, there is a programme for further expansion to Tweedside Road, I cannot for the life of me understand why it is that if you have that infra-structural development there already and have sufficient users in the particular area to justify the

connection of the large population, why something is not done about it.

Now, the answer that I have got through the byways is that there is a shortage of capital for expansion. If this is the case, I think that the Government, bearing in mind what resources it has available to it for capital investment, should take urgent steps to look into such capital expansion in such areas because it would redound considerably to the benefit of a large number of people among the lower income groups who would be able to get this source of energy in their homes at a cheaper price.

5.15 p.m.

I think that I only used that as an opportunity, not only of course, not merely or not primarily to support the position in my constituency, but just to give an example of where there is probably a limited expenditure of a capital nature that substantial consumer demands can be met. Now, I do not know if the same obtains in other areas of St. Michael; but of course I take the point made by the hon. member for St. John that because of the population distribution which I have had the opportunity to study in other areas, it would seem to me that in part of St. Philip, through St. Michael, across St. James and leading into St. Peter, there seems to me a high population density in that area where it might well be worthwhile to have significant capital expenditure in terms of infra-structural pipes and so on.

This, of course, may depend on the feasibility studies that will have to be done in this area; but it seems to me to be an area that needs to be explored; and it seems that in relation to bottled gas the cost will tend to rise; and if we are looking at our energy programmes, then we have to look carefully at the maximum utilisation of the resources we have available.

On the second aspect of this particular matter I find it difficult to make a significant contribution for two reasons. The first is the unavailability or non-presentation of any feasibility studies. I am sure that the Leader of the House will appreciate that it is very difficult to make a competent judgement on figures of the kind presented unless you have further information of this kind. However, let us hope that there has been a serious study done of this nature, because this is not a matter that is a partisan matter and that the undertaking presently represented by this particular resolution represents a significant contribution to the energy problems of this country.

There are many other areas of energy in Barbados which I would like to discuss; but I think that there is another Bill here in which it would be more appropriately discussed rather than in this particular resolution.

Hon. DeL. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, some weeks ago this Hon. Chamber approved a sum of money of \$5 million to enable the Natural Gas Corporation to develop the pipelines. On that occasion the Minister responsible for natural gas, the Leader of the House, did state that the reason for asking the House to approve this sum of money was to enable the Natural Gas Corporation to expand its operations, among other things, to build a new home in the Wildey area. On that occasion I was at pains to point out to this Hon. Chamber that there was one main line stretching from the Woodbourne area to the St. Michael area, that that main line was above the surface and was vulnerable, and if it was tampered with there would be considerable difficulty in supplying areas west of the pipeline area.

On that occasion it was clearly stated that we were considering expanding the service to other areas in the country. Hon. members on that side, Mr. Speaker, found it fit to be absent from the Chamber, and that is why today we have got queries about the expansion of the natural gas service. It is almost amusing to hear the member for St. Philip South get up and say that the people in the St. Philip area were looking forward for natural gas and its extension to the parish. While I agree with him people in the Woodbourne area have had their lands drilled, and that most of the natural gas was drilled from that area, I would like to ask the hon. member if he had made the same sort of representation to his administration.

I will remind you, Mr. Speaker, that the member for St. Philip South was Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Communications and Works at some time or other and that he acted as Minister of Communications and Works. He had the opportunity to see that some natural gas services were extended to the St. Philip area. Strangely enough he is now calling on the Government to see that natural gas services are extended to that area. While I agree with him that he should seek the opportunity to get such services, I would wish to remind him that he was in a position to rectify this situation, and he failed to do so.

Now, the Leader of the Opposition said how people had to be queueing up for natural gas.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, on a point of explanation. I do not think that the hon. member was listening to the debate. I said that there was a regular queueing up for bottled gas. How do you queue up for natural gas? Do you queue up to get a bucket full of natural gas?

Hon. DeL. BRADSHAW: I am very glad that the Leader of the Opposition has come alive at last. He did say that people were queueing up for bottled gas.
5.25 p.m.

I am sure he also knows that the Natural Gas can and does replace the bottled gas, and if there were a natural gas service extended to these homes, then there would be no problem of people queueing up for bottled gas. He was the Minister of Finance. Did he not see the poor old lady and the poor people standing with the bottle waiting long hours to collect bottled gas? Did he not see it then? What did he do? He did absolutely nothing. As he said, the problem was not three years ago. In his own words he said three or four years, and certainly one of the years would be during the time he was Minister of Finance. It was certainly during his regime that he saw and experienced this situation, but he did absolutely nothing. What I would like the hon. member to understand is that we have recognised that people have been waiting hours and there has been a constant shortage of bottled gas in this country. We are also aware, Mr. Speaker, that the price has been skyrocketing not to our satisfaction and we have been monitoring the situation quite carefully. It is not anything that this administration is happy about and that is why we have made it our business and our policy to explore every area and every avenue with a view to relieving this very undesirable situation. That is why we have been asking today for a guarantee of this loan to make money available to the Natural Gas Corporation to embark on a joint venture so that it can explore the possibility of extending the services to all the residents of Barbados. That is our policy as a Government.

Now the hon. member for St. Michael South Central has said that he cannot understand, he has been trying to search for a reason why the natural gas has not been extended to areas of Martindales Road. Well he was the second most powerful man in Barbados and at that time and during the former Government regime his colleague the hon. member for St. Michael North Central was Minister of Communications and Works responsible for natural gas. Natural Gas passes through the constituency of the same hon. member for St. Michael North Central. If he cared about the people in Martindales Road then, why didn't he approach the Minister and ask why he did not extend the service to these people? I can tell him today if his colleague the member for St. Michael North Central has not told him the reason is simple, and it is that it is very expensive when you carry out a survey to determine whether it is economical to extend the service, and it depends on certain factors. Labour and materials are not the factors which determine the unavailability. We have seen on the files that the Natural Gas Corporation has said that it takes too much money to dig up and resurface the roads; that is where the expenditure goes and they feel it is uneconomical to run natural gas in five or six or ten homes, but we have tried, and I will say, Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of the hon. member that I have personally dealt with this matter. When I was given the responsibility for natural gas I asked why it is that people who has applied for natural gas had not been given

and the estimation came back to me because of uneconomic factors, and I said very strongly as far as the uneconomic factor is concerned I was not interested in that; I was interested in devising ways and means by which the people of Barbados would get these services. That is what I said in my capacity as Minister.

I have seen, Mr. Speaker, where people from the Ivy have made applications even to the Minister who was their representative and he could not find a solution to the problem. Maybe it is that they could not understand how they should get around the problem, because, as far as this administration is concerned, it is no problem. We are going to devise ways and means of extending the services and that is why we are in here today with this Resolution. Now I would like to assure all hon. members that we are extending the services and we hope that natural gas will go into each and every district and at the same time, Mr. Speaker, contrary to the prophet of gloom and doom, we are optimistic that the price of gas will be reduced considerably. We are optimistic about that because we understand the cost factors; so Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to answer some of the hon. members from that side who seem not to be in touch with what is going on. They do not understand how the great combination works.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I did not intend speaking on this matter because there are a number of points which were made.....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, is this education, culture or what we are dealing with, because I am not quite sure?

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, there are a number of points which I had intended to make which were made very eloquently by the hon. member for St. Philip South, and the Leader of the Opposition in his presentation dealt with some of the other matters which I had intended to deal with, but, Mr. Speaker, sitting and listening to the hon. member for St. Michael South East, the Acting Minister of whatever it is he is acting in because he acts on so many occasions that I am not too sure which capacity he is in now, he has made a number of very important statements this evening in connection with the policy of the Barbados Labour Party Government relative to this whole question of natural gas, and I think that it is important that we recognise this, and certainly since he is sitting on the front bench he is enunciating Government policy, and I would therefore hope that the promise which he has made that Government proposes to extend the services of natural gas in each and every district of Barbados will be honoured. (A VOICE: When?) When is the big question. I think this is a matter which has got to be looked at in a very serious manner, and it is no

point in getting up and making empty and unrealistic promises. I should also, like my colleague from the constituency of St. Philip South, like to see the natural gas services extended into my constituency of St. Lucy.
5.35 p.m.

One has to bear in mind the cost which will be involved in this and I would certainly look forward to the day in the not too distant future when the Government will find it possible to expand the Natural Gas Service all over Barbados. I know that there are tremendous difficulties and tremendous capital costs which are involved in this and with the scarce resources that the Government has and the competing interest for this kind of capital it is going to be very difficult and almost unsuitable an objective.

Nevertheless, one of the Ministers from the front bench has given us the assurance that this was going to happen. Furthermore I look forward, Mr. Speaker, based on the promise which has been made by that all-practising Minister, the Acting Minister, the Minister who acts the most often — he has the record for the longest and highest number of acting appointments. (*Asides.*) He will always be acting.

I hope that the price of Natural Gas and the price of Gas generally in Barbados will go down as a result of this move by the Government here by establishing this Plant. We are going to be looking forward to this and we are going to be really monitoring this situation because we have found that this Government makes a lot of promises and we are not too sure, and certainly the records do not at all indicate that it can keep to the kind of promises which it has made.

Now the same member for St. Michael South East has made the point in response to the criticisms which have been levelled from this side about the constant rise in price for bottled gas in this country. This is a matter which is of utmost concern to all Barbadians and particularly those of us who have to rely on the use of bottled gas. We are concerned about this but in a situation where the Government can set a definite policy on the question of bottled gas they have failed to do so. All we have heard so far from the front bench and from the Government Minister is that the Government is monitoring this situation.

The people of Barbados, Mr. Speaker, want more than Government monitoring the gas situation. They want to see the price of gas go under control and if possible reduced because it is an integral part of their whole living expense and we need more than just monitoring on the part of the Government. I would have hoped and certainly I would hope that the Minister who has the responsibility for these matters in his reply would give us

some definite position of the Government on this particular matter.

I believe also, Mr. Speaker, that the Government owes it to this country, in view of the money which will be involved in setting up this Plant and certainly in getting the affairs of the Natural Gas Corporation hopefully to deal in a more efficient manner with the question of dispensing Natural Gas in this country. I think the Government owes it to the country to give some general and broad outline as to the policy in terms of time schedules; what they expect to do and by what time. For example, how are we going to see the expansion taking place in the Natural Gas pipelines, the period of time and the various areas it will be going into. With the establishment of the LPG Plant, what is going to be done with the gas, how will it be distributed and the whole range of things which are involved in this particular transaction and this particular operation?

I think that it is too serious a matter just to be given figures without any firm policy position and any clear policy statement on a matter which is of utmost concern to the people of this country and I would therefore hope that in the Minister's reply he would be able to give us these outlines and certainly I would hope also that he would be able to confirm or indeed deny the statements which have been made by the Acting Minister because I really do not regard that he initiates any policy which gets out.

Hon. L. R. TULL: While I support this Resolution I am firmly of the view that it does not go far enough. The land that the Government is seeking to acquire for the extension of the services of the Natural Gas Corporation to my mind extends the service to the area of Barbados where people have always got the service.

I am very sorry that I have to make a parochial speech on this occasion but when I see the pipelines running through the St. George Valley it reminds me of the role that St. George has been carrying in this country for a number of centuries. All the wealth has always been borne on the backs of the people of areas like St. George. They carry the wealth on their backs for people of other parts of the Island to enjoy and those pipelines run right through the St. George Valley. There is no Natural Gas in St. George but we must put up with the environmental scar of those horrible pipes running through the Valley without any gas.

Although as I said, Mr. Speaker, I am supporting this Resolution, I want the Hon. Minister to understand that the people of St. George are tired of waiting until the end before they get anything. I think this has something to do with the fact that people who produce food are not supposed to benefit from the fruits of what they produce. There is a certain idiotism, Mr. Speaker, that

keeps telling us in this country that if you live in an urban or suburban district you are better than if you live in a rural or agricultural district and the people of St. George are tired of that.

When it is a system such as obtains at the moment where the amount of \$1 431 276 has got to be paid, this amount has got to be paid by all the people of Barbados. When you are repaying loans you do not pick out the people in the area who are benefiting and rule out the ones who are not benefiting. The people of St. George will have to pull their pockets and help repay this money.

What it tells me is that people who are living in poor and depressed areas must pay for these people who are living in better-off areas and who have far more money. Now, I am one of those people, Mr. Speaker, who has to queue up for the bottled gas like anybody else and I understand that those who pay for the bottled gas pay 25% more than those who are getting natural gas and I want the Minister, and I am very serious about this, because there comes a time when you have to say something. I want the Minister to give the people of St. George the assurance that they will not have to continue for very much longer shouldering the financial burden for people who live in districts that are far better off.

It is interesting to note, Mr. Speaker, that one of the first areas where the gas was spotted was at the Mount St. George. That must have been about 50 or 60 years ago. In the Mount in St. George there was natural gas and those of us who knew anything about that part of St. George would know that they used to burn off the natural gas up in the Mount years ago.
5.45 p.m.

The hon. member for Christ Church East wants to know how I know that, but I get around a lot more than he does. (Dr. CHELTENHAM: In St. George). So it is not a question of there not being the appropriate source in that part of the country, there is abundant evidence that the natural gas is there in St. George.

I do not want to make any issue on this Resolution but it is really crying out for people in depressed areas to get a higher priority in the distribution of the national budget. I think the hon. member for St. Lucy said that the Government had a lot of promises and are taking time to deliver, but the Democratic Labour Party 23 years ago, in 1956, promised that they would put electricity all through the country and right up to now I am still agonising over the tardiness with which successive Governments, including my own, have failed to run electricity into places like Drax Hall in St. George, and when you go borrowing \$1.4 million to put natural gas into some developed areas in Barbados I want it to be taken into consideration. The Prime Minister said in his budget speech he will do it, but I am waiting because I am under

pressure, and I am waiting to see this same type of effort being made to bring this type of facility to people who are very badly in need of it.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I would have hoped that in this the third debate that we have had an opportunity of discussing in Parliament energy in the form of natural gas and the Government's plans, that by now hon. members would not be under any illusions as to the Government's position, but it appears as though despite the fact that repeated explanations have been given in the past hon. members on both sides are under a lot of illusions about natural gas and energy in this country.

I want to start off to deal with a number of points raised by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. I want to assure the Hon. Leader of the Opposition that the plant we are talking about is not an LNG plant. I agree with him that the capital cost of an LNG, liquid natural petroleum plant would run into the order of billions of dollars. The plant we are talking about is a plant simply to extract out of our existing natural gas two elements, namely, propane and butane. It is a small plant designed to extract what is extractable out of our natural gas, and I will tell him the market. The greatest market that we have for butane in Barbados arises from the demand of the industries like Coopers who use the fly spray, like Bayer, like a number of other repellants which are now imported from Puerto Rico. The cost of that repellant is at least two or three hundred times the amount for the butane you get in say ordinary household cylinders, so that the primary purpose of this plant is to extract that butane which is in our natural gas.

Secondly, there are a number of people who use propane of a consistent quality. Now many people in here know that although dealers in Barbados — Texaco, Shell — and all of them tell you they are selling you LPG it is not necessarily LPG, as a matter of fact, because of the price movements nowadays between LPG and butane, in fact what we are using to a large extent in our households is not propane at all but butane, because it is cheaper and at the maximum it is 70% butane or 10%. Some dealers who have to have the pure unadulterated gas say they will also be able to cater to a very highly specialised market. It is not envisaged that it would be profitable to provide all the butane or propane that you have now for the purpose of supplying households, but some of the bulk customers will be supplied from this plant, and this is where I am going to deal with the question of bottles.

The fact that we have this industry does not necessarily mean that we are going to be in the LPG distribution business at the moment. If more reserves are found it may well pay us to expand this plant later on to cater to the general LPG market.

Now, Sir, on the question of households, I cannot promise anybody in here that it is possible to reduce the price of the gas, I never promised anybody that. As Minister of Energy I have never promised them that, what I will say is this, and this is what the hon. member meant that those people who are now buying from Puerto Rico butane and propane for highly specialised purposes, when this particular plant comes we expect that Barbados will be able to sell it much cheaper than what it is imported at. The hon. member sits down next to me down there and he is exposed to the files.

Mr. Speaker, it may well pay the hon. members on the other side to try and distort what the hon. member said. He is talking about a limited and a specialised area, but the purpose of this Resolution, if the hon. members over there cannot be relevant, and the hon. member is unquestionably irrelevant, it is not my fault. The question of the distribution to households is a very serious matter. I believe that all of us would like to know that every house in Barbados had access to piped gas, but the truth of the matter is this. There are approximately 59,000 households in Barbados with telephones, 56 or 57,000 with water, and I think it is 63,000 with electricity. The cost of connecting from the roadway to enough sources at the back of the house alone is somewhere between 350 and 400. There are 7,000 installations, so if you have 50,000 multiplied by an average of 400, see if you do not arrive at a cost of \$20,000 alone for the extensions.

5.55 p.m.

I therefore beg hon. members when they are having their parish problems to recognise this. It took the Electricity Company, the Telephone Company and the Waterworks millions of dollars in capital expenditure for their distribution systems. Would hon. members on that side approve a Resolution in here to authorize the Natural Gas Corporation to borrow \$22 million to subsidize the cost of connections? The position is this: We have done a very thorough investigation and I want to repeat this. I said that we have been advised that having regard to the capital cost it is better in the context of the urgency of our energy use to try and reduce the amount of import of fuel oil by encouraging people who are big consumers of electricity to convert to natural gas. Now if you live along the pipeline we are trying to get a scheme whereby some banking institution would lend the Natural Gas Corporation \$150 or \$200 for each person who wants to connect, and the Natural Gas Corporation would pay the cost and recover over a period of time, similar to what the electricity company did. But people would have to agree with these terms.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, on a point of explanation. Would the hon. Minister specifically state that this refers to Delamere Land and the Halls Road area?

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, long before the hon. member became the representative for that area, I recall that when Mr. Charlie Hinds was running for that constituency the now acting Minister ordered the Natural Gas Corporation to show him the files in connection with the Halls Road extension. I have received letters from people in the Halls Road area and I have explained to them that although the pipeline passes the area, the cost of connecting from the road to the back of their houses would be approximately \$400. If they are willing to pay \$400 per person, I would guarantee that the Natural Gas Corporation would put in the gas if they are within reasonable proximity of the pipeline. If they are willing to pay the cost like when they are putting in electricity, telephone, water, etc., they will be able to get it if they are willing to pay. Somebody has to pay for the meter and for the cost of the pipe.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. Minister would give way, if you put electricity in 90% of the houses in Barbados, the 10% who do not have electricity do not subsidize the 90% who have. All I am saying is that all the people who do not have natural gas in their homes will have to be paying this money. The analogy about water and electricity is no analogy at all. If I do not have electricity, I do not pay any money for electricity. So I would like the hon. Minister to address himself to this.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your point is taken.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: There is no point at all, because I am not asking anybody to subsidize this. This Resolution is to approve borrowing. The Natural Gas Corporation is not asking taxpayers to subsidize any of its operations. The Natural Gas Corporation has been a profit-making corporation from its inception, so this is not a question of asking non-users of natural gas to pay for pipelines. The capital costs are amortized by the existing users of natural gas and the charges are made to cover that plus an additional amount so that the Natural Gas Corporation gets a surplus to use for further expansion.

Now I know the problem the hon. member is referring to in St. George. The problem in St. George is that the trunk line passes through St. George and the hon. member feels that there should be some areas within St. George where gas is available. Let us look at the position. If you go across The Valley, the nearest area you can get to is probably the Boarded Hall Valley. But you would have to pay the cost of moving it from there across The Valley, which the Natural Gas Corporation under present practice assumes. You would then have to put in a reducer because when it passes through St. George it is thirty pounds per square inch; when it is delivered it is only at twenty pounds per square inch;

so you have to put in a reducer. That is a major transmission line, not a distribution line.

Now the hon. member must not feel that St. George is any rural area. St. George contains some very distinguished and wealthy people. The hon. member lives there. As I understand it too, in the Walkers-Glebe Land area they are not only going to have a Prime Minister, they are going to have a town too. So that St. George is not any rural area. It may well be that by reason of this Government's planning and by reason of the fact that we stated in our Manifesto that we were going to have a sub-town in St. George — which is well on its way to starting, that industry will be attracted there and because of demand generated by industry it can afford to pay the cost of the pipeline, so that the hon. member may soon find that natural gas is extended towards the industrial part of St. George covering, I believe, Gun Hill area, Walkers, Glebe Land and other districts and of course get it there the most convenient route would be to go through Ellerton. But if you put, like the Water Works does, a small main — that is, a four inch main — you only need a half inch line to connect to your house. The Natural Gas Corporation now bears that; and anybody who is willing to do it ... *(Asides)* Well if the hon. member lives within reasonable distance, if it goes to 100 yards and you are willing to put in the whole pipe we are willing to do it. The reason why it does not pay is because the average householder only uses 10 m.c.f. per month, which 120 m.c.f. a year, which when multiplied by the rate is \$120 a year; and that can't even be interest costs.

I have been receiving letters and I have been working on them. I would also like to point out that the pipelines in Barbados were not designed for much extension without some preliminary strengthening. I explained on the last occasion that our problem is that our source of supply is in St. Philip and that it goes through the Belle then to be distributed. I explained that you are in an extremely vulnerable position when you have only one transmission main without having a link in case damage takes place. I explained on the last occasion that money was being borrowed to bring the main from Woodbourne to Oistin, and that line is going in now. We are also extending gas to the Airport because you have the flight kitchen, the restaurant; and you have some external lighting up there which will justify the cost of the pipeline. Parliament will obviously approve that. After that is the line the hon. Leader of the Opposition talked about with the loop that came from Lancaster to Trents. That line is fine, but between the Belle and Lancaster we have to replace that pipeline. That is a pipeline over thirty years old, and before that loop was put in the source of supply of the gas was from Gregg Farm; now the source of supply is from Woodbourne. We have a good line from Woodbourne to the Belle, and we have just extended it from the Belle

to Warrens, so that we have to extend it further up to connect back into Lancaster and we hope to go as far down as Maycocks in St. Lucy.

6.05 p.m.

Yes. We have along the coast line an area which we have been advised is suitable, an area which has industrial potential in the north, which is the declared policy of this Government as part of the Speightstown Development Plan that we will have an industrial development estate down there. We will extend it. They tell me that it is just past the natural gas line which stopped by Sand Piper Inn. We want to move it from there right through Speightstown to the hill on the top of the fishing village at Half Moon Fort. So it will be extended down there in case we have development, especially development of a capital nature which would be an energy user.

So, Sir, we had to have these plans. You cannot move faster than you can. You can develop the pipelines and you can collect the money to move. We are moving, and the Natural Gas Corporation has spent \$7 million more in the last three years than in any period of a development plan in the last 10 years.

It is not their fault. It was because of the uncertainty — a fair degree of uncertainty — about the resources of natural gas, and as to whether it was justified under capital expenditure. Now, because of modern geological techniques and more information in relation to our reserves, we have been told that we can plan on a reasonably certain basis for at least a 10 year period.

That is what we are doing. We are exploiting it, but we are doing it sensibly. We have had advice from UNIDO. We have had advice from the British Government. One of the officers has been attached to British Gas for a long period of time. We have now got assistance kindly through the Ministry of External Affairs before we had this Right Wing Prime Minister; and from the UNDP we have got over (U.S.) \$4,000 worth of technical assistance to help us with this Plan; and we have an application before the International Development Bank for (U.S.) \$3 million for the purpose of a seismic study to determine the real potential of Barbados.

This is what we have been doing; but this Ministry does not believe in going to the newspapers every day. There will be a seismic study of Barbados. None has ever been done. The Norwegians have just done one for Jamaica. We do not believe in going to the newspaper every day; but if after three debates hon. members still do not understand these facts, I believe that there must be a need for repetition in the newspaper every day for 365 days a year; and it looks as if we will have to do that; but, Sir, our position is very clear. The priority is industry.

We are connecting households which are on the natural gas line. We are trying to work out a formula which would be reasonable whereby like the Water Works Department and the Electric Company, a customer contribution is made towards the cost. We can exempt part of the meter because we normally recover from meter rent; but the cost of L.P.G. piping will be about \$120, and we are trying to come up with something like a quarter whereby we will come up with something like a cost of \$200 or \$300 where people who live near the gas line will be able to get gas. It is not a question that we do not want them to get gas. It is a question of economics with a limited amount of money. I heard the Leader of the Opposition state that he would not be approving any \$22 million to put gas in everybody's home.

I also want to say on the question of comparative cost that the cost is geared according to whether it is butane or propane. Propane is more expensive than butane; and they are all around the pricing on the OPEC scale and the Platts Gram, on certain grades of gasoline. That is a fact because the chemical constituents are the same.

Natural gas is slightly cheaper in Barbados at the moment; but the cheapest fuel in Barbados per therm is kerosene. The kerosene gasifiers which used to be imported into Barbados years ago are no longer imported; but I believe that the time will come when the Natural Gas Corporation through its Appliance Division will indulge in the importation of these when you consider the cost of cooking by electricity, natural gas, pro-gas and the kerosene gasifiers. I do not know if hon. members remember the Phillips stoves that used to convert it into gas because kerosene is still the cheapest fuel.

With respect to the hotels, we are encouraging them to use solar energy. I am pleased to say that since I addressed them at the Hotel Association Trade-Ex, more and more hotels are inviting Solar Dynamics and Sun Power to give them quotations for converting to solar water heating which is part of the energy conservation plan. Rather than using imported bottled gas, many of them are now trying to connect — those who are on the line — with the natural gas.

So it is in our interest of conserving fuel, and it is in our interest to see that more of the resources of Barbados that we have, instead of flaring, to get them used. That is what we are trying to do. The feasibility studies have been assessed by UNIDO exhibition — two quotes one from Humphreys, by a firm at Glasgow and one by a Canadian firm. I will say to the hon. member that I am pleased that at least two Barbadians have been trained in gas technology. One we sent and whom we have just recruited for the Natural Gas Corporation — a Barbadian who has been in England. We advertised, and

the Chief Technical Officer of the Natural Gas Corporation was in England and he invited him to come. He came back and is now working with the Natural Gas Corporation. He is a gas technologist. We have some in Canada whom we hope will be coming back too. They feel that we now have a Government that is serious about expanding our natural resources; and that it has attracted help from the British Government, the UNDP, and now from the IADB and the World Bank. Therefore, we will be able to attract these people back to Barbados. *(Cheers)*

I commend this Resolution to the House.

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

BILL TO PREVENT THE RAISING OF MERCENARIES

Order No. 3 was called — A Bill to prevent the raising of mercenaries in Barbados and to prevent armed incursions into other countries by Barbadians.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the law of Barbados relating to the enlistment of Barbadians for the purpose of engaging in warfare against other countries at peace with Barbados is set out in the Foreign Enlistment Act of the United Kingdom of 1870 which has been kept in being in relation to Barbados by virtue of Section 4 of the Barbados Independence Order of 1966.
6.15 p.m.

The United Kingdom Foreign Enlistment Act was passed as a result of the American Civil War to prevent the build-up and fitting-out of ships for foreign belligerent forces and the preparation and equipment of naval and military expeditions against friendly states, but by virtue of Barbados being a colony at the time this Act was extended to our country, and, despite the fact that we attained independence in 1966, we have never seen fit either to consider the relevance of the Act to Barbados or indeed even to repatriate it. The Government of Barbados, on the advice of my Ministry, has set out a programme of repatriating our laws. We have already repatriated various Acts in addition to the Extradition Act. This is a further Bill which is being repatriated and we intend in due course to bring down a Bill dealing with our Constitution so that the Constitution itself is repatriated within its Parliament.

The significance of this Bill, however, in terms of the day to day relevance of it relates to the fact that mercenaries are no longer foreign elements so far as Barbadians are concerned. Anyone who has followed events within the past two years would recognise that the threat of terrorism to this country has become real, and indeed we have had to deal with the equipping of mercenary forces for use against Barbados, not only by a

Barbadian national, a member or former member of the Democratic Labour Party, Mr. Sidney Alleyne, a very close friend of the hon. member for St. John, but also by other persons being recruited by him. I want the Democratic Labour Party members to take note that they must be careful with some of their associates. Sidney Alleyne is a dangerous man; make no mistake about it. It is not possible for me, having regard to the security of this country, to give the House all of the details of the plot to recruit mercenaries for the overthrow of the Government of Barbados. It is more than serious if members of the Opposition continue to believe and to say on platforms that Sidney Alleyne is only a madman and that what is being said must be ignored. One cannot play lightly with the security of one's country, and, if I may quote President Carter last night, you cannot play politics with the security of your country. One of the serious things I have had to deal with since taking on responsibility for law and order is the security implications of people who will recruit mercenaries for overthrowing constitutional government in Barbados and in other countries, and as a matter of policy this Government has decided that it will enact modern legislation to control Barbadian citizens who may want to either recruit, train, enlist or engage in the recruitment of mercenaries for use either against Barbados or against any other country.

The legislation is so framed that the legislation will affect all Barbadian citizens no matter where his act take place, and in relation to permanent residents of Barbados the legislation will also have extra-territorial effect. It is very necessary that this Bill at the national level should become part of our laws. At the regional level we have raised this whole issue of the use of mercenaries for the destabilising of countries in the region, and we have had a very favourable reaction from the countries who attended the Foreign Ministers' meeting here. We are studying at the level of Caricom a possible convention dealing with the recruitment of mercenaries. At the international level we are pursuing in the United Nations and in the Organisation of American States all of the relevant means of getting a convention and an international treaty on this matter. Small states such as Barbados cannot compete in terms of arms with larger states, but we have a duty to try to tighten our national, regional and international laws to ensure some degree of security for our citizens and to remove some threat of warfare, be it guerrilla warfare, terrorism, armed warfare or even limited incursions.

On another occasion I may have the opportunity of addressing this House on the militarisation of the Caribbean which is occurring before our very eyes and which in itself poses some danger for the whole Caribbean region and which in itself poses some serious implications for the development of Barbados as a democratic freedom-loving country based on the principles of multi-party democracy, and therefore I would not wish

members to believe that the purpose of this Bill is simply to relocate or repatriate a law. It has wider implications. I want to tell the Opposition and tell the House and tell the public that it is one of a series of Bills that I will be bringing down to this House. I hope shortly to bring down a Bill dealing with treason. I have brought one dealing with extradition because I think there are certain defects in our legal structure which must be put right and must be corrected if we are to provide the necessary framework for quick responses to evil that is becoming standard form in the world. We have been in contact with friendly countries including Sweden and a few others to co-sponsor the relevant Resolution with us in the United Nations on this matter at the international level, and when I attend the meeting of the Organisation of American States General Assembly this year, I will myself be lobbying very strongly for a relevant Resolution within the region as a whole. It is within that context that I commend the second reading of this Bill to this House.

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

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

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

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

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

Clause 3 was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: In moving that Clause 3 stand part, I will draw hon. members' attention to the purposes of the Bill. One of the reasons why we set out the purposes is so that it would be clearly understood by the Court that the purpose of this Bill is to make it unlawful for any individuals owing any measure of allegiance to Barbados to engage in armed incursions against the government of another country and to prohibit the recruiting of mercenaries within or from Barbados. So it is not only an act of recruiting in Barbados which will be prohibited, but also recruiting mercenaries from Barbados even if those Barbadian mercenaries are recruited outside of Barbados.

I beg to move that Clause 3 stand part.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to second that.
6.25 p.m.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, before you put the question on it I would like to enquire from the Hon. Attorney General if he would throw some light on this.

There are some Barbadians who have citizenship in other countries. Would there be a conflict arising if you attempted at anytime to enforce any violation of this Act by such persons? I would like some light on this.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The answer to that is really "no", Sir. In the Bill we have exempted certain lawful activities which would not be caught by the Act. For instance, where a Barbadian who is recruited to or serves in Foreign Armed Forces and who may well carry both nationalities such a person is not caught by the Act. A Barbadian who may also serve within the United Nations Organisation or Forces, such a person too is not caught by the Act.

Dr. CADDLE: If the hon. member will give way. I do not think the Attorney General caught my point. We are dealing with the mercenaries after this Act comes into force and I am drawing to his attention that there are Barbadians who hold citizenship in other countries. Now, if such a Barbadian violates this Act after it comes into force, how do you set about to enforce the provisions of this Act against such a person if such a person is a citizen of the other country because in Barbados we do not ask a person to renounce his Barbadian citizenship when he adopts the citizenship of another country.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, some countries do not allow the concept of dual nationality. Other countries do. In those countries which permit dual nationality the Barbadian citizen would be subjected to this Act. The only limitation of dual nationality is that if there is a dispute between the countries of both of which he has nationality and he is resident of one of those countries, the country in which he is not resident at the same time would not take any steps on his behalf. That is the only limitation from the rule of dual nationality. Otherwise, there is none.

If, for instance, both countries have this type of legislation he is subjected to the full force of the legislation in both countries. If however, one country has and the other has not he is subjected to the full force of the legislation in that country. Now those Barbadians who have renounced their Barbadian citizenship will not be caught by the legislation because in so far as like anyone else, they commit the criminal act in Barbados, the territoriality of criminal legislation applies to persons present on our soil regardless of the nationality of those persons. I think I have explained his point.

The question that Clause 3 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 4 was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to move that Clause 4 stand part, Sir. This section would in itself have caught the recruitment of mercenaries by Mr. Sydney Alleyne so that Clause 4 is a very necessary Clause.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: I beg to second that.

The question that Clause 4 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 5 to 7 were called and passed.

Clause 8 was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: In begging to move that Clause 8 stand part let me say that this Clause allows for people who are generally serving in the Armed Forces of the Crown or persons who are serving in the Armed Forces in other countries with whom Barbados has a Treaty arrangement or International Agreement or persons serving in the United Nations Service. It was necessary to exempt them from this Act.

I beg to move that Clause 8 stand part.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: I beg to second that.

The question that Clause 8 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 9 was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Clause 9, Sir, permits people to serve in the National Red Cross without incurring the problems of the Act and to render medical or humanitarian relief to civilians or combatants engaged in any warfare or armed conflict. Again we considered this exemption necessary.

I beg to move that Clause 9 stand part.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: I beg to second that.

The question that Clause 9 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 10 to 12 were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. H. deB. FORDE seconded by Dr. CHELTENHAM, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.
6.35 p.m.

On the motion of Hon. H. deB. FORDE seconded by Dr. CHELTENHAM, the Bill was read a third time.

On the motion of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, the Bill was passed.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Item No. 6, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Item No. 6 is the instant Order of the Day.

THE NATIONAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION ACT, 1979

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, all hon. members are fully aware of the need by all countries in the world to ensure that they do everything in their power to be able, on the most advantageous terms possible, to obtain their energy requirements in the form of fossil fuels. As long ago as 1976 when the draftsmen of the Barbados Labour Party Manifesto were considering the area of energy, it became clear to the Barbados Labour Party that fossil fuels was an area of activity which demanded the attention of Government at the highest level. After an exhaustive examination of the treatment of fossil fuels by a large number of independent countries, it became even clearer that this commodity was the commodity which was increasingly dealt with on a Government to Government basis.

Consistent with this party's belief that in certain areas of the economy it is vital for Government to play a leading role, as we did in relation to the natural gas as long ago as 1948, as we did in relation to petroleum rights for Barbados, as we did in relation to transport, this Government brings to this House a Bill to create an instrument in the form of a National Petroleum Corporation whose object is to search for and develop petroleum and natural gas resources, to establish subsidiary refineries, to import and distribute petroleum products so as to ensure that the needs of Barbados will be met, and to undertake all other matters relating to the above, and I make no apology to anyone who believes that it is wrong for Government to participate in economic activity. I believe that the most conservative of Governments in the world today have to recognise that there are certain areas of the economy that are so vital to the economic welfare of the country that they must participate. Now, this party has a better record in that respect than any other political party that has ever governed this country, and I am quite willing to demonstrate our legislative history *vis-a-vis* the legislative history of the Opposition at any period of time of its history and the comparative performance of their political philosophies. I am quite willing to do it, and I could demonstrate it by positive proof that we practise what we preach.

Sir, this Bill has been drafted after the Government has received a tremendous amount of high quality advice

not only from consultants available under the UNDP programme, under the UNIDO programme, but after an examination by myself of all the petroleum legislation in the Third World countries of any significance. The Philippines, Indonesia, Trinidad & Tobago, the Middle Eastern countries, all of the legislation in those areas has been exhaustively examined, and the Attorney General's Office carried out its usual research in arriving at this Bill, and the Cabinet in February 1979 approved it.

One of the points we had to be careful of in drafting the Bill, however, is the fact that we have been very strong in our view that it would be wrong, in view of the very good history of the Natural Gas Corporation, to disturb that Corporation with its honourable record by merging it into a Natural Petroleum and Gas Corporation. We understood that distribution is a type of activity which lends itself to a convenient bit of economic activity as opposed to exploration for gas and the transmission of gas.

6.45 p.m.

So hon. members will see by way of the Schedule to the National Petroleum Corporation Act certain amendments to the Natural Gas Corporation Act have been incorporated so as to delete from the existing powers of the Natural Gas Corporation the right to drill for gas and the right to own transmission lines. So instead of having one corporation, we have two corporations. But the Natural Gas Corporation will in future be concentrating on what it does now, that is, distribution and processing. I think I should draw that to the hon. member's attention because we were strongly advised that this was the best way of doing it. As a matter of fact, if you went to Trinidad and looked at the legislation there you would see that they have done this. To go further, when you drill a hole in the ground, what comes up may be oil, sometimes only gas, some times a mixture of both. So there was a little lacuna in the Natural Gas Corporation Act drafted some years ago, in that they had the right to search for gas, and God only knows what would have happened if in the course of drilling they had found oil, because they were not entitled to drill for oil. We have corrected that. We envisaged that in the unleased areas of Barbados, the principal instrument to foster the development and to do the negotiations in any joint venture will be the National Petroleum Corporation of Barbados. I do not believe it is possible for a Ministry with all its bureaucracy and all its procedures to successfully market any potential that we may have in this area. The experience of Great Britain has shown that it is extremely profitable to have such an instrument. I believe that the Mexican experience is even more relevant, for PEMEX in Mexico has demonstrated to the world that it is possible for an unsophisticated Third World country so to conduct its affairs that it can buy the necessary management and technology to exploit any resources it may have in this area in such a way

that the country and the citizens derive the maximum benefit. I am not telling hon. members that the mere fact that we create a National Petroleum Corporation in Barbados will mean that the price of gas will be reduced. What we are doing is creating an instrument to ensure that we have the means of attracting on terms and conditions which are the best possible, given the type of industry, for the citizens of Barbados, and I feel that this Bill will receive the support of all hon. members. Already, as I said in the previous debate today, of late we have been able to attract a large amount of international assistance from the British Government, the UNDP and the Inter-American Development Bank. A significant thing that has taken place to date is that multi-national banking institutions like the World Bank, the IADB and other institutions, because of the importance of energy, have indicated their willingness to put resources in the hands of Government to carry out functions hitherto regarded as the preserves of a few multi-national corporations. So that we need not have any fear that because we create this instrument we will be unable to attract co-partners with specialized skills. Co-partners are today glad to be assured that they would have a percentage in any oil finds; that is the modern trend of participation agreements.

It is envisaged that the resources of this corporation will come from borrowing. They will come also, if I have my way, from the issue of certain types of fiscal instruments by the Corporation in which Barbadians will be encouraged to participate with certain tax inducements. I am pleased to see that, in another place, another Government with all its provisions for private enterprise has just had to decide that it would be wrong to dispose of its National Petroleum Corporation and the kind of instrument I envisage for the raising of venture capital is the type they are now contemplating. The truth of the matter is that we have been granting inducements to people to set up industry, to set up hotels, and I see no reason why there should not be inducements to people who are willing to invest small sums for the development or exploration of oil. I believe that, as has happened in the Philippines and Malaysia and other countries, provided the inducements is there, Barbadians will take a little gamble in this type of activity. After all, we now have about 45 wells drilled in Barbados. The last thirty of these wells have shown some sign and have produced some hydrocarbons. Increasingly the complexities of the geology of Barbados have been unravelled. If it was profitable to develop an area when the price of oil at the well head was US\$5 per barrel, I think that when it has reached the OPEC prices of \$20 a barrel, any resources we have will become more and more attractive.

We have also had some discussions with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago with respect to the sharing of information on technology and expertise, and I believe that the proper instrument to deal with that is

this independent corporation which is being run on a commercial basis.

Now I want to say this: I do not envisage this will be anything of the type commonly known as a yardfowl board. The calibre of people this Board must attract must be a high degree of intellectual ability, skilled in the disciplines which are necessary. But, at the same time, I do not believe that anyone should be excluded because of the fact that he happens to be a member of any political party; I want to make that clear. We hope that we can attract to the staff a number of qualified Barbadians and Caribbean people and I make no apology in saying that if we have to go abroad to attract the right type of persons we will do so, because in the world of oil technology nationality does not appear to be a barrier to job opportunities. Indeed I was struck, when looking at the consultants bidding for the UNDP and things like that, to see how many people had come from Third World Countries.
6.55 p.m.

Some have come from Trinidad. Some have come from India. Some have come from the Middle East and things of that kind. Consulting firms in the area of technology look for the best in respect of quality. They look for candidates who have performed, more importantly, well in examinations, and they look for those who have performed well in the field in applying the theoretical knowledge they have gained in the examinations.

I think that, once we can get the co-operation that I have envisaged, we can now go on to the general principles of the Bill. Hon. members will be aware that the Bill will allow the Corporation to create subsidiaries. The reason for this is that, when there are off-shore activities, it will be necessary to create a subsidiary only to indulge in off-shore drilling. You do not want to have to come back to Parliament to be able to do that. The Corporation has power to create subsidiaries with the approval of the Cabinet.

I would also like to say that there are elaborate provisions in relation to disclosures by the directors. These are important provisions. They prevent a conflict of interests. The power of the Chairman in relation to borrowing and guarantees are set out. The provisions relating to the duties of the Corporation are also set out as well as the provisions relating to the filing of annual reports.

The two officers — in keeping with the new approach to Statutory Boards in Part III the officers only two of which will concern the Minister — will be the Executive Director and the Secretary. The rest are appointments by the Corporation. Hon. members will be aware that with the new pattern of Statutory Boards there has come into being the approach which frees the Board of Directors of a corporation from the constraints

of ministerial approval. I think that when the Minister is not satisfied with the way in which the Board is being run, what he should do is to relieve himself of the Board. That is certainly within his power.

That is the pattern that this Government has established in relation to corporations; and of course I should want to make it clear that there are some corporations which are really only extensions of Government Departments in that 95 to 100 per cent of the total funding is a government grant. Any type of corporation like that is in a different position; and I can well understand that there should be a greater degree of ministerial interference or supervision of that type of corporation than a corporation which is set up to deal with a commercial undertaking.

Sir, the other area to which I would like to draw the attention of hon. members is the wide powers in relation to the establishment of refineries and the importation and distribution of petroleum products. I am not saying that immediately this Government will set up a refinery. I am not saying that it is profitable to do such a thing. I am not saying that we will be importing gas. I am not saying that we will be distributing; but I want hon. members to be aware of this: the ability to pay for petroleum does not guarantee that you will get that product in the volume that you need. In short, not only is price a consideration today, but so also is the certainty of supply.

I believe that this industry can play an important part in seeking out sources of supply; and if one seeks out sources of supply, one is in a better position to regulate the cost. So, all in all, despite the fact that we do not have very large sums of money available to us, and because of the fact that this commodity is so important to our future development, and because of the fact that we need to have an increase in activity in evaluating, exploring and exploiting energy sources in Barbados, and because of the fact that the Government is perfectly prepared to practise and carry out what it has promised, and that those promises were originally sound and their implementation is in the public interest — because of those facts, it gives me great pleasure in bringing this Bill to the House and to move that it be read a second time.

Mr. JOHNSON: I beg to second that.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, before you put the question, I see that the time is now 5 minutes past 7. I do not want to curtail anybody's time, and I think that this is a convenient time at which to suspend. I understand that the hon. member wants to reserve his right to speak.

Mr. JOHNSON: I second the motion and reserve my right to speak.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 8 p.m.

Mr. JOHNSON: I beg to second that.

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

7.05 p.m.

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

Earlier in the day I promised the Hon. Leader of the Opposition that I would permit him to table a question. I understand that the hon. member for St. Michael North Central has been requested to table the question on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition. He may do so now.

NOTICE OF QUESTION

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, I beg to give notice of the following question:—

1. Is the Prime Minister aware that there is considerable uncertainty in the minds of the general public as to the purpose of the current enumeration exercise?
2. Will the Prime Minister clearly restate the purpose of the exercise so as to remove these uncertainties and to facilitate the enumeration where necessary?

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is now resumed.

THE NATIONAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION ACT, 1979

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, this Bill sets out as its objects and reasons its desire to establish the National Petroleum Corporation to search for, get, manage and develop petroleum resources and make provision with respect to its other functions and for matters related thereto.

As the hon. Leader of the House has been most conscious to indicate, it is largely a statement of intent and a recognition of the need in Barbados to continue in the search to exploit whatever resources we have, just as we have been able to exploit such resources to lead to an

effective tourist industry which today is bringing the kind of fruits consequential on the efforts made three or four years ago, and which we hope in three to four years' time will bring increased fruits from the quality of effort being made today. This, too, is reflected in the ability of this country to harness its resources in terms of developing a fairly vibrant manufacturing sector, although it is virtually impossible to determine the quality of its performance because of the type of information put out and endorsed by the hon. member for Christ Church East where you get a whole mass of dollar value of exports which have no relation whatsoever to actual productivity. However, of very great importance is the recognition that this Bill has to be seen in its world context of a very vital problem of energy. It is the responsibility of every parliamentarian, it is the responsibility of every Barbadian, to address himself to this question of energy. First of all, in my view it highlights one of the fundamental bases for the development of countries such as Barbados, utilisation, transfer and acquisition of technological development and its impact on the future structure of the economy and the social fabric of our society. If seen in its correct context and if utilised in the way in which it should be utilised, there is no doubt that it can have a tremendous impact on the kind of problems that must face Barbados and the rest of the world in the next decade or two.

Recognition has to be given to the fact, Mr. Speaker, that the world's resources of oil are finite, and as they come nearer and nearer to an end, there will be an increasing demand by the oil-producing countries for higher and higher prices. Reinvestment of the profits from such higher prices largely takes place in the developing countries of the world, and these countries which can neither benefit from the high prices gained from the export or production of oil from domestic sources nor from the investment capital derived from such high prices, are the countries which get the worst of the energy crisis. Unfortunately they are the same countries which have the limited technological resources and also at the same time have less human and financial resources to effect a transfer of energy utilisation.

Recently, for example, in the United States, it has been possible for the Federal Government to pour billions of dollars into new forms of energy. In Barbados we have to start with this kind of approach to the problem on a very limited scale. What in fact we are seeing, Mr. Speaker, is a recognition that ever since the oil crisis in the early seventies the Democratic Labour Party of which I am proud to be a member took certain steps in relation to the exploration for alternative sources of energy, and I think that this particular measure seeks further to move in that particular direction and therefore we must give it our support on this side. However, though, pleased as I am to hear the Hon. Leader of the House state that the composition of the Board would recognise the importance

of technology, the importance of the knowledge, the importance of expertise, the importance of financial knowledge in the composition of the Board, I hope that on this occasion we can take his word in this very vital matter not that we have not been able on other matters to take his word; although I must express my disappointment that when the same assurance was given in relation to the Tourism Investment Corporation which one considers to be of tremendous value in terms of the possibility of getting further Barbadian participation in the capital ownership of the Tourist Industry, when such a commitment was given, I saw in the Press not so long ago an appointment made to the Chairmanship of that Board which in my view was one of purely political expediency. Having fired someone from a particular position in tourism, then to transfer him to another area which the hon. Leader of the House and we on this side agreed had a tremendous potential for Barbadian participation in tourism, I wonder whether I can take his assurance with the same degree of seriousness with which I took it on that occasion.

Having said so, Mr. Speaker, I think that there must be a two-pronged approach to this question of energy. There is a question of exploration of one's natural resources which I will deal with later, and there is also the question of what one can do in terms of conservation, and I wonder indeed whether a corporation like this which one hopes will embody much of the expertise associated with energy should not be charged also with the preservation of some aspects of the environment which may very well be consequential on this type of exploration, and also charged with the responsibility of advising and researching within the community areas of energy conservation

8.10 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, it is my judgment that it may well be necessary for those of us who are familiar with certain types of parlance to look more closely at the appropriateness of the means of production within this society in terms of energy demands. This, of course, may relate very much to the question of the extent to which we use human power and manpower. It may relate to the question of whether you chose to purchase two tractors with the consequential factors of fuel, spare parts and maintenance or if instead of that you really look very carefully at whether or not the same work could not be done by other means within the particular society bearing in mind the unemployment situation.

I think this is one of the fundamental areas. I think it is also most important to look at those areas where there is a heavy consumption of energy and an increasing demand for energy and to look very carefully at our pattern of industrialisation and see what impact that is having on the demand for energy and also on the cost of energy not only to the community but also to individuals within the particular community.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is necessary that the Town Planning Department, for example, might well be charged with certain responsibility in relation to architectural designs within this country. I think we may find that it may be necessary to change the pattern of architecture which developed in the late 60's and 70's. There is a high demand for this and maybe we could see if in this particular area we cannot make significant savings in energy.

I was pleased to hear, I am not sure whether it was on the floor of the House or elsewhere, the Hon. Leader of the House give his endorsements to the plan for the use of solar energy in the hotels. However, the question arises whether or not this should not be encouraged in private homes, whether or not it should not be encouraged in housing developments; whether or not there could not be a case made out for a subsidy in certain circumstances in relation to giving that impetus to solar energy, to the development and utilisation of solar energy in this society.

I say this for this reason, Mr. Speaker. The hotel industry in Barbados, both under the previous Barbados Labour Party and the Democratic Labour Party government and under the present Barbados Labour Party Government has had the benefit for many years of certain tax concessions and I am very doubtful whether or not this constitutes a major priority at this stage in the hotel development in this society, particularly when we look and analyse very carefully the loans disbursed from the Barbados Development Bank over the past three to four years and when you look and see the way in which this has been heavily weighted in favour of the sector of the hotel industry, namely the Apartment Section, which is not a great employer of labour and consequently only a few people have benefited as a consequence of this.

I wonder whether some of the subsidies which now go into hotel and apartment construction could not be transferred to home ownership, particularly in the area of reviewing the recurring cost of energy for those homes and possibly a reduction in the amount of taxation that people have to pay on building materials which I understand is somewhere in the region of 30%. Quite clearly, Mr. Speaker, this is a matter that will have to be clearly studied depending on the particular direction of the Government in respect of the tourist industry and I hope that the hon. member for St. Philip North who has had some recent exposure to housing problems, the type of exposure which I had 10 years ago, would begin to appreciate the kind of problems I am talking about, in those days as Deputy Chairman of the Urban Development Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, I am not reading. These are just notes. I have spoken about the possibility of making use of the Town Planning Department and also giving directives if

necessary as to the type of construction that ought to take place in Barbados and predicated very much on the possible demands for energy in the future.

On this question of a subsidy for solar energy for individual homes, it is important.....

Mr. SIMMONS: On a point of order. I just want to point out that the National Housing Corporation in the last phase of Oxnards used the solar water heating system and I myself, in my private home, have solar heating installed so he cannot teach me anything like that.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I am aware that the hon. member knows all about solar heating but what I am saying is that, for the benefit of the vast majority of us who might have to build a home, it may be possible to transfer some of the subsidies that take place in building elsewhere so that the ordinary Barbadian can enjoy some kind of tax relief in this particular area.

It has also been brought to my attention that a considerable amount of energy is used in the process of getting drinking water, pumping water from below the earth and getting it into the homes of people of Barbados.

It has also been brought to my attention that the most persistent use of garbage and sewage is as a means of generation of energy when once the particular technical problems relating in the process of dissemination and the step-up process in the generation of such energy are resolved. Our sewage development system could be used as a source of energy in Barbados, as has been used experimentally and, I gather, successfully in one of the Virgin Islands, whereas you know that in order to get water by the process of desalination through the ordinary energy process it becomes an uneconomic proposition.

I am not fully aware of the technical inputs involved but there is a process by which garbage disposal can be used as a source of energy, in addition to the desalination of water and make more water available to the people of Barbados. I speak of this because I feel that our human resources are limitless.
8.20 p.m.

I feel that we in Barbados locally, and many Barbadians overseas, have acquired a tremendous amount of technological knowledge, and are capable of acquiring additional technological knowledge, and that this Corporation, the Corporation of the kind that we are discussing here, may well be the kind of structure within which this sort of knowledge can be developed, harnessed and used to the benefit of all Barbadians. I know it is getting late and I know that the question of energy can keep us going all night, but there has been a lot of

experimental data being carried out in the United States and various areas, and one of the things one has to look at in a place like Barbados is the question of the utilisation of the wind. Although we know it has significant limitations, on the basis of the latest experimental studies that I have seen done in the United States where I think they calculated something about 10,000 winnows to generate 20% of the total electricity consumption of one of the small generators in the United States, in Barbados if it is possible, we can look into this area as well and I think it should be done. Therefore, I think that a Corporation of this kind should not be limited only to the question of trying to find out what resources you have underground, I think it should be looking into the total exploration of possible sources of energy in this society, because I think it is this multi-pronged approach to the energy question which makes it worthwhile, bearing in mind that not only by virtue of cost but by the finite nature of this type of resource can we draw upon studies of this nature.

The studies of the use of gasohol as energy in Barbados might not be too far off. I understand that, if at any time the price of gasoline reaches something like \$4.00 or \$4.50 a gallon, then it might be possible to use gasohol as a possible alternate in our energy, and judging by the policies of the present Government and the recent action taken by the Nigerians, there is every possibility that there might be a further increase in the price of gasoline, or it might not be too long before our own sugar industry here might pay a price for energy production and energy utilisation in Barbados. So the situation is not too hopeless, Mr. Speaker, and I would hope that the Hon. Leader of the House would recognise that an intervention of this nature from the Opposition benches would be to encourage him, not necessarily to criticise, but to widen if possible the scope of such a Corporation with the limited technological knowledge that is available. I also hope that on this occasion and in this very very vital matter we will see people on this Board and people employed by this Board on the basis of their ability to contribute. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, I wish to make it absolutely clear that I have grave reservations about the policy of the last Barbados Labour Party Government in relation to Boards, reservations in relation to the intervening period, and reservations in relation to the present Barbados Labour Party Government in relation to Boards, because I believe that Statutory Boards, subject to some of the constraints mentioned by the Hon. Leader of the House, fundamentally represent an opportunity for the involvement of people with particular knowledge and particular expertise in the management of the affairs of the country, and that, perhaps, the main reason for their existence at all is because you feel they can do the job better than it can be done by the general Civil Service, and many of the constraints put on Statutory Boards I would...

Mr. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. I would like to say from this side that we appreciate the point being made by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, because on the Housing Board they had a garage man, Mr. Stanley Linton, and Mr. L. B. Marshall, a thief and Senator LeRoy Brathwaite, no special expertise in housing.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, this is a serious matter of national importance and I am determined not to be drawn into that kind of politics, particularly by a young man, not in an area of such national responsibility. What I am saying is that the kind of policy outlined in relation to this particular Board, if this Board is to function, then the Hon. Leader of the House has a duty to persuade his colleagues that this is not the place for fools, and I would also like to say that I would like to see the situation exist in Barbados where those on that side and we on this side come to a clear understanding as to what the functions of Boards are.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. That is a very profound statement, but the hon. member has not remembered one thing, that we invited the other side to nominate members to Boards and they refused.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I understand that nomination related to parliamentarians. That was my understanding, but if this contribution, slight as it is, could have any effect, and if there can be an understanding emerging as to the true rule of Boards in Barbados, I think it will do a lot of good.

I have heard the Hon. Leader of the House talking again and again about the re-establishment of Local Government in Barbados. What he does not understand is that, through the mechanisms and the multiplicity of Boards, you have the opportunity for people in this society to perform in many ways a similar kind of function, which is slightly different from it, and is providing an opportunity for the involvement of people not directly involved in the political process and also for the utilisation of that wealth of expertise and initiative that we have among the young people in Barbados. The IDC, for example, no criticism of the hon. member for Christ Church East, is a Board that..... (*Asides*). It is a question of an intellectual affiliation.
8.30 p.m.

That is an area where I feel considerable amount of expertise can have a tremendous impact on the future of Barbados. Tourism is another area that is becoming increasingly sophisticated; and in the area of sewerage disposal the most knowledgeable person on that Board, Mr. Tommy Miller, has been dropped. Tommy knows more about sewerage disposal than all of you put together.

However, to get back to the substance of the debate I believe I have outlined many areas where I feel that energy can be either conserved or explored in Barbados apart from the question of under-earth exploration.

Now, the question of this petrochemical industry. I want the Leader of the House to understand that the kind of capital inputs required to have a meaningful petrochemical industry is not anything you can hope to produce out of a Barbados situation on its own. Possibilities, yes, on a Caribbean basis; but, in my judgment, the behaviour of the Jamaican Government not so long ago in relation to Trinidad does not hold out too much hope for this. So I think that, apart from a basic kind of petrochemical industrial development, bearing in mind the kind of massive capital inputs, you are unlikely to get too much benefit out of that particular area unless you come across some special kind of structure within our subterranean environment by further geological exploration which is not available to us.

Mr. Speaker, this is my small contribution, and I hope that the matter will be taken seriously, even the expertise of Mr. Tommy Miller, a distinguished citizen of Barbados and of St. Michael South Central.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I believe the hon. member for St. Michael South Central has used a simple bill dealing the development of the petroleum or hydro-carbon industry in Barbados to give his exposition on the use of alternative sources of energy in Barbados. Let me tell the hon. member he is late. It is not a question of making submissions. This Government has studied and has begun to implement proposals for alternative energy. I wish therefore to set the record straight for him so that he will know for the future, and that on the occasions when he begins to talk on public platforms his little knowledge on these matters would be a bit more pervasive.

In the first place, when it comes to the use of solar energy, the hon. member ought to be aware that the Government has gone ahead with programmes for the development of solar energy in Barbados. It has used the vehicle of taxation to assist the development of solar energy in the private sector, and in the public sector. Government itself has gone into the development of two main buildings which will not only use solar heating but also solar cooling as well. The Government has also, on a regional scale, gone in with other countries in the Caribbean to look for financing for an overall study of the development of solar energy. We believe that solar energy offers a long term and short term source of fuel that is inexhaustible to the world and for Barbados in particular. And not only are we contributing towards the development and research, not only are we contributing towards the commercial use of the limited expertise

which we have, but we are also developing with the other countries the knowledge which exists and sharing that knowledge. The hon. member is very late in this field, and I hope that his party is big enough on the political platform to give the Government the praise for the action which it has been taking in the development of solar energy in this country. I do not expect to get much praise from the other side, but at least since the hon. member is raising matters in a non-partisan way, he will tell the country of the Barbados Labour Party's accent on the development of fossil and non-fossil resources in the energy field.

The hon. member talked about wind power. In the 19th century Barbados was a leading industrial nation. Many people do not know this or advert to it, but we were a leading industrial nation because we had developed wind power for the manufacturing of the very important resource of sugar. But the world developed in such a way that wind power was downgraded. The hon. member ought to know that we have got to the stage where the National Science Council has been studying the possibility of a series of windmills on the East Coast which would supply half of the electricity needs of this Island. (*Asides*) He says impossible. If the hon. member wants, I can send him some of the publications. He does not know that in California, for instance, the United States has developed 500 windmills which supply half of the electricity for villages bigger in numerical strength than Barbados. I can lend him a few publications on this.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir, the hon. member is suggesting that I am unaware of the question of the use of windmills. In point of fact, I took the trouble to point out to him certain experiments carried out in the United States, and I can give him the number of windmills necessary to supply "X" amount of electricity.

Mr. SPEAKER: You are making another speech.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The hon. member does not like to be taught, but we will give him a number of publications so that he will know. One of the things we monitor in the Ministry of External Affairs quite carefully is every development in the science and technology of energy, and this is passed on to the relevant Government Departments, something that never happened under your Government; they did not see the importance of it. So if the hon. member wants any information on the development of wind power in the United States or Latin America or any other place we will give him the details so that he will see how it is done.

Let us come to wave power. The east coast of Barbados offers the best possibility of wave power. An experiment has been carried out successfully in Mauritius since 1968. It has proved to be commercially viable and it

was carried out in conjunction with the University in Scotland. I will give the hon. member the publication and information on this. Anybody on the front bench can speak on this because we have all studied it. You cannot tell us anything new; we told you already we can teach you. You won a scholarship after me so you have to take your place in the queue; you must understand that.

In the case of wave power, as he would have seen from a recent statement made by Dr. Smith in the Nation newspaper, the studies are again available to the National Development Council, but such an industry would take a capitalization of a hundred million dollars to get it off the ground.

8.40 p.m.

One of the projects that we will be submitting for funding to the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, and possibly OPEC for alternative uses of energy is possibly the funding of the wave power plant for Barbados to generate electricity and help with the development of fishing; this is one project, and the Scotland district project the possibility of which is being looked at now by the World Bank, as the hon. member should know. Once it is thrown up that various projects like these are feasible, the Government anticipates that it will spend about US\$150 million over a period of years in the development in the Scotland area, exclusive of the development of wave power in that area.

The hon. member talked about the use of sugar cane for the development of gasohol. The major development of gasohol has taken place in Brazil; and the Brazilians are now having second thoughts as to whether they will use their sugar cane completely for gasohol, whether it is commercially better to use it that way or to continue to use it for cardboard and other alternative sources of energy.

We have had a study done of the Barbados Sugar Industry which is a small industry, and that study shows that the gasohol industry is not at the moment commercially feasible in this country. It would be much better to concentrate on the development of cardboard and make other uses of our sugar cane rather than going into the development of gasohol.

The Government has already gone ahead with the study. It is proved today that the sugar cane industry can be used for detergents, and it is much more useful with the small productions we have here in Barbados. I do not foresee within the next twenty years Barbados going into the production of gasohol from the use of sugar cane. You have a copy of the report. We have brain power over here and not only wave power.

The hon. Minister of Agriculture has already sent his experts to Brazil and Colombia looking at the use of cassava and getting expertise for the re-development of the cassava industry here; and when I was in Lusaka, at the request of the Minister of Agriculture I had discussions with the Zambians about technical assistance in this field. The hon. member may care to know that we are steps ahead of him with the development of alternative sources. The hon. member does not know that from Sunflower seeds you can produce gasohol, as well as oil to relieve natural oil — edible oil. This is a field also that the hon. Minister of Agriculture has been investigating. I am going to give it to him. I am going to educate him. When you come into power as we did it takes some years. When we came into power as we did, not finding any plans made for the development of hydro-carbons.....

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of elucidation. I think that the hon. member is totally unaware that I am a Scientist. I do not think that he is aware of that.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I realize that the hon. member has some limited knowledge in the medical field; but I did not know that he has qualified in any other scientific subjects that I know of. I am sure that he will learn a little bit about these areas, Sir. What I want to emphasise to the hon. member for St. Michael South Central is that when we came into power there was not one word written about the use of alternative sources of energy by the Democratic Labour Party, existing sources of energy or doing feasibility studies or collecting information; and now we have got to the stage where we are examining the matter for project identification plus financing to get projects going for Barbados. When we talk about proper management and proper planning that is what we mean.

Any Government that comes in and succeeds us will find the plans that we have done, not only the physical survey, not only the physical structure but the proper development of the resources of this country; and as the hon. Minister has said, we are now doing a seismographic survey to know what our energy resources in fossil fuel are both in land and off the land in Barbados, because we cannot develop the natural gas industry or a long-term petroleum industry unless you know what your resources happen to be.

The Democratic Labour Party Government went out of power in this country without even attempting to analyse what are our basic resources in this country in energy, in hydro-carbons or anything of the sort. Therefore when I hear them get up and talk about reducing the cost of this and that, of bringing down the cost of petroleum, they have either no concept of what is happening in the development of the Petroleum

Industry in the world, or alternatively they are short term political expedient seekers of office. That is all that they can be, because anyone who is going to be placed in the position of Government must, no matter what his political label knows that you cannot begin to develop petroleum to the extent of being able to control your prices until you know your resource base. Otherwise you are subject to the vagaries of the oil sheikhs, and you must therefore find yourself with oil and gas prices going up regardless of how you like it or not.

I go another one. The hon. member's party in 1961 entered into agreement with Mobil Oil Industry — and this has to be repeated because you are not going to be allowed to get away with it on public platforms — an agreement which controls us to give a percentage above the Platts oil gram; and the people of Barbados are today subsidizing Mobil Oil by about \$3 million (BDS) a year because of their obligations to pay Mobil certain prices and to buy products from Mobil; and it may well have been better if such an agreement did not bind us so that we could have bought products outside cheaper and brought down certain costs on certain limited products in this country; but they signed a thirty year agreement which does not expire until 1991. 8.50 p.m.

I have looked at the agreement and tried to advise the Government to get out of it, but these were the days of the Crawford-Barrow axis, and that is the nature of the agreement you have saddled this country with. The Democratic Labour Party has no credibility. I could not join the DLP with the sort of nonsense you all got on with. You have no credibility, and when I hear fools like Winston Parris talking on the platform and mouthing nonsense instead of listening to some of the sensible things that he should have learnt when he was a member of the Barbados Labour Party, I regret to see how badly he has talked. He should leave that to Tommy because everybody knows when Tommy has up his steams you do not know where he is coming from; but not a boy like Winston Parris who ought to have had some sense to understand the very bad planning that went on during the Democratic Labour Party days. I like them to hear. I do not want them to hear I said anything behind their backs. I would tell them in front their faces. He should come and get a copy of the Mobil Agreement signed by the DLP Government with the signature of Mr. W. A. Crawford and Premier Barrow behind it, saddling the people with high petroleum prices, and every time the price goes up we have to go up with it and go into paying an extra price to Mobil Oil over and above the price we would normally pay if we had been buying the products otherwise on the market. That is what he must know.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of elucidation, the Barbados Labour Party...

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the hon. member trying to elucidate?

Dr. HAYNES: The hon. member has said that we in the...

Mr. SPEAKER: You can only elucidate if you made a statement and the hon. member misinterprets it.

Dr. HAYNES: On the question of a reduction in cost, the hon. member said that for us to say that we can reduce the cost would be dishonest or something to that effect. All I was trying to point out is that that is in the Barbados Labour Party manifesto.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please try to elucidate another time.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The hon. member is not going to put me off my point. I will come back to the Mobil Agreement. The Mobil Agreement is there. We have investigated that agreement. As an honourable Government we are bound by it because if we tried to get out of it we would find ourselves facing substantial damages; but you have saddled this country with that agreement — your party. Do not tell us not to look back. I want to face you all point by point, and you can share my platform or I will share your platform, and yourself, the hon. member for St. Michael North Central and the hon. member for St. John can have three speeches to my one, because when it comes to the factual basis of the nonsense that went on under the Democratic Labour Party, you cannot get out and say you were not there at the time and you are not responsible for it. You must face up to the nonsensical actions of past Governments like yours that you took on some issues and to say you do not have any credibility when you argue the price of petroleum with anybody at all. There is no choice we have on these issues, until we can look and develop a source of energy and a complete programme such as that pointed out by the Leader of the House in introducing this Bill.

Now, Sir, we come on the question of Boards. I never thought I would hear the hon. member talk about not having any faith in any of the Boards established by the former Barbados Labour Party Government or indeed by this Government. Sir, there was a time when I thought he had a degree of objectivity. I have become very disappointed with him. I do not hear him make a speech in which he can objectively praise the Government for anything they do at all. His seeking for power is so consistent that he has lost any objectivity in selling himself on the basis of statesmanship, and that is why the Deputy Leader is sitting there.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of elucidation, what I said was that I have grave reservations about the Boards set up under the previous Barbados Labour Party Government, in the intervening period and under the present Barbados

Labour Party administration. Those are my exact words — in the intervening period under the present Barbados Labour Party Government. That is what I said. If you want a greater objectivity than that, I do not know how you can give it.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The hon. member is going to have to learn to wait. He is saddled between the hon. member for St. Michael North Central and the hon. member for St. Michael South. His period of tutelage is long. You have twenty years before you can even think of getting near the deputy leadership, because you talk on every subject, matters on which you have no knowledge, and you get up and pontificate as though you are the greatest professor of the world; so we have to expose you for the foolishness that you talk.

Let us come to the Boards. The hon. member seeks to equate local government to a certain extent when he was challenged and giving people a chance to participate on Boards. That is absolute nonsense. What has that got to do with wide participation in Government in the day to day running of communities? How many citizens can sit on Boards for a small country like Barbados? If you add them up you will see how many people are involved in the management of Boards and the limited area in which Boards operate. That is point (1), but that is by the way. We will look at the type of people on the Boards. Once again the Democratic Labour Party cannot talk to us on this. Their Boards were used for direct yard-fowlism. I will start with Mr. Bernstein, a personal friend of the hon. member, one who campaigned with the hon. member in my constituency in Christ Church West, who held a prominent place in the DLP. He is one of the biggest financiers still. In fact he went recently on a trip to Vancouver and on the plane was heard to say that this Government is doing well, but he made his millions under the DLP and if elections were called he would be back down there next day for the elections. Let us deal with him. A white man; I have nothing against his whiteness; a card-bearing member of the Democratic Labour Party; he is entitled to his political opinions; a very bad Board Chairman, criticised in the Duffus Report for his mal-administration and for misuse of his position on the Board. Why is it that the hon. member can get up now on platforms and justify and whitewash the Duffus Report and has not got the guts of his convictions in order to get up and say that shows that we should never put our own yardfowls on Boards ever again? Is he condoning the type of mal-practice that Bernstein indulged in? Let me ask him? I will tell you why I am going to raise these points, because he says he would like to see a Board in which the best people in Barbados are put forward. He and I are at one with that, but when you turn and put somebody on a Board, you hear the Democratic Labour Party come out and say that we only put white people in position today. Let him get that now. They are bringing up the whole roots of race and colour in this country in order to get cheap political points. I fought the

election on the issue of race in which the very Bernstein told the white people that I was a black man and a black powerist when he was campaigning in the white area; but when it got up above the hill in the black areas they sent the other canvassers, not Bernstein, to say that I was a white man, — that was the difference — and that I could only look for white people. I faced that election in 1971, so I know the Democratic Labour Party good on this issue. They blow hot and cold to suit themselves and forget that the former Prime Minister surrounded himself with a series of Bernstein types including Morgan.

I am dealing with the subject of Boards. You wanted to hear me on Boards. The trouble is that there is no comparison even between the hon. member for Christ Church East and the person whom he succeeded in the IDC. There is no comparison between the hon. member for St. Philip North and the person whom he succeeded at the Housing Corporation. There is no comparison between the hon. member for Christ Church North Central and the person whom he succeeded on the Tourist Board at the time; none. Let us be serious. We are dealing with different levels of intellectual power. There is no comparison between the hon. member for St. Michael North West and the person whom he succeeded from the DLP when it comes to intellectual power. What are you talking about?
9.00 p.m.

The problem here is that if we try by improving the quality of the Chairman we are criticised that we are putting up our members of Parliament. The Hon. Deputy Prime Minister has already said that you all were offered an opportunity. If we place people like Mrs. Iris Bonachie on the Board or Mr. David Seale on a Board we are being criticised that we are giving white people the positions. What do you want other than power? You get some of the best people who do not run it down the hill like Bernstein who ran it down the hill. You get somebody like Mrs. Iris Bonachie who, with all due respect to the Chairman she succeeded from your Party, is way above in her knowledge and reputation, as Chairman, for Horticulture when it comes to these matters. Let us face facts.

Instead of saying you have the good people, you encourage a few fly by night persons to go around cursing Barbadians on the basis of their colour. That is the type of politics that I am talking about. I would ask the hon. member, if he does not agree with them, to have the courage of his convictions and, like myself, attack the PPM the next time he speaks for bringing colour to these people on the platforms in Barbados, if he has the courage of his convictions.

The hon. member has to come and speak in my constituency now, Mr. Speaker, and he would know what I am talking about. When he comes to speak in my constituency I will be challenging him to dissociate himself from those people in the People's Political Pressure

Movement and to call their names and to say he does not subscribe to those views they are expressing. I am going to challenge him. You ask the hon. member for St. Michael South Central whenever he comes up here begging for a vote next time what are his views on these issues. I am giving him good notice about this area and I will do it in his constituency as well.

I will tell you why I will do it, Sir. In that constituency there are a considerable amount of all-whites whom he relied on last time. He canvassed then on the basis that he was a good Doctor and their Doctor. I went to them and some of them told me. This is a fact. I am warning him early because I have taped the speeches made by some members of the Democratic Labour Party, including the hon. member, the next Deputy, the Deputy Deputy and the others, and I am going to play each of these excerpts back in every house I go to. Once and for all we must get him to stand up and tell the truth regardless of what his involvement is. That is what I want the hon. member to know. He has a lot to learn. This is another initiative of the Barbados Labour Party.

I think when the history of this country is written between 1948 and 1991 it is going to be divided into three periods. The period of innovation, creativity and performance, that is the period of the Barbados Labour Party, and the period of luck, that is, the period of the Democratic Labour Party. We laid the foundation for them in tourism. We started the Barbados Tourist Board. We started the Industrial Development Corporation. We laid the foundation in welfare for them, holidays with pay, housing and the whole works and they came in and rode on it.

We have come in again and started the National Bank. We started the Insurance Corporation. We are coming in with the National Petroleum Development Corporation. We are coming in with the Tourist Investment Corporation. We are coming in with the Development of Energy Resources and they are hoping they will get in in order to be able to say that they did something.

I hope the people of Barbados will recognise where the brains, ideas, where the patriotism, where the nationalism, where the integrity and performance come from in this country. I am throwing out a challenge to the hon. member another time. If he wants to evade any of these issues, share the platform three to one. Do not send out people like Fly to curse us. Come in and share the platform and let us debate issues. He has heard speeches from the front bench today. We will share our platform with him anytime. He can speak first, he can speak last, he can speak first and last, which ever he likes, Sir, but he must get the facts straight because the hon. member is a little weak in his research.

In this respect he should learn something from his Deputy, Sir. I would have liked to hear the Deputy open up on this Bill today. He would have gone back to the time of Socrates, Sir, and done an energy research of the Grecian Empire and what happened at the time of the Great League of China. He would have gone back to all of the energies. The hon. member has read a small paper and has come in here and given us a nay-nay lecture with a few points. He does not know much about it. I promise to give him a few more from time to time.

I have pleasure in supporting this Bill.

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

On the motion of Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN seconded by Dr. CHELTENHAM, Mr. SPEAKER, left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

Part I was called.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Just one point here, Mr. Chairman. There is reference in this Bill in more than one place to the question of the economic zone and while I know that in some other piece of legislation there is some reference to the economic zone, in this piece of legislation I noticed it is not in it. It is not defined and I was wondering if it was necessary to make some reference to this in the Interpretation Clause because there is reference to this economic zone and it is a term of recent origin and I am wondering if there should not be some definition of this in the Interpretation Clause.

There is reference to it, for instance, at page 7, Clause (8)2(a) "to search for or get petroleum in any area outside Barbados or the economic zone." Nowhere is there a definition of the economic zone and I am wondering whether as it is a recent term whether it should not be in the Interpretation Clause.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, the Marine Boundaries and Jurisdiction Act, 1978 contains the Law dealing with the economic zone and the hon. member should be referred to that Act. He would find in that Act that we have declared our economic zone to be 200 miles from the baselines of the waters and it is defined in that Act so that there is no need to re-define it in this legislation.

The question that Part I stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.
9.10 p.m.

Parts II, III and IV were called and passed.

The First Schedule was called.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: I beg to move that this be the First Schedule.

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

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

The Second Schedule was called.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: I beg to move that this be the Second Schedule.

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

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

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

On the separate motions of Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN, seconded by Hon. H. deB. FORDE, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, this concludes Government Business for today, and I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 16th October, at 12.00 noon.

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

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