
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1976 – 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 29th July, 1980

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.25 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour W. C. B. HINDS, J. P., (Speaker); Mr. R. ST. C. WEEKES, J.P.; Hon L. S. CRAIG, (Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment); Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B., (Minister of Communications and Works); Hon. H. deB. FORDE, S.C., M.A., LL.B., (Attorney General and Minister of External Affairs); Mr. E. E. GREAVES, B.A., Ed.M.; Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, LL.M.; 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; Mr. V. L. JOHNSON, M.A., Mr. L. L. SISNETT, and His Honour E. E. ALLEYNE, LL.M., (Deputy Speaker).

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, 22nd day of July, 1980.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes of the 22nd July, 1980 be taken as read and confirmed.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no observations from hon. members, let those Minutes stand confirmed.

Mr. BRADSHAW entered the Chamber and took his seat.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning, I beg to lay the Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 4) Order, 1980. Also, Reports of the Commissioner of Inland Revenue for the years 1974–75 to 1977–78.

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

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Waterworks (General) (Amendment) Regulations, 1980.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, as Attorney General I have the honour to lay the Merchandise Marks (Amendment) Rules 1980.

Mr. SANDIFORD entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the Financial Statements of the Barbados Marketing Corporation for periods ended 31st March, 1977, 31st March 1978 and 31st March 1979.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sir, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the use of the sum of \$2,230,000 from the Export Development Corporation for the purchase of air traffic control radar equipment.

I also beg to give notice of a Resolution to grant the sum of \$555,956 from the Consolidated Fund and place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1980–81, Part I Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1980–81, No. 3 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

I beg to give notice of a Resolution to amend the title of Subhead 7 under Head 19 — Ministry of Finance and Planning and also to amend the note to Item 1 of the said Subhead.

I beg to give notice of a Resolution to grant the sum of \$2,800,000 from the Consolidated Fund and place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1980–81, Part II — Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1980–81, No. 4, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the Waterworks (General) (Amendment) Regulations, 1980.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On my own behalf I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Oistins, Christ Church for the provision of a Fisheries Terminal Complex.

Also a Resolution to approve the lease of land at Prescod Boulevard, Fontabelle, Saint Michael, to Homex Construction Limited.

A Resolution to approve the lease of land at Prescod Boulevard, Fontabelle, Saint Michael, to the Nation Limited.

Also a Resolution to approve the lease of land at Prescod Boulevard, Fontabelle, Saint Michael, to H. B. Niblock Company Limited.

I beg to give notice of a Bill to provide a right for tenants of lots in certain tenancies to purchase the freehold in those lots; to alter section 16 of the Constitution to assure the constitutionality of that right; and to provide for matters related or incidental thereto.

Also a Bill to provide for the development of tenancies and for matters connected therewith.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Bills in my capacity as Attorney General:

A Bill to make new provisions enabling the High Court to assist in obtaining evidence required for the purposes of proceeding in other jurisdictions.

A Bill to amend the Perjury Act;

A Bill to amend the Judicial Sale of Land Act;

A Bill to amend the Court Process Act;

A Bill to amend the Married Women Act;

A Bill respecting the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

Also in my capacity as Minister of External Affairs, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Constitution of Barbados so as to enable membership of the Commonwealth to be more easily ascertained, and to provide for the continued operation of the law of Barbados in relation to certain Commonwealth countries.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, Sir, that a Bill to provide a right for tenants of lots in certain tenancies to purchase the freehold in those lots; to alter section 16 of the Constitution to assure the constitutionality of that right; and to provide for matters related or incidental thereto be read a first time.

Also at this point I would like to make a statement, Mr. Speaker, in connection with this Bill on the first reading. We are also at this point, Sir,.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I will allow you to proceed, but when you were tabling the Bill in the first instance you should have done it then.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I appreciate your guidance, Mr. Speaker, but I have always understood that it should come in the first reading, but you are saying, Sir, it should have done when notice was given.

This Bill which we consider a revolutionary piece of legislation in this country should have wide comments and we propose to have the comments of the employers, the Barbados Sugar Producers Association, the Land Surveyors and the Bar Association, and indeed any comments that would come from the public that would allow this Bill to have the passage which we are all particularly hopeful it will have.

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

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

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, also a Bill to provide for the development of tenancies and for matters connected therewith, in the same manner in which we have treated the first Bill of which I have just given notice, we are also prepared to do likewise, and I beg to move that this Bill be now read a first time.

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

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to make new provisions enabling the High Court to assist in obtaining evidence required for the purposes of proceeding in other jurisdictions be now read a first time.

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

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

12.35 p.m.

On the motion of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, A Bill to amend the Perjury Act was read a first time.

Mr. TAITT entered the Chamber and took his seat.

On the motion of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, A Bill to amend the Judicial Sale of Land Act was read a first time.

On the motion of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, A Bill to amend the Court Process Act was read a first time.

On the motion of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, A Bill to amend the Married Women's Act was read a first time.

On the motion of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, A Bill respecting the Geneva Conventions of 1949, was read a first time.

On the motion of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, A Bill to amend the Constitution of Barbados so as to enable membership of the Commonwealth to be more easily ascertained, and to provide for the continued operation of the law of Barbados in relation to certain Commonwealth countries was read a first time.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Since I, Sir, did not draw to the attention of the Hon. House that it is proposed to proceed with the Resolution for the sum of \$2.8 million and \$2.3 million today, in all their stages; these relate to payments Sir, for equipment at the Airport which has to be made with reasonable expedition. They are payments under the provisions of the entire plan for remodelling the Airport and copies of the Resolutions are available.

We will be seeking, in due course, to deal with these during the day's Sitting.

Thank you, Sir.

CONGRATULATORY SPEECHES

Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, I consider it my duty to the Senior Hon. Member present in this Hon. House of Assembly, to offer my sincere congratulations to the former Hon. Members of this Hon. House, who have been honoured, under recommendation of the Government, by Her Majesty the Queen. As I read it in the newspaper, the Queen has been notified about these appointments. I do not know if that is misleading and therefore, if Her Majesty is not involved with the exercise, I apologise to this Hon. House, but that is irrelevant.

Let us deal with those who have rendered inestimable service to this country. I must, at this particular time, commend the Government for the non partisan approach in which they dealt with such Honours.

Sir Erskine Ward who is a former Hon. Member of this Hon. House, has rendered service as an Hon. Member of Parliament. He has also served as a Chief Justice overseas and also rendered invaluable service in the Sugar Industry and therefore, when he receives the Knighthood, I am saying that he well deserves it.

I would also like to congratulate Mr. Fred Goddard, who was also an Hon. Member of this Hon. House of Assembly who, not only rendered service, as an Hon. Member of the Hon. House of Assembly, but also, in the private sector of this Island.

Thirdly, for those members who are former Hon. Members of this Hon. House. I am indeed happy, proud and satisfied in mind, to know that the service which the Hon. Wynter Crawford has rendered to the community and as a former Hon. Member of this Hon. House has been recognised and appreciated by the present Government.

12.45 p.m.

My conscience would be dead if I did not say that it was through Mr. Crawford's instrumentality, through his initiative and through his sincerity on my behalf that I am in here as a member of this House. I need not repeat certain things which I said not long ago in this House, but I want to let the Government know how satisfied in mind I am that they found it possible to honour Mr. Crawford for the yeoman service he has rendered under two former Prime Ministers, or a Premier and a Prime Minister. Mr. Crawford worked under the late Sir Grantley Adams and he served with the former Prime Minister who is now Leader of the Opposition. It was through his newspaper, The Observer, which gave the public in general an opportunity to know a little about politics in those days.

Mr. Speaker, I am not ashamed to say that in those days without that newspaper and the policy of it

the man in the street at that time would never be in a position to know anything about politics or to know what was actually going on in the House of Assembly, and it is therefore a pleasure for me, having had the opportunity to serve with him as a colleague, to be present in this House at this time to congratulate him on the honour which he received.

Special mention should also be made of Sir McDonald Blunt who has come from the bottom of the ladder and has been awarded a Knighthood. It proves beyond a shadow of doubt that hardwork, honesty of purpose and dedication will pay dividends some time. It may take years but I am sure that he has not regretted the hard work which he has done to reach his goal, and I being a grass-roots politician want to express my sincere congratulations to him for the honour which has been conferred on him. And to those other members, I have no doubt that the Government, using my own term, used a finetooth comb before arriving at such a decision, and therefore to them also I offer my sincere congratulations.

Finally, Sir, I may be treading on my colleague's corns owing to the fact that the hon. member for St. Michael West will soon become a full-fledged member of his profession, I would like also to take this opportunity to congratulate that hon. member on having achieved success in passing his law exam. I know it takes approximately two years after to be fully qualified, but this, Sir, proves that the hon. member is on his way to becoming a member of that noble profession. Mr. Speaker, I say "noble" because when you consider that justice in any country depends on the Judges who are also lawyers, we should consider it as a noble profession.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion I want to say again congratulations to one and all of those members of the community and again I want to let it go on record that I appreciate the selection which has been made by the present Government.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the backbenchers of the Government, I should like to offer sincerest congratulations to those persons who were honoured last Sunday as the first recipients of honours under the new system of national honours. My public record on the question of honours is I believe well known in Barbados. I have had occasion to speak several times in the past and in particular on a debate involving the report on the Constitutional Commission, so I am grateful that I am still around and present today in the House to say that Government has gone some distance, not the whole distance, towards fulfilment of certain of my personal desires, to see a break with the system of what came to be known as imperial honours handed down from London which perhaps

today are no longer relevant and with which many of the younger people in our community do not identify. 12.55 p.m.

I have called on several occasions for a system of public acknowledgement of contributions made by persons in this society which will bear some consonance with something that is truly Barbadian and significant to us as Barbadians. I am grateful that once again it has befallen this Government to let the Barbadian public see that it has always been a progressive Government, and indeed that the Barbados Labour Party has been a progressive party. The persons selected for honours are all who have made an outstanding and everlasting contribution to public life and the development of this country, but at the same time the Government has once again shown its willingness to acknowledge the part played in the historical development of Barbados by persons who have risen from humble beginnings. Just as it recognised the contribution of Sir Mencea Cox it has been pleased to recognise the contribution of Sir MacDonald Blunt as a trade Union Leader in this country for well over 30 years.

Mr. Erskine Ward, Mr. Crawford and Mr. Goddard are all who have given long years of dedicated service in the public life of this country, and indeed in the case of Mr. Ward in this region, because Sir Erskine was not only Speaker of the Federal Parliament but he was also a Chief Justice and a Judge in Barbados, a man of outstanding ability in his heyday, a man of outstanding wit. One of the things that I shall always recall is the sharpness of his sense of humour. I have never seen him annoyed, but I have only known him over the last 15 or 16 years, but he was always ready with a joke and a smile and a leg pull.

Mr. Crawford had the honour to represent the constituency which I now represent in the days when of course there were double member constituencies, and even today in my constituency I can still meet people, especially the older people, who speak with affection of Mr. Wynter Crawford and the contribution that he made to Barbados and to St. Philip.

Dr. Elsie Payne's contribution in the area of education is well known, Mr. Speaker, and needs no embellishment from me. She is continuing to turn out people of the highest quality from Queen's College and we look forward to the continuation of this steady flow of students of the highest calibre in the years ahead.

Mr. Fred Goddard for many years represented the parish of Christ Church under the double member system and he, though he came from the private sector, had never let the fact that he came from the private sector or indeed was the symbol of a minority social group in this country, he had never let that derogate from his responsibilities as one in public life. His contribution in this

House of Assembly is well known and I believe accepted by all Barbadians as having been of the highest quality, free from rancour, free from pettiness, jealousy and small mindedness which perhaps from time to time are qualities that affect most of us, but with Mr. Fred Goddard it was not so.

Mr. Speaker, in the early hours of 3rd September 1976 the Prime Minister called for national unity and asked that the bitterness which pervaded the election campaign, and which tends to pervade election campaigns, should be forgotten and urge on all sides that we work in the interest of national unity. In respect of at least three of the former members of Parliament who have been recently honoured it can be said that they were not members of this party — indeed Mr. Ward and Mr. Crawford I believe resigned from the Democratic Labour Party about 1965 — and despite the fact that history will record them perhaps as having been political adversaries of this party, this Government has shown itself sufficiently broadminded and sufficiently free from divisiveness and unwilling to continue polarisation as to make awards to these three persons of the highest order such as we have which this Government believes, and I am sure the country itself believes, these persons fully deserve. I am glad that we have been able as a party from time to time to keep it in the forefront of the public's mind that on many issues we can be big hearted, magnanimous and non-partisan.

I must not forget Messrs. Pierrepoint and Stevens, they were pioneers in a different way from those of whom I have spoken already, they were pioneers in the days when the masses of this country in the 30s were struggling to find release from colonial domination and they were in the forefront of agitation for better social, economic and political conditions for the broad mass of people of this country. Significantly the Prime Minister's late father was at the same time in the vanguard of this battle for recognition of the human status of especially the black people of this country.
1.05 p.m.

I would like to congratulate these two persons whom I do not know personally and again, it shows the Government's awareness of the historical contributions which persons, meaning well to this society, whether they live in it, or not have made and the Backbench offers congratulations to Messrs. Pierrepoint and Stevens.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, a word of congratulations also to the Hon. Member for St. Michael South West. I would like personally, to welcome him to the ranks of Academic Lawyers and to congratulate him on having obtained his L.L.B. Degree with Second Class Honours, Upper Division. Mr. Speaker, having regard to the other duties which the Hon. Member has and has been carrying out for the last four years, the fact that he has done as well

as he has, is testimony obviously, to his native ability and intelligence, but also, places a mark on the virtues of dedication, hard work and sacrifice which he must have brought to bear during the last three years when he was a student at Cave Hill.

I look forward to the day, when he is qualified professionally, to do battle with him in the Law Courts and I wish to assure the Hon. Member for St. Michael South West that after the General Elections of 1981, when we again win the Government, that he will be afforded enough time to go to Trinidad for two years, as an Honourable Member of the Opposition and pursue the practical Course at the Hugh Wooding School in Trinidad.

Mr. Speaker, today, since it is the first day after the publication of these Awards and the fact that the Hon. Member for St. Michael South West has successfully passed his Exams, since today is the first day that the Hon. House was able to pay Tribute to all these persons, I wish to reiterate, Mr. Speaker, to all concerned, on behalf of the Backbench of the Government, our deep and sincerest congratulations and trust that these congratulations will be taken in the spirit in which they are tendered.

I am obliged to Your Honour.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I rise to make a contribution in two respects and before I go on to speak in terms of the fortunate people who were awarded the Honours last Sunday.

One is, that I am a very happy, and proud man today, to know that this country of Barbados, an Independent, Sovereign State, has reached the stage where it is no longer receiving imperial Honours from Britain, but, has decided to adopt its own Honours. I want to compliment the Government of which I am an Hon. Member for deciding to use the name of the Constituency which I have the honour to represent, St. Andrew, to be the Order in which the Knighthood is given. It is certainly a Tribute to that Constituency, a Tribute to its people, that that Honour has been accorded to that name, and therefore, I am happy today, to know that the Knighthood in the Order of St. Andrew has certainly been bestowed. Therefore, I am proud in two respects, as far as, the Honours are concerned that it carries the name of that proud parish.

The other respect is that I have lived to see the day when native Honours are bestowed upon the citizens of a country who have rendered yeoman services to it.

In following the two last speakers, who have so well documented the achievements of the respective recipients of these Honours, I should like to start first with the Hon. Wynter Crawford. Mr. Wynter Crawford, as he then

was, was a shining example of hard work and service, on behalf of any Legislator that can be found any part of the Globe. During his time, he did not fail to highlight the problems of the day, not only from the Floor of this Hon. House, but from the newspaper, the Observer. I myself, was sad over the passing of that newspaper because many a week, it served to highlight the various social problems of the day and the Editor, Mr. Wynter Crawford never failed to involve himself to a great depth to those problems.

Mr. Crawford was in the Vanguard of the social, political and economic revolution which took place in this country during the earlier times, and I am sure that all will agree that he was unsparing in efforts to see Barbados become the industrial hub of the Caribbean. This cannot be denied.

The Hon. Member for St. Philip South was extremely eloquent in his praises of the Hon. Wynter Crawford. It certainly is not necessary for me to spend more time than is necessary on this matter.

Suffice it to say, that I believe that of all the people and all of them are very deserving of the Honours, that the Hon. Winter Crawford stands out, as one who is certainly deserving of an Honour. I regret very much that an Honour was not bestowed on him long ago because for the contribution which he made to this country, he was deserving of anything which this country could have bestowed upon him. It is hoped, that even at this late hour, he will be given sufficient time to wear proudly the Honour which has been bestowed upon him.

Sir McDonald Blunt is a man who has rendered yeoman services to this community. A man, who from humble beginnings has climbed the rung and was able to sit, dine and wine with Kings and Princes and I would add, never lost the common touch.

It was my privilege, as Hon. Minister at the time, with responsibility for Communications and Works, after he was no longer a working man, in the sense that he had retired, to recommend him to the Government for service on the newly formed Port Authority in this land. I am happy to report that Mr. Blunt, as he then was, now Sir McDonald Blunt is rendering worthwhile and valuable service to that Port Authority.

1.15 p.m.

His knowledge of trade unionism makes him unique to serve on a body of that nature that has to do so often with working class people.

Sir Erskine Ward has served in many forms in this Island. He had to do with the report on the disturbances of the riot in 1937 and that report was used as a very valuable report in order to help to remedy the social

evils that affected Barbados and which eventually led to the Royal Commission which came down to investigate the problems under the late Lord Moyne, and I believe that it is common knowledge that as a result of the highlighting of those social problems that the British Government became aware of what was taking place not only in Barbados but throughout the entire Caribbean and sought to have those problems put right. Sir Erskine Ward has done a very good job in this country as a jurist. He has worked further afield in Guyana, in Trinidad and Tobago and also as Chief Justice of British Honduras, and it is to his credit that it can be said that as a result of a difference between the British Government and himself that he resigned his position as Chief Justice of British Honduras over, it is said, a dispute over a publication which involved the late Mr. Justice Alfred Crane, and that is why it is said that he resigned at the time. A man of strong conviction, a man of great courage, and a man who has to be admired, and it is unfortunate that in these trying times in which we are living that we do not have men of similar mind and men in great numbers of that mind.

The hon. member for St. Philip North adverted to the manly action of Sir Erskine Ward on the occasion when certain decisions were made in this Honourable House as far as the Federation was concerned as to whether we should go into it or not go into it, and it was the courage of Sir Erskine Ward and Mr. Wynter Crawford, now the Honourable Wynter Crawford that they decided not to hold on to the tinsel of office, and that is all it is, and we who are here are the servants of the people, and some of us become so haughty that we forget that we are, but certainly that is what we are; and they recognised that it was more important to leave the Government then and to pick on a matter of high principle rather than to remain and to do violence to their conscience, and they decided to take their leave. In the case of Mr. Crawford he paid the supreme penalty by losing his seat at the following general election when the might of the Opposition Party was pitched against him in St. Philip and he lost his seat as a result. But he went down nobly in defeat and today he is a proud man and this Government has seen the justification for making him the award which it has given to him.

Dr. Elsie Payne, now Dame Elsie Payne of the Order of Dame of St. Andrew is well known in the educational field, a woman who has distinguished herself, the first lady Barbados Scholar as is well known and a lady who continues to work very hard on behalf of the children of this country and on behalf of its people; a committed and dedicated teacher, a committed and dedicated wife, a committed and dedicated mother, and I hope that she will live long enough to wear proudly the honour bestowed on her.

Reginald Pierrepont and Hope Stevens have both been honoured as well. Reginald Pierrepont has been

awarded Companion of Honour of Barbados; we are happy for him. Those of us who have been reading the newspapers for a long time are aware of his writings and we know that he continued all during the years to put forward the plight of the working class people here and to highlight the social problems of the day. Hope Stevens is not a Barbadian, but although he is not a Barbadian he did a lot for the Progressive Movement at the time by giving legal opinions and legal advice and helping them with constitutional matters whenever it was necessary to so assist, and therefore we want to congratulate them all.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the hon. member for St. Michael South West on his very great achievement and his brilliant performance in terms of passing the exam which he has just succeeded in passing. I wish him well and hope that he will continue to succeed in further fields and continue to distinguish himself in the academic field.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I had hoped that my distinguished colleague on this side having spoken in recognition of those who have been honoured would have precluded my call to join in this period of paying tribute. Unfortunately, and I mean that in the best sense, my name has been called and I think it would be ungracious for me not to say a word; and having risen during this period I find that I now must join with those who have paid tribute to those gentlemen and lady who have been honoured in the first such awards by the people of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I have been very fortunate in my life in that at a very young age I have had contact with most if not all of those persons, and while I do not propose to repeat all that has been said, I think this Honourable House will bear with me if I made a very brief comment about each one.

My first contact with Sir McDonald, and I believe he will now be so called, was when I was about seven years old. As you know, Mr. Speaker, he lived on Spooners Hill going towards Codrington Hill and I lived in Fairfield and in those days there were almost all those areas agricultural in nature, and he was a friend of my father, and so I got to know him in that way as little boys knows the friends of their fathers. I can only say that he has been always a very humble man, always a man who was prepared to fight for his position so long as he believe in it, and I think that no one in Barbados would or could begrudge the high honour which has been brought to this man who is representative of the trade union spirit and attitude in this Barbados, but especially in the earlier days when it was so very difficult for persons of his ilk and of his humble beginning to make their way in the world.

In offering my congratulations, I am sure that I do no more than what I should do. My contact with Sir Erskine Ward has been relatively slight, but I recall very vividly that in my capacity as the negotiator for this country in London with the British Government on the question of sugar that I had occasion together with Mr. Frank Walcott to share a position with Sir Erskine Ward, and I can only say to you, Mr. Speaker, that the wealth of knowledge which he displayed, the graciousness with which he shared that knowledge and his willingness to impart advice to a much younger man albeit a Minister was to me not only salutary, but it was revealing.
1.25 p.m.

It confirmed that irrespective of what positions persons like these held in this community they have never ceased to exude the common touch and indeed to share the knowledge, something which I hope will never pass from Barbados. I cannot speak with any personal knowledge of the Hon. Wynter Crawford, but I can say that anyone who carried out the task of being Minister responsible for Trade in Barbados in the terms and under the circumstances which he did in his day must have made a significant contribution to his community, and when one has had an opportunity to look at the files as dealt with by that gentleman it cannot be said that he was not interested to the utmost in bringing industry into this country. His dreams for an industrialised Barbados would make very interesting reading when the time comes for the history of his time to be written.

Dame Elsie Payne strikes me as a women who speaks her mind whenever she had to speak her mind, and I am sure she will forgive me if I reveal the one conversation which has held her in the highest esteem for me as a person. I recall when I visited her school as a parent. I had to speak to her about a number of other things and quite naturally we got around to discussing something relating to the political life of this community, and we discussed education and I remember saying to her that I was an unabashed and unswerving believer in co-education and I look forward to the day when co-education would come to Barbados, and her response was nothing if it was not clear and honest. She said, as far as I recall, I am not against co-education, it is just that at my time in life I cannot myself look forward to dealing with little boys of 11 and 12 years so long after I have been dealing with little girls of 11 and 12. You need two different types of personality and I do not believe that I am able to deal with it, and for that reason I would not be for it. I thought that was so honest, Mr. Speaker, and so clear unlike so many people who take positions for reasons but state other reasons.

In congratulating them, I have not left out the other two inadvertently. I have left them for the last because those two I have wintered with if not summered. Reggie Pierrepont and Hope Stevens played a personal role during the time I had the honour to represent my

country in New York as a Consular Representative and I wish to say no two persons living outside of Barbados deserve honour more than these two. Reggie Pierrepointe is a man who together with another Barbadian living in New York who has now gone to the Great Beyond — a Mr. Barrow — and another Barbadian, C. C. King, maintained for Barbadians for a long time at a shop at 125th Street in Harlem the equivalent of an Embassy, and indeed their shop was called an Embassy. It was a place where Barbadians could meet, exchange ideas, get information and generally remember their lives back home and the lives of their friends and families. Many are the great efforts made on behalf of Barbados which took seed, were germinated and came to fruition right in that small shop, that shoe shop on 125th Street.

I recall that Reggie Pierrepointe regaled me with stories of how he would never return to Barbados until Barbados became an independent country and I think he stuck to his word, Mr. Speaker, for having left this country the first time he returned to Barbados after having left this country was to celebrate the independence of Barbados in 1966. I believe to the extent of his financial and physical capabilities he has returned every year since then. He used to run a service which he called the link between the Caribbean and America, that service still runs on ABC's time in New York, he continued to call a spade a spade, and I recall in spite of our friendship on one of the occasions when I revisited New York in the role of Minister it was none other than Reggie Pierrepointe who took me to task for having taken on the mantle of the powers that be down below while ignoring the plight of those up above. I am saying, Mr. Speaker, that this is a man who, I believe is in his eightieth year now, has carried the torch for Barbados at a time when Barbados had nothing more than a smut lamp, a man who now if as we come into what may be called the enlightenment of a greater light, if now he is honoured it is only as it should be, and in his friend, Hope Stevens, whose name will always be found in the history books of Barbados, for he it was who was involved in the founding of the first serious political party in Barbados, a political party whose role in history will not be denied when history is written, his role together with that of the late Governor General and a number of others of his age and his time will for us and for our children help us in the final analysis to make of Barbados what we wish it to be, a nation fit for all of us and all of our children to live.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I must say that while I accept the motives behind my colleagues in this Hon. House mentioning my name, I would have preferred if they had not in the context of these illustrious sons dared to mention my name in the same breath. I do not yet feel that I am equal to the contribution which any of these have made, but they did it out of a spirit in which they wish to show their appreciation of what I have been able, as they put it, to achieve during the last two

years. Mr. Speaker, in thanking them for their congratulations I just wish to take this opportunity to thank the Leader of the Opposition who during the two year period assisted me by relieving me of some of my shadow portfolio responsibilities, and I should like to thank my constituents who although I did not, I believe, cease to do my duty to them, showed a great amount of love and understanding in the two difficult years.

I take this opportunity too, Mr. Speaker, to state that it is not my intention to leave the constituency, it is not my intention to go to Trinidad, because I do not believe that anyone should spend two years of his life especially at my stage sojourning in that place which has been described as the most expensive place in the Caribbean if not the western hemisphere. Furthermore, Sir, having been exposed to the majesty of the law I do not believe that it is necessary for anyone to spend two years in order to further understand what it is to practise the law. I therefore do not intend, unless it becomes absolutely necessary, to take two years out of my life and spend it in Trinidad. I have a responsibility and a duty here in Barbados which I accepted in 1976 and which I intend to carry out for a very long time to come, the people in St. Michael South West willing and my physical condition allowing.

I heard my hon. friend from St. Philip North suggesting that from the position of Opposition next time I will be given time had I planned to go to Trinidad. I wish to make it clear that in the same way I did not seek time from this Hon. House to go to Cave Hill I do not propose to seek time from this Hon. House to go to Trinidad.
1.35 p.m.

But, because I do not think that it would be required after the next 15 months, or so. I would have another duty to perform, I believe, Mr. Speaker, which does not lend itself from the Benches of the Opposition.

Mr. Speaker, let me thank all those persons both in and outside this Hon. House who have taken the time out to say congratulations to me and let me thank all those, including my family, who assisted me in making the sacrifices during the period.

Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Let me say how happy I am, to be associated with those congratulatory remarks, by Hon. Members here, on behalf of all those persons who have been honoured, in the first list of National Honours which has just been released. I am particularly happy for each and every Member of that list and I would wish that this Hon. House could find words that could adequately sum up and characterise the contribution made by each and every Member who has been Honoured in this list.

But, I believe that the level of public acceptance of the Honour which has been bestowed on each and everyone will suffice.

I only want to wish now, that all of those persons who have been so honoured may be spared long enough to bear the Honour and carry it with the pride and dignity that should be associated therewith. Let us pray for each and every one of them and particularly, for the contribution that each and every one has made to the advancement of this country.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE ON MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Member for Christ Church North Central.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask leave to move the Adjournment of the Hon. House on a definite matter of urgent public importance.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Member is asking the Leave of this Hon. House to move the Adjournment on a definite matter of urgent public importance. If there is no objection (PAUSE). There being no objection, the Hon. Member will so move at the appropriate time.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders, 6, 18, 20 and 42(5) be suspended for the remainder of the day's Sitting.

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, it has been drawn to my attention that the Hon. Member has raised a matter of urgent public importance and therefore, if I suspend Standing Order 18, he will not be able to do it, unless I come and seek the authority of the Hon. House again. Therefore, I beg to move that Standing Orders, 6, 16, 20 and 42(5) be suspended for the rest of today's Sitting.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Before we proceed with Orders of the Day, the Hon. Member for Christ Church North Central.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Speaker;

"WHEREAS the social economic and moral welfare of all persons in Barbados are matters of paramount concern and obligation to this Honourable House;

AND WHEREAS the establishment of a nudist camp or club is presently being proposed and prompted in our Country;

AND WHEREAS the tourist industry is of fundamental importance to the economy of our Country;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House is of the opinion that nudist camps of clubs will adversely affect the tourist industry of our Country;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House is of the opinion that nudist camps or clubs in Barbados will gravely undermine the moral fabric of our Country;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the House urge Government to take steps to prevent the establishment or existence of nudist camps or clubs in our Country.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SUM OF £684 506 AND THE SUM OF £3 878 866 FROM LLOYDS BANK INTERNATIONAL LIMITED FOR THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN GOODS AND SERVICES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE COAST GUARD

Order Number Two was called — To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the sum of £684 506 and the sum of £3 878 866 from Lloyds Bank International Limited for the provision of certain goods and services for development of the Coast Guard.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the years 1972 and 1973, a Coast Guard Service was established in Barbados by the former Government. For one reason, or another, this Service and its base did not prove to be successful and I do not think that any purpose would be served by going at length into the waste of funds and the waste of effort which went into the Coast Guard in those days. Sufficient to say, that a Harbour was built at Oistins without the benefit of Studies like Coastal Morphology and beach formation and that the Harbour, very soon after construction, proved to be quite useless for the maintenance of a Coast Guard Service, due to the fact that a very large amount of sand build-up rapidly filtered up the Harbour, filtered up a dredge obtained for the purpose of dredging out the Harbour. The dredge itself was covered by sand and made useless the sewer installation including a building and a house which has been erected.

A number of vessels were bought Mr. Speaker, and unfortunately, those have not proved serviceable either.
1.45 p.m.

The personnel of the Coast Guard — a little more will be said about that since most of them were subsequently recruited into the Barbados Defence Force; but not enough was done to obtain skilled personnel to run the new service and this had unfortunately, indeed highly adverse effects on the efficiency of the coast guard service, effects which are still being felt since I would be more than stretching a point if I suggested in any way that the Coast Guard is viable as a service today in the absence of more training and equipment. The Government has therefore decided that a new and improved coast guard service will have to be brought into being in Barbados.

Rt. Hon. E. W. Barrow entered the Chamber and took his seat.

A word on the old installation, Mr. Speaker. The installations for the new service will be transferred to Bridgetown where the service will be based. The old building which was the Coast Guard building at Oistins is going to be transferred to the Royal Barbados Police Force and will, I believe, be used for police housing. The beach which was constructed inadvertently at Oistins is being integrated into the Oistins development as are the harbour and coastal work which were carried out at that time. We hope therefore they will not be an entire loss.

On the ships I will say something in due course. As far as the personnel are concerned, we are having an entirely new look at the requirements of manning a proper Coast Guard, but many of the existing personnel are now in the Barbados Defence Force in the regular units, some in the regular sea unit and in the case of some indeed space has been found for them in the technical branches of the land forces.

There is little doubt, Mr. Speaker, that within the last few years is the first time when the roles that the Coast Guard should be required to carry out have been clearly defined by the Government. These roles very briefly can be summarised as law enforcement at sea, surveillance of coastal and territorial waters and of the economic zone of 200 nautical miles which have been declared around Barbados, thirdly air and sea search and rescue facilities, and fourthly fisheries protection.

Mr. Speaker, the Government has been advised and has come to the conclusion that it is impossible to carry out these functions with the vessels and training

procedures that existed with the old Coast Guard Force. This Force consisted of a 65 foot vessel, the George Fergusson and three forty foot small vessels, and over a period of two years we received advice based on surveys carried out by, I will name him, Sir, Captain Hawley of the Royal Navy and three Commanders, one of the United States Coast Guard, one of the United States Navy and one of the Royal Navy, a Warrant Officer of the Royal Navy who looked at technical equipment and a local ship surveyor, and the views of all those persons given in most cases independently over a period of two years has been that the condition of the Coast Guard Vessels is such that they are no longer viable.

First of all, Sir, it has been very difficult to maintain these vessels and keep them in a seaworthy condition. No programme of preventive maintenance for the Coast Guard was ever undertaken. There were no trained engineering officers; there were no trained sea-going officers either, but that is a different matter and in the context indeed less important. There were very few trained mechanics. Maintenance, whether preventative or otherwise, was made more difficult because of the unavailability of spares locally and because, Sir, shortly after the boats were constructed and sold to the Government of Barbados the company which made them went into liquidation. The Barbados Coast Guard therefore has not been able to call on normal after sales service from the makers of the vessels. I am not saying that the company who made the vessels was disreputable. Anybody can become bankrupt, and any Government can receive wrong advice, but I have personal reasons to believe that the former Minister of Defence received bad advice in respect of the vessels and that perhaps indeed some of the decisions which he wished taken were not carried out properly in respect of the purchase and maintenance of the vessels. In any event, Sir, even if the vessels had been properly maintained, even if they had been commanded by well trained engineering officers and had the benefit of a crew very familiar with diesel sea-going engines, there were other faults involved in the old Coast Guard. Defects have been detected in the fibre-glass hull of the Flag Ship, the George Fergusson, and it does appear that it is impossible to have these defects corrected in Barbados; not the George Fergusson, the 403. This has resulted in the vessel being out of the water now for over two years. That is one which is out of it altogether due to fundamental defects. In addition to that, Sir, the vessels must have been tested on various sheltered waters indeed. Anybody who goes out on a small boat even on the relatively placid west coast of Barbados will know that for ten or eleven months of the year total there are swells quite close in shore that do not

approximate to the lake and river conditions that may be existing near where there were built and where they were initially tested. Although we do not have the frequency of storms, that exists around the British Isles, we yet have a lot of high seas, very strong currents setting towards the Antillean chain from this direction, and these boats simply are not able to face difficult weather conditions that exist in the Caribbean.

It must be very widely known to the gentlemen of the Press and others that when on the day of the Grenada Revolution, March 13 of last year, we sent the George Fergusson down to Grenada to carry diplomatic representatives of the Canadian and American Governments along with the Barbadian journalists and various other persons that it was considered unwise if not positively unsafe for the George Fergusson to attempt to come straight back to Barbados from Grenada. It had to make its way up the relatively sheltered Grenadian chain to St. Vincent and then come across when conditions were calmer. We have therefore, Sir, decided to revamp the Coast Guard entirely both at the level of personnel and of equipment.

I will deal first with personnel, Sir. This is a matter of information for the House rather than matters immediately concerned with the agreements, but the House will be glad to know that three members of the Coast Guard and Barbados Defence Force have completed Officer Candidate training at the United States Coast Guard Academy. We have also sent six members up for search and rescue courses at the Coast Guard Training Centre, two machinery technicians, one person to be trained in damage control, one person in basic electronics and we have had two electricians mates trained or in training. We are planning — those persons have already gone up — we have sent four people up to the Royal Naval Training School at Portsmouth for courses in basic engineering and five people for courses in basic electronics; eight seamen have completed training with the Jamaican Coast Guard and eight persons have been trained by Cable and Wireless as radio operators.

1.55 p.m.

The Coast Guard is now of course, Sir, a unit of the Barbados Defence Force and we have been able to centralise its administration by the same unit that administers the Barbados Regiment, the Barbados Cadet Corps and the support unit. Very shortly, Sir, in addition to the training programmes that we have undertaken to produce a Coast Guard that is capable of handling modern vessels, we will be obtaining a team of six personnel from the Royal Navy to be attached to the Coast Guard for command and training purposes for two years in the first instance. These will be provided free of cost by the British Government, this is a very essential component in the defence package which includes the matters raised in the

Resolution today. I have already mentioned to the House, Sir, that the officer in charge of the Coast Guard will be one of the Royal Navy personnel. We have made strenuous efforts, Sir, to find someone who is capable at engineering and sea-going level in the ranks of Barbadians here and abroad capable of handling command of a visible Coast Guard. We have been unable so to do and we shall be appointing an officer in charge in the rank of Commander from the Royal Navy.

We are also taking an engineering officer in the rank of Lieutenant Commander, a Commanding Officer of the fast patrol boat with which these Resolutions mainly deal in the rank of Lieutenant Commander, Sir, and we will also have three Chief Petty Officers for engineering, electronics and general training. These Royal Naval personnel, along with the newly trained Barbados personnel, new recruits, will be serving in the nucleus of a Force whose general outlines were settled by the Government after talks were held with the Governments of St. Vincent and St. Lucia and with the assistance of a team from the British Admiralty. As a result of the advice of that team and of the talks with the Governments of St. Vincent and St. Lucia, a structure was agreed, Sir, that there would be a 37½ metre flag ship for a new Coast Guard Force which would embrace the three islands. A 75 foot patrol boat, that is roughly 23 metres, Sir, was agreed to be bought, one for Barbados, two for St. Lucia and two for St. Vincent, and in addition shrimp trawlers at present the property of International Seafoods Limited will be converted for naval purposes for each of the three Islands. This report was accepted by the British Government which promised support by means of loans for financing the purchase of the vessels and in the form of free training opportunities up to a value of £400,000 which is more than \$2 million East Caribbean and less than \$2 million Barbados.

Several months however after the submission of the report and the agreement the Governments of St. Vincent and St. Lucia were unable to make decisions — unable, Sir, not because of any political unwillingness but due really to the expense to those small islands of purchasing vessels even on concessionary terms — and in June 1979 the Barbados Government decided to move ahead with its part of the recommendation leaving the others to come in when they were ready, and it was decided at that time to dispense with the 75 foot patrol boat for Barbados and refit two rather than three shrimp boats. In pursuance of this decision we sought offers from all over the world and at different times we have had shipbuilders from the United Kingdom, Canada, Sweden, Israel, Germany, Australia, Belgium, France, and Brazil all making offers. We decided on a 37 metre patrol vessel from Brook to be built by Brook Marine Limited of Lowestoft, England and we have also given out preliminary contracts for the construction of a headquarters for the Coast Guard at the Pierhead and also for conversion of the shrimp vessels in Trinidad.

The British Government as part of the overall defence package and in addition to the £400,000 in free training which includes the services of British Officers and Petty Officers who will be manning the Coast Guard vessels during the preliminary period of two years, in addition to that the Export Credits Guarantee Department of the British Government has guaranteed 85% of the contract price of the vessels and has made arrangements with Lloyd's Bank Limited of Lombard Street for a 10 year loan to the Government of Barbados at a very concessionary rate of interest, 7½%, which is 10% below the going rate in Britain at the present time, for 85% of the contract price. This comes in all to 13,878,866. Repayments on this loan, Sir, with a small grace period start on March 21st, 1982 and the loan will be repaid in 19 semi annual instalments. The remaining 15% of the purchase price which is £684,506 will be provided in US\$ contract by Lloyd's Bank International, a more stringent loan, Sir, it is to be repaid in five and a half years with a two year grace period at a rate of interest seven-eighths of one percent above what is known as the LIBOR rate, the London Inter-Bank Market Rate. We think, Sir, that these are very highly favourable loan conditions that the British Government has offered and taken in conjunction with the very substantial amount of training which can be quantified in the amount of \$400,000, and I might mention, Sir, a very great deal of assistance which has been rendered by way of military and naval personnel visiting Barbados represents what I believe the Leader of the Opposition would call an unusual act of generosity on the part of the British Government.

I took careful note of the speech made by the hon. member in which he pointed out that the British Government had never given us a loan for social purposes during the years of our independence. I should perhaps at that time have corrected his impression, because within the last three years we have received a quite substantial loan, Sir, from the British Government on very concessionary terms and the 6% which has been used to buy buses for the Transport Board, all the new buses have come through that loan, and also substantial amounts for equipment by way of trucks and earth moving equipment for the Ministry of Communications and Works, the Agricultural Development Corporation and the Soil Conservation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture. Subject to that it is of course true that the British Government has not for example loaned money for housing or any other particular project since the Queen Elizabeth Hospital which was before our Independence.

2.05 p.m.

Nonetheless, Sir, I do not think that at this stage where, as essential a matter as the putting together of a proper Coast Guard is concerned that we can afford to look a gift horse in the mouth with respect to the purchase of the fast patrol vessel. I know that it is amusing and popular to call it a battle ship. It is a modest vessel 120 feet long and carrying a crew, I think of 28.

Nonetheless, it is the smallest size which will be viable for the purpose which we are seeking in Barbados.

The British Government's Record has not been as generous as for example, the Inter-American Development Bank and perhaps for that very reason, if they are prepared to make a Defence Loan, in other words, to release funds for development within Barbados that we might otherwise have had to use for purposes of upgrading the Coast Guard, I think that we should accept it and I shall be asking the Hon. House to support the Resolution today, to give effect to the acceptance.

The only thing which remains to be said on the Coast Guard Sir, relates to the Air, Sea Rescue aspect of its operations. The Government is purchasing a Cessna 402 Aircraft, it should have been delivered already Sir, but despite the great improvement in efficiency in some Departments of the Government, we can still have little accidents and little misunderstandings. It seems that the cheque for the down payment of the aeroplane was sent through the post to its makers and went astray, the makers did not get the initial letter and accordingly sold the aircraft which they had airmarked for us, and which should have arrived here already. Steps have been taken to improve payment procedures abroad Sir, and in November, we should get our aeroplane.

In addition to search and rescue Sir, it will also be available for some element of V.I.P. transport and should save the Government air fares when Hon. members of the Government have to visit neighbouring Caribbean Islands from time to time.

The Government is also negotiating with Aero Services Limited for a greater Government role in that Company's activities and with a view to coordinating the training of pilots and indeed, Sir, permitting members of Aero Services Limited and perhaps, pilots of Aero Services Limited, who may so wish, to be enrolled in the volunteer reserve of the Barbados Defence Force. I think that Hon. Members will be glad to hear that an Organisation does exist in Barbados which can carry out that sort of training and which can lend its facilities to that sort of development, so helpful to the Island as a whole, and so little to the public Treasury and I would like to thank Aero Services Limited in advance Sir, for the assistance that it has indicated that it will give us and for the assistance indeed, which it has given us so far.

Since I am talking about Defence, Sir, I would like to deal finally, very shortly, indeed, with a matter which has been the subject of a press release by the Government Information Service. I would like to deplore Sir, those persons, mainly Opposition Politicians and political supporters, but not so far as I can remember, with the possible exception of the Hon. Member for St. Michael South West, including any Hon. Members, who I

see in their seats at the moment, who have found it politic to attack the Defence Force, on political grounds. Particularly, I want to deplore the mischief making activities attributed to a former member of the Hon. House of Assembly, by a newspaper with local publication. I think that it is — I do not know if you would let me use the word malicious Sir, it is malicious, if I can say so, in the highest degree to try and make mischief between the Barbados Defence Force and the Royal Barbados Police Force. The Barbados Defence Force is taking nothing away from the Police Force. It is adding something which is needed in an Independent Barbados for which we were able to get along for 10 or 12 years but unfortunately, will virtually be able to get along in the next 20 indeed, as far as one can gather in the future foreseeable, and otherwise.

I have never read such a farrago of nonsense, as I see in the Report of the proceedings of the Democratic Labour Party's Academy of Politics in the newspapers. I cannot quote it in here Sir because we have a very wise and sensible Rule that you shall not read newspapers, you shall not ask if anything said in newspapers, is true and so on because we know that newspapers have a duty to report many falsehoods and indeed they do not even need to turn to the reporting faculty in order to publish falsehoods. But there was a note that every applicant for enrolment in the Barbados Defence Force has to be submitted to my office for scrutiny and approval. This is quite false Sir. As any Ex-Serviceman of the Hon. House will know, soldiers are normally chosen ultimately by a Recruiting Board which consists of officers of the Force, to which they seek admission. This is the procedure in Barbados.

There is a Recruiting Board, ultimately, I suppose the final word is with the Commanding Officer. The Recruiting Board of the Barbados Defence Force submits a List of names to the Defence Board which does include the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Attorney General as set out by Parliament. Those names are normally given automatic approval. I do not wish to go into the details of the Defence Board Sir, but it is possible that you might get disagreement at the Defence Board but, they do not have to be between the Politicians who are on the Board or, between the soldiers. I say no more. The only person who the Defence Board has ever turned down, one Sir, was effectively withdrawn before he reached there because he seemed to have mental troubles. The only two that I can remember, I remember one with mental trouble, there is no point in hiding it, he went to the Psychiatric Hospital between approval by the Recruiting Board and Compliance of the Defence Board, and there were differences of opinion, not with the Politicians, in other cases which I believe have been indicated in the press Release. There was a case which involved a shooting incident of some sort.

It is, I would have thought, very dangerous politically, in any case, to suggest that there is some political input into the Barbados Defence Force. The Defence Force may get the impression that they owe their employment in the Force to Politicians. While at a selfish level, it might not be out of the interest of one Political Party to let that thought go abroad, I have no wish whatsoever, to be selfish in this matter. It is totally and completely untrue that there is any political selection in the Defence Force. I doubt Sir, that all of us put together, the 17 of us put together, I am sure do not personally know 17 members of the Defence Force. (*Asides*). I am sure of it. We know Policemen, but we do not personally know, all of us put together, perhaps even a dozen members of the Defence Force. I do not know them Sir, and indeed I am glad not to know them, precisely for the reason that the Force as far as possible, should be out of politics.

The mischief being made with the Police Force Sir, and the suggestion that we are spending money on the Defence Force which could be spent on the Police Force. This is even more mischief when you realise that we have created 114 new posts for the Police, that we have released almost 60 Policemen from Immigration duties, that makes it 184, we have released over 50 Writ Servers from Writ Serving duties, that makes around 240 and that that adds up to a number which the gentleman at the Democratic Labour Party's Academy of Politics said now exists in the Defence Force.
2.15 p.m.

A false number, Sir, but that is the number he said. But when you realise that, realise that we are building a new police headquarter, are expanding the vehicles and the equipment available to the police, re-equipping them with electronic equipment, shortly starting a new police station at Oistins, upgrading the force by creating a new Assistant Commissioner and a whole host of new khaki ranks, at a cost which is not far short of \$2 million extra a year at old salaries, not to speak of the capital works, when you realise that you will realise how mischievous it is to suggest that we are not doing anything for the police force. We are increasing the police vote by considerably more at current level than we are increasing the defence vote.

Sir, that concludes what I have to say about this matter. I have the agreements here. At least some hon. member on the other side may have already seen them, but any hon. member who wishes to see the agreements with Lloyds Bank International which represent the outcome of negotiations with the British Government is welcome so to do, Sir. I think, Sir, that these are the best terms. I may mention that they are much much better terms than we have been offered by the United States. The terms offered by the United States are such that the Ministry of Finance up to this morning has

strongly advised me not to accept one penny from the United States unless the terms can be improved. The terms we have now are as good as can be obtained, not just under present conditions, but under conditions that have prevailed for a number of years for defence equipment: a large patrol vessel, substantial amounts of training, a loan of personnel, the building of a new headquarters down at the pierhead and the conversion of the shrimp trawlers in Trinidad. All of these we have as a useful and viable defence package and one within the financial capabilities of the Government. It remains only to say that the British Government at the present time is actively proceeding towards making it possible for St. Vincent to play its part in the defence affairs at a very early stage, and if certain negotiations now under way come into being, in fact St. Vincent may very well have its vessel for the joint force before the Brook Marine vessel is completed. I do not know when the announcements will be made, but I have every reason to believe that the negotiations have moved towards a successful conclusion, and in recognition of that we are including certain Vincentian personnel in the training package which will be expanded to take account of the participation by St. Vincent. An announcement about this can be expected I suppose within another month or so.

I myself am planning to visit the Brook Marine works at Lowestoft during the middle of next month to see the vessel under construction and to ensure delivery dates and matters of that sort. I recommend the Resolution to the House, I recommended the agreements.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to second that and reserve my right to speak.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I was only trying to be kind to the hon. member to give him a chance to speak, but I know it is lunch time now. But you suspend the sitting! You are really giddy in truth!

I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 3.15 p.m. today.

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

The question that the sitting be suspended until 3.15 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
2.15 p.m.

On Resumption.

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed.

QUESTION TIME

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I move that Question Time be now taken.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Question Time. I am advised that there are no replies to Questions so we automatically go into Private Members' Business.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: There is one Item under Private Members' Business standing in the name of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central whom I do not now see in his place.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, under Private Members' Business there is a Private Members' Resolution in the name of the member for St. Michael South Central. I am not quite sure, Sir, but I understand that if it is not done within three months it falls, because this Resolution is only a "papy show" Resolution anyhow. This Resolution really says absolutely nothing, it is more or less a story catching Resolution for the front page of the media. The very member's party brought in the one arm bandits and I don't see the reason for having it on the Order Paper. I would like to see it go off the Order Paper, Sir, and I would like you to guide me if it should take three months to be on before it falls to the ground.

Mr. SPEAKER: The month of June, the month of July and we are still some time away from the month of August.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier in the day the hon. member for Christ Church North Central gave notice of a Resolution that he would like to debate under Private Members' Business a notice which he considered a matter of importance. We know, Sir that he can do it at 6.30, but if it be the will of the House it can be done now or at 6.30. Personally I would be satisfied that it could be done at 6.30 in the light that there are still a number of things to be done under Government Business and I would like to suggest to the hon. member that we do it at 6.30 which would be the appropriate time.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended the Hon. Leader of the Opposition had give an intimation that he intended to address the chair. I do not now see the said hon. member in his place.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Resolution before the Hon. House seeks to get the permission of this Hon. House to raise a substantial sum of money. Now, Mr. Speaker, before I proceed with my remarks on the principle of the Resolution there is a point which has caused me some concern and some question in that the Resolution itself in the Addendum speaks about the sum of £684 506 sterling and £3 878 866 sterling. I am not sure myself if bearing in mind the position in Barbados whether we ought to be debating the issue in terms of pounds sterling. It is my view that this is not correct because money in Barbados, as I understand it, must be dealt with in terms of Barbados dollars. I draw that to the attention of this Hon. House because for what it is worth the Government might wish to make the necessary amendment so that we do what we have to do properly.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, if the hon. member would just give way, am I to understand that he is objecting to the Addendum referring to sterling and pounds? I have been in here for a pretty long time and I have seen a number of matters come down here in US dollars. In the very Addendum I think the half percent is in US\$, it is a US dollar loan. I just want to know if he is complaining about the pounds or if he is complaining that it should always be in Barbados dollars. I just want to get it quite clear.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to be contentious about the amount, the point I am making is that this Resolution ought to say in my opinion an amount equivalent to. You, see, Sir, as I recall it, in Barbados legal tender is the Barbados dollar, and it seems strange whatever we might have done in the past that the Barbados House of Assembly should be debating a resolution in pounds sterling. Be that as it may, Mr. Speaker, I do not propose.....

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, I take it the hon. member really is raising this by way of order. Is it in order for the House to undertake a sterling loan? As a matter of order the Government has in fact agreed to borrow a sterling amount denominated in US dollars. There is nothing whatsoever unusual about this, Sir, what I will give the hon. member the assurance on is that we will appropriate only Barbados dollars to repay this loan, and if he reads the Addendum carefully he will see that the Government has agreed to borrow those sums. If the hon. member suggests that we should have made the British Government carry the exchange risks rather than the Government of Barbados, that is an arguable matter, but we have in fact agreed to borrow sterling sums and to carry the exchange risks ourselves. I do assure the hon. member that I will not come to the House of Assembly for a supplementary in pounds at any stage whether for this or any other loan.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, if I may continue, it is obvious that the Prime Minister has picked up the point and I am sure that in due course he will deal with the matter in his usual manner.

In essence, Sir, the amount we are about to borrow is in the vicinity of \$14 million, and \$14 million we have been told by the Prime Minister will be among other things to revamp the Coast Guard. I do not propose, Sir, to go into a long detailed reaffirmation of the Government's decision of the need of a Coast Guard at all, nor Sir, do I intend to go into contention on the question as to whether the original Coast Guard in its station in Christ Church falls into the category which the Prime Minister in rather facile manner attributed to it. I think that at the outset a point needs to be made. I formed the impression from the nuance in his speech and from other speeches that have been made at other times that there is some implied suggestion that once Barbados has a Defence Force that it should not be discussed politically for fear that somehow if it is discussed politically one would be committing some act near treason, or some act which would be detrimental to the *esprit de corps* of this Defence Force.

3.30 p.m.

But, Mr. Speaker, you are aware, that in all systems of Government, from the great United States; in the United Kingdom itself, in the Soviet Union and I believe in the Capital where the Rt. Hon. gentleman recently visited, even in Cuba, wherever there is a Governmental System, one of the points of prime discussion in the political arena, is the Defence Force, the amount of Defence spending, the use to which the Defence Force is put, the basis on which the Defence Force is maintained, among a number, or, in the words of one of our friends in this Hon. Place, a plethora of reasons.

It must be made clear and I feel very strongly about it, that a Defence Force in Barbados must not only be said to serve to assist the Civil Authority, it must be seen to be functioning in that way. I defy the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, or anyone else to indicate that what happened only recently, with regards the fire in Bridgetown is a matter on which the citizens of Barbados should not raise a voice. If we have a Defence Force in this country, I agree with him — the bell may not toll for him now, but it may toll for him, or somebody else, not long from now because Defence Forces have been known to become, if you will pardon the expression a Force unto themselves. It is my constant debate in the Public place, irrespective of one's political position, that we, the citizens of Barbados, can continue to let the Defence Force know that it is a servant of the people, it is to be, if we must have it, directed by the people, and that it is not to be the friend of any Political Party.

Now, Sir, bearing this attitude in mind, I find it difficult to understand how the Barbados Defence Force, of which we are told that we cannot even get the number

of persons now constituting the Defence Force because it is some military secret but, at the same time, we are being told in this Hon. House, that we are going to have Commanders of the Force from a different Nation. There is something ludicrous about Mr. Speaker. Neither you, Mr. Speaker, nor I, nor the rest of the people of Barbados, can share the secret of what is the size of our Defence Force, but we are going to bring a Commander and a number of other officers from the British Royal Navy to function in, as part of, the Barbados Defence Force, so that the Commander from the Royal Navy of Britain will know what is the size of our Defence Force, but the Hon. Members of Parliament cannot share in that very ultra military secret. These must be new ways in which Defence Forces operate and no doubt, any minute now, we may hear that Barbados is becoming an associate Member of NATO or, some other such Pact because then, they share the secrets at the high command, but us ordinary mortals, if we should become immersed in that information, would somehow be transgressing the Laws of the country.

Mr. Speaker, the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister made great store of the fact that neither he, nor the 17 Hon. Members of his Side, I believe that he meant 16; 17 might have been inadvertent; would know 17 members of the Defence Force personally. I do not believe that, Mr. Speaker, and while that may have dramatic effect, I do not think that any ordinary citizen of Barbados would believe it either. But, I wish to make this point, I wonder if the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister is prepared to tell us that it is not true that when persons are joining the Defence Force, the health examination which apparently they have been given, was, to put it mildly, not too deep. I raise that question, Mr. Speaker, because I have been told, from reliable sources, and I am saying this because it tends to suggest that the basis on which persons join the Defence Force is not that which we have been led to understand.

I have been told that a person who has been on the waiting list in Britain to have a serious operation performed, finally had that operation performed in Barbados, after he became a member of the Defence Force. It was not the kind of operation that you could easily miss, by the simplest of doctors. It would seem to suggest that there is room for believing that the methodology of recruitment of the Defence Force is at least different from the methodology used in other countries with which we are familiar.

Mr. Speaker, to be more specific about the hardware; we are told that we must have this 125 foot battle ship, or assault ship, or whatever it is called, and that we are going to have a Cessna and in the same breath, the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister indicated that the British Government has not been lending us any money for social projects.

Mr. Speaker, the 200 mile Economic Zone of Barbados is a broad expanse of sea. It is violated almost daily by the Japanese and other fishing Nations which come into the Barbados Economic Zone, ply their trade and leave. I do not believe that the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister would seriously expect us, to accept that the vessel which he is purchasing is going to wipe this out. I do not believe that the capability of this craft which he has described will do much to stop the illegal use of the Economic Zone insofar as, Fisheries are concerned, unless of course, it is going to assist in the catching of the few persons who violate the sea egg close season.

Mr. Speaker, it must therefore, be cause for concern, that we are going to be spending a large sum of money on a ship which could be substituted by the same craft which he is now saying that he is going to convert to allow them to take on gun mounts, the same I.S.L. craft. Mr. Speaker, if they are to be used merely for patrolling, I can think of no reason why they should have gun mounts.

3.40 p.m.

I can think of no reason why they should be equipped as if Barbados was some military power that could deal with these matters in the same way that, say, the Cubans could deal with these matters. In other words, Mr. Speaker, the people of Barbados will have to ask themselves whether they wish to have large sums of money spent to satisfy the curiosity, the whims or perhaps the fancies of any Minister or Ministers in any Government or whether they wish to see that money available to Barbados spent in a way which would improve the quality of life of the people of this country. I do not know how it is going to improve the quality of life of Barbadians to spend \$15 million, and Mr. Speaker, this is only the beginning. This will increase and it will see the multiplication over the years and I think it is well established that once these patterns have been set, there is no turning back. Successive Governments will have great difficulty in turning back this tide. But there is something more dangerous, Mr. Speaker. I seem to recall that not so long ago in a press conference that the question of a regional force was raised and the Honourable the Attorney General of Barbados said categorically that there had not been any discussion of this nature except some very spurious discussions with the British Government. Now today unless I misunderstand the Prime Minister, we are told that there was to be a regional Coast Guard that would include St. Lucia, two ships, St. Vincent, two ships, I do not think Dominica was called, I cannot recall, and Barbados, one ship. I do not know if Barbados will have the Flag Ship or if we will be the junior partner in this regional arrangement, but later in his speech very casually the Prime Minister indicated that he was very certain that St. Vincent's capabilities would be updated, and we know the relationship between St. Vincent and the British Government, and so, Sir, what it seems to me we are having is

precisely what was written in the Daily Express many months ago when during the Estimates in this Honourable House when the hon. member for St. Philip North was sitting in the Chair in the Committee, when we discussed this matter and we asked the Government to confirm what the then British Prime Minister was reported to have said, we were told categorically that they knew nothing about it. Now today, Sir, in dulcet tones the Prime Minister finally admits that there is a regional force that there has been discussion about a regional force, that the British Government is quietly and I would say manfully getting their way in the Eastern Caribbean, that we are having now that we are independent a form of colonial, shall we call it, cooperation where the British would be sending us some officers along with some hardware and they will be training our people from positions of command.

I would say this to the Prime Minister; if he must get trainers, if he must get assistance, let them come as trainers, let them come as teachers. We know that this happens. We know it happens with all the imperial countries, the larger countries and the smaller countries, but do not let us be misled into believing that we have a Coast Guard when in essence what we are having is something that is going to be directed by some foreign power.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Unfortunately in the House you cannot let things stay sometimes for a reply because the newspaper reporters come in sections and report a part of a speech and they do not correct it, but the hon. member has accused me of misleading the House during the Estimates and admit to certain things today. That is where the order arises, Sir, and therefore he is accusing me of bad motives. The hon. member knows perfectly well that there are two separate and entirely distinct matters, that the Regional Defence Force was something which they tried to cobble together in Antigua and in which Barbados had no part. I have never seen it written on a file that came before me unless it was a press cutting, and the Regional Coast Guard is something that long pre-dates the Grenada Revolution. The Regional Coast Guard is something I talked about in here as far back as 1977 and have been talking about it ever since, and the hon. member is ascribing very disgusting motives to me in suggesting that I am now asserting something which I denied at the time of the Estimates, and the hon. member knows because he gained confidence as his speech went on, that he is talking about two different things. When I did not interrupt him the first time, he added and added and added to it, and he knows it is two separate matters and that the Attorney General was speaking about the collapsed scheme for a Regional Defence Force that we never supported where I am speaking of the Regional Coast Guard.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, so that we will be in no doubt in this Honourable House, an evening about 10 o'clock or nearing 10 o'clock, the hon. member for St. Lucy and I were sitting at that end on this side of this Honourable Chamber, the hon. member for St. Philip North was in the Chair, we were in Committee. I raised the question about an article which I had read only that day in the Daily Express, March 1979, to be more specific, in which it was indicated that the then Prime Minister of Britain had suggested, he had in fact stated categorically that an arrangement had been made between the British Government and the Government down here to deal with their defence in the region. They went on to discuss the area of money which the British Government would be making available to the Barbados Government.

Sir, I did not specifically call the Prime Minister's name. I am saying that on that front bench we were told then, we were told subsequently that they knew nothing about it. I am saying that today the Hon. Prime Minister has told us that there is an arrangement with the British Government. Now I do not know why he has such difficulty in understanding what I have said, and to get up and suggest that I added on and added on; I have a lot more to add on. I am concerned that under the guise of defence, secrecy for Barbados is nonsense. It is nonsense for us to be talking about secrecy in the context of how many men we have in the Defence Force. I do not subscribe to this pact which is being fed to the people of Barbados. The Prime Minister of this country should be able to say to the people of Barbados that we have 380 people in the Defence Force or 500 people. When you read the Government Information Release which was put out today, even that release fails to tell us how many men and women we have in the Defence Force, and making some veiled foolish reference which suggests it is a military secret. What military secret can we in Barbados have about how many men we have in the Defence Force? We wish to know because we do not believe that a country the size of Barbados has any right with 500 or 600 men and women in any Defence Force. We are not imperialists; we have no designs so far as I know to attack any country in the Caribbean. What military secret can we have about that? We wish to know where the money is being spent, why it is being spent and how it is being spent, and it is the right of the people of Barbados. Don't let us get confused with jargon which is more akin to the NATO powers.

I can appreciate that for the Prime Minister it might be an in newness finding himself in charge of what for all of us is a new area. There must be a certain amount of psychological titillation at being a Commander-in-Chief by whatever name it is called. I can understand that; we have no quarrel with that, but what we would quarrel with is if he allows that to affect his judgment in regard to the ordinary people in this country. They ask those questions

not because all of them are wicked, pernicious and wicked; they ask those questions because they have seen over the years what has happened with Defence Forces in various parts of the Caribbean and the rest of the world. Mr. Speaker, the record is a sorry one. Wherever there has been a Defence Force in the English speaking Caribbean, I go no further, we have seen that that Defence Force has been turned against the people.

3.50 p.m.

We are not saying, we the people of Barbados are not necessarily saying that that Prime Minister will turn the Defence Force against the people, we are not necessarily saying that that is not so either, what we are saying is that if he is not careful that it will slip from him or any of them over there or indeed, Mr. Speaker, any of us over here, because the political bosses in the Caribbean have not been able to contain and curtail the activities of the Defence Forces in the Caribbean. If one takes Jamaica, we hear about violence in Jamaica, we hear how that Jamaican society has deteriorated, but, Mr. Speaker, anyone who has followed the Jamaica pattern over the last 10 years will see that when the Jamaica Defence Force was established it was established in pretty much the same way that the Barbados Defence Force was established. (RT. HON. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Jamaica has had a regular force since 1794). Well, Sir, we are not going to get a historical interruption about 1794, but you and I know what we are talking about, Sir.

Jamaica became independent in 1962, I believe, and therefore when I say Mr. Speaker, I will not even be diverted because the Prime Minister himself when he was introducing the Defence Bill quoted the Jamaica Act and said that it had been taken from the Jamaica Act. What does he think of all of us? Nitwits or something? The Prime Minister himself came in here and paraded the Jamaica Act and now he sits down over there *sotto voce* talking about Jamaica having a Regiment or a Defence Force in 1794. We had a Defence Force in 17 something too, all the volunteers used to shoot anybody who came and looked like they would steal a fishing boat. That was a Defence Force too, but we are serious, we are talking about modern weapons being put in the hands of children. I am talking about military children, and if one looks at what is happening in Jamaica, we finally have the army being used politically to liquidate the people in the society, we had the Green Bay terror in which somebody — because it is now one of the most difficult things for anybody to discover — but somebody ordered that citizens in Jamaica be eliminated. They still have law courts, Sir, they still claim to have a system of justice, but somebody allowing the power to fly up in his or her head decided to order that some people be eliminated and we have had the sorry spectacle of the Green Bay accident for

which a few people have been allegedly charged for murder. I do not know because the Barbados newspapers do not report it regularly.

We had the Dominican situation, Sir, where a silly little man allowed himself because he had made himself a colonel — you see, Sir, what I am talking about psychological titillation — here we have a silly little boy in Dominica managing to come through the ranks and the people of Dominica giving him a responsibility and he allowing himself to becoming a colonel of the army and the next thing you know the colonel orders his army to go and fight those militants down there, little children are shot down.

Guyana, Mr. Speaker, is now well known to be a place where if you are going to get and retain political power you must first win the army. That is now well known, so that when the citizens of Barbados however misguided they may be, however inaccurate they may be, when those citizens raise questions relating to the Defence Force it ill befits the Prime Minister to ascribe unto those persons who attempt to discuss this issue any base motives even though among some of them there may be base motives.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that all hon. members in this Hon. House in their private moments must have some questions in their minds about the Defence Force, about a Defence Force, and Mr. Speaker, when it goes abroad that the persons at the top in the Defence Force are not seeing eye to eye, I do not wish to go any further on this, I respect the need not to create unnecessary confusion, but when it is abroad — this is not something now that is in the files of the Ministry of Defence and Security — when the ordinary people on the 'street are discussing that the people at the top in the Defence Force are not seeing eye to eye, we must start asking the question what is going to happen next, why are they not seeing eye to eye. (Mr. SIMMONS: Ask it about the DLP). We could ask that question about Government. Mr. Speaker, let me explain that when I speak on the Defence Force it is not necessarily seen in the context of a party position. Mr. Speaker, the Defence Force is of concern to every single Barbadian citizen except perhaps those over there, because in their private moments, Sir, I do not believe they express the same views which they seek to give us to believe they express in here. We maintain that as soon as you start taking up hard earn currency — I raised the question about sterling deliberately, Sir, I raised the question about the US foreign currency deliberately, because we are spending hard currency, we are not spending soft money, we are spending foreign exchange and we are spending that foreign exchange in what is called defence spending and it is traditional that as soon as you start the escalation of defence spending you soon start exchanging guns for money, you soon start having a psychological problem

with regard to whether you should be afraid that the army is going to take over, you soon start having people in the army currying favour with one kind of leader or the other.

I want to touch on another point in that regard. Mr. Speaker, he talked in terms of a loan from the British Government and suggested that the British Government had given us a lot of equipment for road works in the Ministry of Communications and Works — I do not wish to misquote him — and other material of that kind, and he suggested that that in itself was some great assistance being given by the British Government. Mr. Speaker, the essence of these defence loans, soft as they may be said to be, is the export effort of the country that is lending. If the British Government can find no markets for its hardware whether it be for road works, whether it be excavators, whether it be Cessner Aircraft in the case of the US, if those countries can find no market for their products then those countries have economic problems, so that when the British Government gives us a soft loan to buy a ship the British Government is doing us no favour, the British Government is doing itself a favour. It is like us giving Dominica loans to buy galvanize so that our export effort or re-export effort in galvanize will show Barbados economy doing well and we can still have a psychological benefit of saying how much assistance we gave to our sister Island Dominica. That is how the system works, the Prime Minister cannot come and tell us about how generous the British Government is and that we should not look a gift horse in the mouth. This is no gift horse, Mr. Speaker, it is a bloody dragon. The Prime Minister cannot come and tell us not to look a gift horse in the mouth because the British Government is lending us money to buy a battle ship. If we don't buy the battle ship, we don't need to borrow the money, Mr. Speaker. Even if the percentage is only one percent that is one percent we would save, so if the British convince him and his advisers that these vessels we had in the past were not right for us, that is nothing new. The British and all the other countries like the British are accustomed to telling us what is right for us. The error we make is not in listening to them, the error we make is in following their advice.

The George Fergusson may not have been built to carry people to Grenada, and if you take the fact that it took a whole lot of people to Grenada, they had no right going down there in the first place. You hear of a cock fight in Grenada and you catch up a ship, put a whole lot of people in it and send it down there. He had people like Captain Tomlin, Captain This, General That, CIA top chief and he was probably masquerading as an assistant Information Officer or some such thing and we provided the landing troops to go to this Grenada operation.

4.00 p.m.

He had Captain Tomlin, Captain this, General that, CIA top chief that, he was probably masquerading

as an Assistant Information Officer, or some such thing. We provided the landing troops to go to this Grenada operation. If the Grenadians had blasted us out of the water; of course we must have had up a white flag Sir, saying that we were coming in to examine what was happening. I may say that with a little levity but, Mr. Speaker, if the George Fergusson did not make it down to Grenada, it was not purchased for that reason. It was purchased to go up and down the West Coast and keep an eye on the illegal tourists landing in Barbados, to keep an eye on the amount of dope which is filtering into Barbados down the West Coast by a number of people who do not wish Barbados well, to stop the large amount of smuggling which deprives the Treasury of its proper funds and which cause us the citizens to have to pay more in taxes whether it is Consumption Tax, or some other tax. So that, the George Fergusson would have gone up and down the Coast of Barbados a lot of times and we would have found nothing wrong with it. So, if he says that he found difficulty with the George Fergusson when it went to Grenada, my contention is that they are lucky that that is all the difficulty which they had. You cannot go to Grenada and places like that using a ship which was not necessarily bought for that purpose and to come and tell Barbadians that this ship, or vessel must have been tested in calm waters, lake waters, that is the sort of thing which you read in magazines and brochures.

Any self respecting boat builder, ship builder, or people producing vessels of that kind would have engaged in a Science called Physics. It is well known, Mr. Speaker, that you can test the capability of almost anything in simulated conditions. It is well known Mr. Speaker, that, for example, the atomic bomb was dry tested in an underground room in Manhattan. You do not have to go and let off an atomic bomb to know if it will work. It was not tested in Manhattan, it is called the Manhattan Project, we all know that. The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister is so glad that I said that it was tested in Manhattan that he is laughing, but he knows that I know, that it is the Manhattan Project and that it was not dry tested in Manhattan. It was simulated in a basement.

We know for example, we do not have to go out Sir and run an Election to know that we are going to win the next Elections Sir. We know that from a simulated situation. The number of people who we hear say that they are finished with them. (ASIDES). We know that we are going to win the next Elections, so you do not have to go and run an Election in order to know that Sir. (ASIDES).

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us have some order, Please.

Mr. TAITT: The point which I am making Sir, is, to come to the Hon. House and suggest that these

vessels were tested in calm waters is doing a disservice to the shipbuilding industry.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of modern vessels being tested for use underwater in the exploration of the sea. Some of the vessels can only be described as fantastic. You know, Mr. Speaker, the capability of those vessels cannot be tested down under the Ocean. They are put together, and their capability is assessed on the basis of physical data. Therefore, Sir, when we are talking about the vessels which we bought, we have to assume that those vessels were properly tested. We have to assume, as he will see from the files, that there was sufficient advice and information given, by some of the same people who may be advising him and that for the purposes which our vessels were bought, that they were satisfactory. I repeat Sir, that they were bought for patrolling the coastline, for ensuring that a number of illegalities of our coastline waters, near the shore would be checked, to assist in the building up of the Treasury in this country. Therefore, I am rejecting the argument of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister that these vessels have been found to be of no use.

Now, he said that the company which has sold them had gone out of business and that he did not attribute to the company any nefarious activity, it failed. The implied suggestion there, Mr. Speaker, is that if you buy a cruising vessel from one set of manufacturers, that that model is so unique that the only people who could supply the spares for that model, is that company. Now Sir, a more baseless argument has not been put on this Hon. Floor for a long time. It is like saying that if you buy an Austin motor car and the Austin people go out of business that you would not be able to repair that car once the Austin people go out of business. We know that that is not so because the combustible engine is the same wherever you go. The screws might be a little different, the grill might be a little different, but we have some geniuses here in Barbados who have been able to make 1929 cars function in 1980. If you go on our streets in Barbados, you will see cars that the manufacturers went out of that model 50 years ago and they are still functioning. (*Asides*). M58 is a good example Sir. It is now nine years old and still functioning but, I have a genius of a mechanic who is allowing it to function. I am not as able as the Hon. Members on the Other Side to change the car every year, or every two years and therefore, it helps to make my point. I am grateful to the Hon. Member for St. Michael South East who reminded me that I have a good example on hand.

But seriously, the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister is going to have to stop coming in with these facile arguments which make no point to thinking people and he must stop, if it is his desire, trying to give the people in this community the idea that all he is seeking to do, is to pro-

tect their interest. I contend that the purchase of that vessel, at that price cannot be in the interest of the people of Barbados because if it is to patrol, it is too expensive, if it is to stop the Japanese from violating our Economic Zone, it is too small. So that, it is useless, except to satisfy, as I said earlier, the psychological titillation of the persons concerned.

Mr. Speaker, so far as the defect in the fibre glass hull of the 403, we are told by the Hon. Member that the vessel has been out of water for three years. Now Sir, I think that it is a disgrace. For three years, they have allowed this vessel to be out of water and one reads in the newspaper recently, when there was a distress call, that no Coast Guard vessel was available. We are told about Search and Rescue and the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister has the gall to come here and tell us that he presides over a Government which allowed a vessel of the Coast Guard to be on dry dock for three years. Well, Mr. Speaker, you come from a Northern parish Sir, and you know about dry dock, you know that if it were on dry dock for three years, we might as well write it off. There is really nothing to it anymore.

Within a short time, in the same way that he was able to get advice on the conversion of the shrimp trawlers into; I do not know if they call them battle ships, or I do not know if they are going to be assault ships, I really do not know, or gun ships, or that they will be the Barbadian version of a Destroyer, I do not know.

4.10 p.m.

In the same way that he is able to get advice which I believe is bad advice, I instinctively believe that converting shrimp trawlers for use as military vessels is inherently wrong. I believe so. But he got advice on that. For three years No. 403 stays on dry dock with no advice on that until now. I do not believe that, Mr. Speaker, and I should like the Prime Minister to explain to us why is it in Barbados where we have coast guard vessels or where we are alleged to have coast guard vessels, and as far as I know we had them because he himself said that one went down to Grenada, how it is that citizens or persons for which this country has responsibility who go adrift have to spend two days at sea when a call to the Coast Guard occurred twenty-four hours before.

Mr. Speaker, there is a lot more to be said. There will be time and place to say some of those things, but I hope that the Prime Minister will cease and desist from giving this impression that to talk about the Defence Force in Barbados is somehow immoral. On the contrary, not to talk about it, Mr. Speaker, would be immoral and there is no question that there has been a heightening of the tension between the police force and the defence force and no amount of special pleading by

the Prime Minister will change that. All he has to do is have a word with some of the defence force people and have a word with some of the police and if they tell him the truth he will discover like all of the other citizens in Barbados have discovered and are discovering that there is some tension.

Now, Sir, he mentioned my name I think as having spoken about the defence force on a political platform. I did, Sir, on the occasion we had a public meeting to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Democratic Labour Party, a public meeting in Independence Square, and to our chagrin we discovered that there were persons whom to all intents and purposes appeared from their bearing and their attitude to be defence force people with walkie-talkies mixing among the crowd at that public meeting. Mr. Speaker, I deplored it from the platform because, Sir, we are not accustomed in Barbados to having defence force personnel dodging behind us when we go to political meetings either as spectators or guest speakers or speakers. We know that the police from time to time, indeed are at each meeting and we know that the Government must necessarily record what I said to ensure that speakers do not break the law. We see nothing wrong with that. If they wish at any time they can increase the number of policemen, but policemen are in this country as far as I understand it and as far as most of us in this country understand it to assist with the keeping of law and order. It is no duty of any defence force to be dogging behind the footsteps of any citizen of this country. We have not reached that stage yet, Sir, we are not a Latin American Republic yet and while the excursion to St. Vincent might have led the Prime Minister into believing that he has some special responsibility in the Eastern Caribbean, we are not an imperialist power yet or we ought not to be.

The Defence Force has been given to us to do a number of things. The Hon. Prime Minister in a telephone communication with the citizens of Barbados soon after he became Prime Minister outlined in great detail what the Defence Force would be. He said then that we would even have a division that would be responsible for cooking and that sort of thing. He led us to believe, and I speak of my own knowledge because I heard him, Mr. Speaker, that the Defence Force would serve a role which those who believed in a Defence Force being in Barbados would see as the limit, to be there to assist in ceremonial, to be there to be called upon in the very rare event that the police were unable to control a situation, to assist the police, not to take over from the police, and I want to make the point, Mr. Speaker, it might as well be said, and the Prime Minister can say to the Colonel — I have known the Colonel from the time we were about six years old and it ought to be said and the Colonel should know,

and I don't mean Colonel Banfield that the people of Barbados are not afraid because he is a crack shot, a crack soldier or a crack anything; he could be a crack liquor; when he is functioning in this Defence Force he is a mere Civil Servant, and no matter what kind of training he has had, let him not come down here to practise on the people of Barbados; let him go back and join a professional army and let them go into the jungle and kill people like they are accustomed killing; but if he thinks that because he is a professional soldier he is able to come to Barbados and induce any young people in Barbados that when you are trained to kill you must kill, tell him to leave Barbados. He is a Barbadian, but if that is his attitude, tell him to go and find a professional army to play in.

Mr. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order because I feel that even though the Rules of the House may not specifically provide protection for people like the Colonel of the Army, it is not permissible as I understand the Rules to make adverse comments without prior notice in writing to you about Judges and people in the public service and so on. I just wondered, Mr. Speaker, if the Colonel of the Army is not entitled to the protection of this House. It is said that he should go and kill people in the jungle and all that as he is accustomed doing. I think it is carrying it too far.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, the people of this country have a right to feel that Barbados is not going to change so radically; that it will be different from the Barbados they have come to know and to love, and it really does not matter what amount of political partisanship is ascribed unto anything that is said, the fact remains, Mr. Speaker, that we the people of Barbados, if we do not speak now will not be able to speak then. When you are in a position, I do not suppose it has happened to any of them, but Mr. Speaker, let me say that when I am in a position where I am threatened I feel free to speak about the attitude of any people or persons in any Defence Force in this country. When messages come about if you are not careful with what you are saying you never can tell what will happen, Mr. Speaker, we are going down some dark alleys and dark roads, and if all of us pretend that because we are in a political situation we cannot speak out on these matters, then the time will come when nobody will be able to speak out on any matter in this country.

This Government was lent to the hon. members over there and they have a responsibility to all the people in Barbados. That responsibility includes how the Defence Force is run, how the money in the Defence Force is spent, and I am contending, Mr. Speaker, that to come in here and introduce a Resolution calling for

expenditure in excess of \$12 million and to say casually that we are revamping the Coast Guard and to mention by the way that we are getting an aeroplane, bearing in mind the attitude that was taken when we attempted on other occasions to raise the matter, needs to be talked about.

4.20 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to end with this friendly warning. It may be their turn now to make the decisions and they may come to feel set upon because the rest of the community is railing upon them or yapping at their heels, but they must bear in mind that their turn will come when they are not the decision makers and they must wish for themselves when they are not the decision makers that they could walk this land in freedom and speak freely without having to fear that somehow somewhere big brother is watching or big brother is plotting. Mr. Speaker, we are not accustomed to that in this country, I hope that we do not live to get accustomed to it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I think it is a good thing that we have had an opportunity at long last to make some comments on the Defence Force as we on the Opposition see it. This opportunity has been provided by this money Resolution which has been brought down here today for the purposes of acquiring certain goods and services, quoting from the Resolution which I have in front of me here, the provision of certain goods and services for the purposes of developing the Coast Guard in order to meet the requirements of policing the 200 mile exclusive economic zone.

The Coast Guard as we know is part of the Defence Force of this country. The Opposition from time to time has been expecting well founded and indeed legitimate fears about the establishment of the Defence Force and the possibilities which are open for the manipulation and the exploitation of these fears in the society. There is no doubt, Mr. Speaker, and I believe that anybody with their ears to the ground and who is keeping in touch with the populace, there is no doubt that there is a very serious and deep concern among the Barbadian population about the Defence Force and the whole conception of what the Defence Force is all about and indeed the kind of problems which such a Force can bring to this country and this feeling of fear, Mr. Speaker, is strengthened by what is happening in the Caribbean. It is along the same historical pattern which happened in Latin America when the Latin American countries became independent from Spain mainly in the 19th century, you recall that those countries experienced revolutions, Governments were overthrown, taken over by the Army on a regular basis. Indeed, I think there is one country in which they have had more revolutions than the number of years they have been independent.

If you look at Africa you will also see that Armies have played a very crucial role in overthrowing Governments, and indeed taking over the administration of those countries, so much so that we have a new word in the English language now called the "militocracy" where the military see themselves as people who take over Governments.

Against that background, Mr. Speaker, I think that the people of Barbados must be very concerned when we see what is going on in the Defence Force in terms of the build up of military hardware. There is no doubt that the acquisition of this vessel as indicated by the Prime Minister, the type of vessel which he stated can be classified also as military hardware, because I was not even aware that this vessel was going to have a military weapon, I understand this ship, or boat, or battle ship or whatsoever it is is going to have some big gun on the top of it, for what purpose? If, Mr. Speaker, we are being told that this ship is being purchased for the purpose of patrolling and looking after fisheries and what have you, why is there a need to equip it militarily in the way that it is going to be equipped? Why is there a need for this kind of weapon to be on the ship? It could only be, I am submitting, that it is for offensive purposes, and we must then ask ourselves the question, who will they be shooting at?

These are questions which must be of concern, and indeed are questions which are of concern to the people of this country, and we get a little more concerned from the Opposition benches, particularly when the Chairman of the Defence Board, no other person than the Prime Minister, got in Parliament in December last year and made reference to something to the effect about the Opposition stabbing the Defence Force in the back, with all the implications of stabbing somebody in the back. What was the purpose of all of that? We must be concerned when we have a situation where a Prime Minister and a Chairman of the Defence Board who is in charge of the Defence Force, including the Coast Guard, could get up and accuse the Opposition of stabbing the Defence Force in the back. I am saying that we have to be concerned in this country, and we do not think that we can sit back and allow a situation to drift as it would drift if we do not speak out. We have been sent here by the electorate to(Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: To stab the Defence Force in the back?) Do you hear him again? To stab the Defence Force in the back. He is saying again *sotto voce*, to stab the Defence Force in the back.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the hon. member for St. Lucy addressing the Chair?

Mr. GREAVES: Yes, Sir. You could not say that, I was just saying that the Prime Minister made that remark. Anyhow, I will move on. It only confirms that

we have to be very careful and have to be very concerned about this matter. The Opposition has raised, and we have been raising, questions in the past and we still raise those questions now. What is the real purpose of the Defence Force? Why was it necessary? (ASIDE). So what? I am nothing to do with that. So wait, you mean because the Defence Force is now

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the hon. member for St. Lucy address the Chair.

Mr. GREAVES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realise the hon. member is adopting a strategy that would throw me off.
4.30 p.m.

Let me say, Mr. Speaker, that we were shocked today to hear the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister stating in what I could almost describe as gloating language, over the fact that he has been able to make arrangements for some people from Britain to occupy top positions in the Coast Guard. There are about three or four positions which he has indicated. I believe that this is nothing short of a national scandal, it is scandalous that we could be talking today of having a Defence Force boasting of revamping the Coast Guard and filling the top positions with non-nationals.

As he said, it might very well be that this is all part of a package, but I think that our national pride, Mr. Speaker, should be much better than this. We should have greater pride in ourselves than this one, to have people who are not Barbadians occupying such prominent positions in our Defence Force. This is a scandalous matter. We have indicated, Mr. Speaker, we have expressed our concern for the amount of money which is being spent on the Defence Force.

I can recall vividly when the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister introduced the White Paper, I think it was in December, 1976, he indicated that — I do not remember the exact figure that was used — but certainly, he gave us the impression that it was going to be a small Defence Force and that the cost would not be very much. Today, as a matter of fact, I understand that he said that it would cost about \$3,000,000.00. But, what are we finding today? Today, we cannot find out, for sure, how much money is being spent on the Defence Force and maybe the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, if he wants something to do, could tell us and let the Hon. House know how much money the Government of Barbados is spending on the Defence Force, we ought to know that. I want further, Mr. Speaker, to repeat a point which was made and which is constantly made by the Opposition and that is, that we predicted that the cost of the Defence Force would be escalated. We can now see the kind of monster, financial monster which is

now being established in this country, under the heading the Defence Force. It is going to cause a serious drain on the finances of this country. Costs will continue to escalate.

Today, we are now debating a Loan of money to the extent of, I think it is, almost fourteen point something million dollars and this, I believe, is part of a package of spending which the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, at some point in time, indicated that he would be spending on the Defence Force. I seem to have heard somewhere the figure of \$25,000,000.00 mentioned. But, the point is that it only shows what we are in for. In December 1976, it was only about \$3,000,000.00. This is July 1980 and already, we see that, in addition to the money which is provided in the Estimates for Defence and Security, we are now coming and asking for another fourteen point something million dollars, I believe.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, we are not asking for a Supplementary. There has never been a Supplementary for the Defence Budget since I can remember sitting in the chair of the Ministry of Finance. We are not now asking for it. The Hon. member has been in the Hon. House long enough, he should be able to read what an Addendum says.

Mr. SPEAKER: Reading is one thing, understanding is another.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that we are seeing an escalation in spending on the Defence Force and this is of concern to us.

The Hon. Member for St. Michael South West raised an interesting point about the whole financial arrangements in terms of how we see our country, how we commit money which we gather from the taxpayers. How do we commit this in terms of spending?

In this country, there are still a lot of problems, in terms of certain basic necessities which people need. The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister today said — at least this is apparently in response to what he anticipated would have been a criticism from the opposition — that the British Government has not been in the habit of assisting Barbados in one way or another, other than in this area, but the Hon. Member for St. Michael South West raised the point of the whole attitude of developed countries towards developing countries. I think that I should also develop this point a little more because I think that this kind of attitude is significant in this arrangement which the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister has entered into with the British Government.

Britain is generally regarded as a developed and industrialised country where the production of goods, of services of a military nature, arms and ammunition play an important role in the economy. Indeed, it has been established that every year developed countries are spending billions of dollars in the production of arms and a lot of these arms are being sold, unfortunately, to developing countries. We find ourselves in a position today, where the British Government finds it very easy to provide us with the kind of hardware which we need because I would want to say this, Mr. Speaker, that this ship is not the only kind of equipment, or the only kind of hardware which we are buying from Britain, or indeed, from other developed countries because I am sure that the Government has guns, armoured cars. All of the military hardware which we now have in Barbados and I think that this is a matter which we have got, from our position as a developing country, to state very clearly that we are concerned about the kind of attitude which developed countries show towards developing countries.

Let us get some more money to provide for housing, let us get some more money to improve our technology, let us get some more money and some assistance to improve our agricultural production and other things which really matter to the people of this country. We do not want assistance for arms and those kind of things which do not really mean anything, as far as, development is concerned and I think that we have got to express these matters.

On the question, Mr. Speaker, of the use to which the Defence Force is being put in this country, like any concerned citizen of Barbados, I would like to register my concern and hopefully elicit a reply from the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister on this matter. Some time in May, or June of this year, there was a fire in Bridgetown and we had a spectacle of members of the Defence Force taken into Bridgetown, or, ordered into Bridgetown to provide some kind of service. What? I do not know. We had a rather lame excuse, or, lame reason from the person who is in charge of the Regiment that the people who went down were keeping guard at the Defence Force Headquarters and they did not have a chance to put down the guns, so when the fire started, they had to get up, pick up and run down town with the guns, and so they were patrolling Bridgetown with guns. We want to know what was the reason for this? (ASIDES). We must set our priorities in this matter because these are matters which, when you see these things being done, if a protest is not made, if the public does not say anything about matters like these, then, the next thing you will hear is that, well, it happened, what are you talking about now, why are you protesting? When there was a fire in May, or June, the Defence Force was down there with guns.

We have to serve a warning on the Government, we have to represent the feelings of the people in this country.

4.40 p.m.

I am saying that the people in Barbados are very concerned about what they concede the Defence Force could be used for in this country. I am saying, Mr. Speaker, it is frightening.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I had little intention of speaking in this debate until hon. members on the other side by raising what they have contributed had the effect of prompting me into making a short contribution in this debate, and I am going to ask a number of questions, some of them in the hope that I can get answers from others who may speak after me, some of them in the shape of rhetorical questions.

The first question I want to ask, Mr. Speaker, is if it was not the policy of the former Government, the Democratic Labour Party Government, as late as 1975 to have conceived and conceptualised and to have taken steps towards the establishment of a Defence Force. I want to enquire whether the former Government did not have prepared a White Paper and if that White Paper was not prepared as a Cabinet document to which the hon. member for St. Michael South West, then a member of the Cabinet, subscribed.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, it seems to me that by insinuation the hon. member might be suggesting that this hon. member subscribed to some such document. He would be misleading the House if he said so. It is not so.

Mr. SIMMONS: I am glad to hear that the decision of the Democratic Labour Party Cabinet to publish a White Paper on the Defence Force did not meet with the approval and concurrence of the hon. member for St. Michael South West. It is a pity that five years later we now have to wait for this rather than having his dissent published in 1975 just before the elections. Anyhow, Sir, we now know that he was not party, never was party to his Party establishing a Defence Force in Barbados and publishing a White Paper. We have now found out that.

I want to say that I share the view of the hon. member for St. Lucy that on this question of defence there should be a perfect right for discussion, debate and even dissent. I agree with that, but the right to debate, discussion and dissent must be well founded. I want to enquire, Mr. Speaker, secondly, whether the now Leader of the Opposition when he was Prime Minister in the Sixties did not say to Barbadians that one morning they may wake up and find that they do not have a country

any more. Whether that was said in the context of the fact that they may not have economic control any more; I do not know. The best person to explain the ramifications of that statement would be the hon. member for St. John, but having regard to the current international situation and current attitude in the region, even one regional Head of Government has said how easy it is to bomb Barbados and to take it from him because he knows what he is saying. In the light of this kind of statement in the light that it can no longer be denied that Sidney Alleyne was arrested with a quantity of arms in Martinique and jailed.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Is that Sidney Burnett Alleyne?

Mr. SIMMONS: Whatever he is, the said very person, was arrested having stated his intention to do violence to the Barbados Government and to work treachery on the people of Barbados, it can no longer be said that we should be oblivious to what is happening around us or that we should turn a blind eye to crackpots and people who may wish to take over this country or offer some violence to the established democratic and legal Government and Opposition of this country. Every country has the right to defend itself, Mr. Speaker. The extent to which you defend yourself or arm yourself or equip yourself is dependent on the quantum of revenue that there is available for allocation for defensive measures. I believe I know the members of this Cabinet well enough to say especially matters of finance, to know the character of the Prime Minister when it comes to dealing with the public purse to suggest that no more money than is absolutely necessary for defensive measures for Barbados will be spent. I do not believe that money will be frittered away on defence spending because I believe the Prime Minister as Minister of Finance has already shown his competence and his prudence in the management of the economic affairs of this country, and the people can rest assured that no more than necessary will be spent.

The Resolution before this House and the speech made by the Hon. Prime Minister in introducing the Resolution seem to me to suggest that what has happened is that now that a number of years have passed since the establishment of the Coast Guard, it has become obvious that the capability which was initially established is now no longer adequate, perhaps was never at any time adequate to do the work of a proper Coast Guard facility. If time and history have shown that it is now the time to upgrade, to re-equip, then I do not believe that the members of the Opposition can seriously quarrel because surely every organisation which deals in equipment, which maintains equipment must from time to time have a programme, must certainly have a policy for re-equipping and bringing in line and bringing up to date that equipment, and as I understand it, that is the exercise before

the House today: the upgrading of facilities which have proven themselves unsuitable. We may have tried with the establishment of a Coast Guard facility, the efforts were paltry, but we made an effort. If in the long term planning of the new Coast Guard facility the British Government is going to give us some technical assistance and assist us in putting the thing on a proper basis, then I do not believe that the Government should be criticised because we may be getting assistance of a foreign expert who has had training in the Navy to come and for two years teach our people and train our people in the management of the Coast Guard facility.
4.50 p.m.

I have never understood that this Englishman, or whoever he is is going to be here for all time. The former Government, the present Government in the matter of industrial development have both allowed foreigners to come in here and set up factories and to hold managerial positions on the premise that the foreign industrialist is offering something useful to Barbados, whether in terms of employment or some facility that is going to have an export potential in the product that is manufactured, we allow foreigners to come in and hold work permits, and therefore the criticism of the hon. member for St. Lucy who referred to the fact that this Englishman will be here for two years managing and training the Coast Guard staff, his criticism that it is scandalous is illogical when compared to what happens in industry, when we recall that Mr. Gerry Bull held some big post, a Canadian, in the disgraceful and now disgraced HARP enterprise, when I wonder about Mr. Bernstein who was not born in Barbados but headed the Barbados Development Bank. He may have been a citizen by a piece of paper, a statutory Barbadian, was never born here but he could head a bank lending out money to Barbadians. When I recall, Mr. Speaker, that in 1966 an offer was made to an Englishman to be High Commissioner for Barbados in the United Kingdom at the time when we were going into independence, I am going to hear in 1980 about it is scandalous to have an English expert come here and train people in the Coast Guard system for two years.

There must come a time when the Opposition must look within itself before they seek to criticise the Government and ask whether what they are saying will bear scrutiny or whether it is just so much emotion.

The hon. member for St. Michael South West paraded before the House a number of examples of Defence Forces in the region being established and then going sour or being ultimately controlled by politicians, and was giving that as a reason why Barbados should not have a Defence Force. Well, if you follow that argument to its logical conclusion, no country would have a Defence Force because of this fear of political

manoeuvre or political infiltration, or the fact that the Defence Force itself may turn in on the very people that it is supposed to defend. That is an argument that is based on emotion, Mr. Speaker. We have to look now, if we concede the necessity for a defence mechanism, having regard as I say to the current international milieu and the regional disequilibrium, we have to look for a proper basis upon which a Defence Force could function in the best interest of itself and of Barbados. We have to look to the very nature and soul of our people to determine whether we are people who react to situations quite like other people in the Caribbean. We have to ask ourselves whether, seeing what has happened in other countries, we are not competent enough to avoid the mistakes that befell other countries. We have to ensure that we have a programme of useful work, a regime where the Defence Force when it is not hopefully engaged in the necessary defensive activity, a regime in which it can function in a productive way for the benefit of the community, and I am grateful to have read in today's newspaper, Mr. Speaker, as has always been said, that it was intended to put the Defence Force to use in the ultimate construction of the balance of the East Coast Road.

I am grateful to have read that the internal training and discipline of the Defence Force will include some kinds of skills training similar to that which is being run up by the Ministry of Labour and Community Services, so that we will not only be turning out men who are capable as soldiers but we will be turning out men who are capable as electronics experts, bridge builders, road builders, whatever; artisans, skilled people. The members of the Opposition obviously are determined to pay no attention to the speech of the Hon. Prime Minister, but it would seem came prepared to speak at the level of emotionalism, because clearly the Hon. Prime Minister read out how many people are in training in the States and in England doing electronics, and engineering, and whatever — I hope that members of the Press have got the details — but it is clear that the members of the Defence Force are even now and have been for some considerable time been receiving training overseas in useful and productive enterprises, and far from being criticised the Government should be commended for the institution of a programme aimed at giving members of the Defence Force the necessary skills.

The training that is going on overseas — and it seems to me that they must have at least 15 people overseas on training — is something that is welcome in this country and the public ought to know, that is why I am in favour of giving the matter full ventilation so that all points of view could be represented.
5.00 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that if the Defence Force can be usefully employed, that it has a positive role to play in Barbados. I do not accept the argument certainly by one potential candidate in the next Elections that he joined the Democratic Labour Party because he saw five soldiers in High Street, on the night of the fire. That must be said on a political platform first, and then, we will deal with it again, but it has been expressed as the reason of one potential candidate for joining the Democratic Labour Party he said to me and others, that the night he saw the soldiers down there by the fire, that determined him to get near to decision making in this country and to render a contribution, that is what he said. I do not know how much decision making there is in that but, we will come to that because I am sure that he has expressed it publicly and we will get a little more.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I believe that any confidence which I place in the good, sound and sensible judgement of Barbadians, over the years, will not be misplaced in the matter of the Defence Force and unlike the Hon. Member for St. Michael South West, I will not find myself openly castigating, and abusing the respect of the Colonel of the Defence Force. I think that it is highly improper, Mr. Speaker. These kinds of personal attacks on the persons who have to prepare, organise, implement and maintain the Defence Force, can only serve to undermine the confidence with which that person sets about his responsibility. It is unfair. I do not know anything about the internal running of the Defence Force. I saw a Reporter make a fool of himself one night in asking about rumours, allegations, about quarrels in the Defence Force, he let down himself.

Mr. Speaker, so long as you have got more than two people together for any period of time, there is bound to be dissension, there are bound to be arguments, there is bound to be a quarrel. Husband and wife do it in this country every day and every night, far less if you put 50 men in the Defence Force, or 100, or whatever. I am not interested in how many there are, so long as you have more than two, you have room for an argument. What is this big thing about an argument? I have not heard and I keep my ears fairly closely to the ground in my profession, I think that I get on well with the Police and so, I have not heard and sniff of disquiet between the Police and the Defence Force being ventilated. There was a time when there were problems between the Customs Officers and the members of the Police who were working in the Port area, it caused awful problems, one was arresting the other and all of that. They have gone past that stage, I have not heard anything like that between the Police and the Defence Force.

I think that there are matters which, of course, over the years, you may have a problem with a Policeman and a member of the Defence Force, but so far, I have not heard

of anything to lead to the conclusion that the two Bodies are not getting on well. I have not heard anything Sir, I think that it behoves Barbadians to lend their support to all the disciplined Forces in this country. Indeed, there is a trend towards disrespect for the Police, disrespect for people in uniforms generally, disrespect for authority in this country. It is a very unwelcomed trend. People have spoken and written about it in recent months and years. I hope that it is only a passing phase and that we will return to some sense of decorum in the way we conduct ourselves as people and give respect where respect is due, have some respect for discipline, have some respect for Law and Order.

It can be worked in the other way, in the wrong way. People in uniform can be heavy handed and can take advantage of the fact that they are in uniform. It is well known that a lot of people; dress them up in uniform and their personality tends to change. I do not believe that that kind of thing has arrived in Barbados in any significant degree and because people are not throwing about their weight in an unreasonable way, it should not lead to other members of society treating them with disrespect, scorn and refusing to obey the structures, disciplines and the rules and regulations of society. I think that it is a role for the Police and the Defence Force to play in the defence of Barbados, but the roles.....

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Member should wind up.

MR. SIMMONS: Thank you Mr. Speaker. The roles have always been different. The Police Force is a different Organisation from a Defence Force and Army. The training is different, it has to be different, and I would like to express the hope that the good relations which have prevailed so far between the Defence Force and the Police Force continue.

Mr. Speaker, I wind up by saying that the Opposition cannot take a reasonable, and logical position, in Opposition, to a Defence Force in Barbados. It was they who had it in mind, but just as they were reluctant to implement the Hire Purchase Credit Control Order which was talked of, hinted at in the Budget of 1976, they were reluctant to do this just before the Elections. But, Barbados can rest assured that if they had won the Elections in 1976, they would have had it. There is no doubt about that. There were Members of their Side, saying at dinner parties that what Barbados needs is any Army, a Navy and an Air Force. There were Members of their Side saying that at dinner parties, prior to the Elections in 1976.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I am obliged to the Hon. House.

MR. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I believe that there are certain areas of national life, in which the people of this country and in which the Leaders of this country should get some type of shared beliefs, express some type of

common interest because the defence of our homes and the defence of our homelands represents one of the basic drives, one of the basic interests which we can all share as Barbadians.

I believe that defence, being such an area, is one to which Government and Opposition should pay especial attention and should be moderate in their approach to these problems, particularly, as I have indicated, when it comes to the defence of our homes and homelands. It is against that background that I would like to view this Resolution which is before us and which is seeking to borrow certain sums of money for the purposes of developing the Coast Guard and we are told, specifically, for safeguarding and policing the 200 mile exclusive, Economic Zone, which was established in 1978.

We, on this Side, try to be as statesmanlike and we try to approach national problems on as broad and as constructive a base as possible.

5.10 p.m.

I regret that when we were in Government we did not get that type of approach from the then Opposition benches because any one who would read the debates of this Honourable Chamber and who would study the background to the establishment of the Defence Force would realise that the then Opposition, now the Government, divided this country on the establishment of the Coast Guard on matters relating to the Defence Force.

MR. SPEAKER: Do I understand the hon. member to say that they divided the country?

MR. SANDIFORD: They divided the country on that and they spoke against it in this Honourable House. In other words, the type of cooperation they are asking for and seeking from the Opposition now they never extended to the Democratic Labour Party when it happened to form the Government and when it was trying to provide reasonable defence at reasonable cost for this country. But they were in the Opposition then and now they are in the Government. I must say I have searched the debates very carefully and I do not recall whether the Prime Minister spoke on that original debate. I know he spoke afterwards I believe in the Estimates and talked about the Imperial War College of Peru or some such place and expatiated on the type of armies that you can have and the type of education that you can get in different armies distinguishing between the European type of army and the armies that you get in Latin America and so on. But the fundamental point is this: that when they were in the Opposition they said we did not need any Coast Guard. That is what they said, so I do not understand how it is that now they do not even want us on this side to talk about any differences.....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, I recall very well I was in the Opposition on that occasion and we were

really afraid that the hon. member for St. Michael South would have depressurised and removed the Opposition; so we were afraid of an army and a navy. Those were your own words.

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

Mr. SANDIFORD: It is a point of foolishness and it is a pity that that is all that the hon. member for St. James can speak about. That is all he can do. You were one of the loudest on that occasion.

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it the hon. member for St. Michael South is addressing the Chair.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I think you were also, Mr. Speaker, on that occasion.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the matter of defence and when it comes to the question of sharing a common interest as far as these matters are concerned, it calls for some type of cooperation and some type of understanding on both sides of the House, but when we enter into secret agreements, and this very loan that we are talking about here in this Chamber today arose out of a secret surreptitious agreement between....if you want me to withdraw "surreptitious", a secret agreement; I withdraw the word "surreptitious" without your intervention; a secret agreement between the Minister of Defence and the British Authorities. This Parliament knew nothing about it, the country knew nothing about it.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, earlier today I sent two copies of the agreement over to the other side to be read; they were read and returned and then I sent them over again to the Leader of the Opposition and he declined to accept them.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of explanation, the agreements were sent over here today.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no point of explanation in this Honourable House.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of elucidation, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have not yet addressed the Chair on this matter, so you can't address the Chair on this point.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: My name was called.

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot elucidate because you have not yet made a contribution in this debate.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Well can I rise on a point of order?

Mr. SPEAKER: I would now have to say that your point of order would have to be considered as fraudulent.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: May I now rise on a point of order? When a member of this House rises you cannot say something is not a point of order. I do not think, Sir, it is becoming for us to be told that when we are making an honest attempt to make an intervention in a debate that only on the Opposition side do we hear that our points of order are fraudulent. I think it is highly improper.

Mr. SPEAKER: Now the hon. member will withdraw that remark forthwith.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: What remark, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: Don't question the Chair. Withdraw the remark or leave.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: You tell me what remark!

Mr. SPEAKER: Outside.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: All right; well I will go. Man proud man clothed in brief authority.

Mr. SPEAKER: Outside!

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am going. You want somebody to throw me out? I have to collect my papers. (*Mr. SPEAKER rose.*) You want to tell me I do not have any rights in this country any more since you took the Chair? Talking about fraudulent! Nobody has ever pushed me in any diplomatic fraud.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the hon. member continues, I will have to ask the Leader of the House to move the appropriate Resolution to deal with the hon. member.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Let him move it. Gamblers can move Resolutions like that.

(*Rt. Hon. E. W. Barrow left the Chamber.*)

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member may continue.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am making the point that there was a secret agreement and I am saying that this secret agreement has nothing to do with the sending across of any papers today, because the whole matter could not have originated today. This was in the melting pot or in the saucepan or whatever they were cooking it up in long ago, and this country knew nothing about it. This House knew nothing about it, and that is the charge I am laying at the feet of the Government, and I am challenging the Minister of Defence that if he wants cooperation on defence matters

in this country, he must take a different approach because we are fundamentally opposed to these types of secret agreements. We believe in the interest of what they call open Government that it is time that they start demonstrating that they are practising open Government.

But I ask myself why is this matter necessary anyhow. What happened to the original naval crafts that were purchased for this country after such expert advice as the Government had available unto itself. Why is it necessary after only a few years for the Government to get rid of those crafts? I ask myself that question and I am searching around for an answer. I believe myself, Mr. Speaker, that it has nothing to do with the unsuitability of the crafts that were purchased, the George Fergusson and the other boats which were precisely for Coast Guard services around the coast of this country. I do not believe it had anything to do with the unsuitability of that craft. I believe it has everything to do with the attempt by the present Government to demonstrate that whatever steps and actions were taken by the previous Government were wrong, because how come the George Fergusson and the other craft could prove unsuitable? Those were crafts designed for the task for which they were purchased; but shrimp boats which were designed and purchased for the economic purposes of fishing, nothing to do with the surveillance of the coast, could now be renovated, adapted and found suitable to carry out Coast Guard work, but naval crafts specially purchased for these purposes are said to be unsuitable.

5.20 p.m.

I cannot accept that there was anything so radically wrong with the naval craft. What I believe has happened is, I believe and I am charging that the Government allowed those craft to be run down deliberately in order to demonstrate that they are doing something new.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I believe you would want to withdraw that without my intervention.

Mr. SANDIFORD: All right, Mr. Speaker, I will withdraw. In spite of Gladstone Holder, I am a reasonable person, and if you ask me to withdraw I will withdraw that, but I am saying that the craft were allowed to be run down.

Mr. SPEAKER: I want the hon. member to appear to be reasonable. You have already accused the Government of allowing the craft to be run down. I called on you and you withdrew that accusation against the Government, but you then repeat that they were allowed to be run down, you could only mean the same thing you were just called upon to withdraw, run down by the Government. You can do better; please.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I withdraw the words which you consider to be offensive and I would

say because necessary maintenance work was not carried out it became impossible for those craft to carry out the functions which they should carry out. That is how I would put it.

Mr. Speaker, money in this country is a scarce resource and if you use it for one purpose it is not available for another purpose, and if we are going to spend \$15 million for the purchase of some naval craft when we could have got by with other equipment which we already have, I maintain that it means that other areas of our economic and social life would suffer thereby, because if you spend money in one direction it is not available to be spent in another direction. (*Aside*). You have to find it because you have to repay it some time, and when you are paying it back I am saying it is not a gift from the British Government, with their unemployment statistics as high as in the 1930's they are glad to sell their military equipment, and when I hear my friend the Attorney General and the member for Christ Church West and his officers abroad getting into the Councils of the world, the United Nations and so on, and calling upon the nations of the world do disarm, they are spending too much money on armaments, he says it in very dulcet tones, and the people like it especially the women, because if you say that he is a very good speaker you get into trouble for that, you are a yardfowl to say so, but, Mr. Speaker, in those Councils he argued very strongly against the major powers and those powers which are trying to become major, that they are spending scarce resources on armaments, and what is Barbados doing now? I believe that the amount of money that is spent on armaments must be approaching something like 450 billion United States dollars, and the amount of money that is spent on aid by those major countries is less than 5% of that figure, but what is Barbados doing? On the one hand they are saying cut down on the amount of money you are spending on armaments so that more money can become available to pull the poor countries of the world, the Third World Countries, from poverty, misery, disease, ignorance and so on, but then those are their words sweet and dulcet, but when we see it in actual practice what is happening? \$15 million of Barbados' money they are now taking up to a buy a boat.

Do you know what that could do for improving the economic and social services of this country? For one, that humpty dumpty bumpy road that they have leading from the Fairchild Street bus stand up to the traffic lights at the corner of Jemmotts Lane and Martindales Road, a proper surface could be put on there even if they are not ready to put down the final surface. I am saying that that money could go towards improving the services in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, particularly in the Casualty Department. I am saying that that money could be spent in providing better services for the aged and for those who have to spend so much money on drugs, every day you go the price of drugs is up in the air. I am saying

that it could be spent in providing the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation with proper facilities so that they could provide a better service than they are providing at the present moment, and the list is endless. But that is what is happening, and we are going to take up \$15 million of our money to support the armament manufacturers of the British Government in order to assist their economic programme. They have never provided that amount of money for the economic or social development of this country in that particular way, never, but they are willing now to provide the sum of money but to buy what my colleague, the member for St. Lucy, called military hardware.

You know, I have a deal of respect for the Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and for the Commander-in-Chief Acting *pro tem* of the Defence Force in Barbados. I am addressing the Chair, too, I have a great respect for you too, Mr. Speaker, but I believe that on this occasion he has been carried away and he has found himself not assessing the economic and social needs of this country and therefore has fallen into this trap of spending this excessive amount of money on military ventures which may turn out to be military adventures, because I believe even the George Fergusson or one of those boats went down to Grenada in the early days of the revolution and I do not know what happened to it down there, what untoward incident occurred down there, it nearly did not get back? I do not know, but that is the position in which we find ourselves today.

5.30 p.m.

Now, on this Side, we are constructive, very constructive on this matter and I am saying; I am not like those who say that we do not need to defend this country. I believe that we need to defend our country because make no bones about it, so long as we exist as a nation, we will have friends and we will have enemies. That is true of individuals and it is true of nations as well. We have got to take some type of action, in order to defend ourselves. What that action should be, is a matter for debate and let no one over there try to frighten off the hon. member for St. Michael South West, by suggesting that if he raises a question relating to the Defence Force, or to conflicts between the Defence Force and the Royal Barbados Police Force, that somehow, or another, that is approaching treason. We are brought in here.....

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. Nobody has accused the Hon. Member of approaching treason by referring to alleged conflicts between members of the two Forces.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I take the intervention of the hon. member and I will say, let no one try to frighten us away, or off, from raising matters relating to the area of conflict between the Barbados Defence Force and the Royal Barbados Police Force. If the hon. member for St. Philip North, who says that he keeps his ears close to the ground; that is not a good position for everything; but, if he has his ears close to the ground, I do not know. Those of us over here and elsewhere in the community have heard that there are problems and we are not going to deal with problems merely by trying to sweep them under a carpet. That is not the way in which you deal with problems. The best kind of approach that you can deal with a friend is to be candid with that friend and we candidly tell the Government that there are problems and there is no point believing that there are no problems. We are candid with you from this Side and we are telling you that, as persons interested in the social, economic development of this country.

I believe, that in this country, there is deep concern about the type of Defence Force, or the type of defence arrangement and capabilities which we should have in this country and in that type of context, I am calling for the establishment of a Military Review Committee to look at the whole policy of defence for this country. I am calling upon the Government to reduce spending in the area of defence, until such a review may be carried out. I am asking them to postpone consideration of this matter which is calling for us to take up \$15,000,000.00 of Barbados Taxpayers' money, postpone all of that, set up immediately, a Military Review Policy Committee to examine the whole area of defence in this country. You are an open Government, you have set up a lot of Commissions and we are saying that this is an area of national life which is crying out for re-examination and this is what I call upon the Government to do.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Debate has obviously generated many loud voices from the Other Side and even, my friend, the Hon. Member for St. Michael South, who is normally restrained in the level of his volubility and is normally rational in his presentation of his facts, has been somewhat overwrought by the occasion.

I am not surprised that the question of Defence is one which generates a good deal of emotion in this country and indeed, I am not surprised that the analysis of approach to Defence matters, in Barbados, should bring perhaps, an irrational approach. For one thing, the

subject of the defence of Barbados and Defence Affairs in general, is a novel one for this Hon. House. Very few of us, in this Hon. House, would have imagined at the time of Independence, that there would have been a need to set up other than a volunteer force and indeed, many people, some in public life at present and others formally in public life, still labour under the illusion that Barbados is an isolated country with no problems at all, to warrant the establishment of a Defence Force. That this should be so is surprising, Mr. Speaker, for the simple reason, that one of the incidents, indeed, one of the natural incidents of Independence is that a country should be responsible for its own defence and a country such as Barbados, cannot continue to rely on the Police Force to perform paramilitary duties in circumstances where, the external environment has been changing so rapidly.

Mr. Speaker, despite the protestations of the Democratic Labour Party's Opposition, historically, the Record shows that the Democratic Labour Party has agreed, on the need for the establishment of a separate Defence Force in Barbados, separate from the Police Force. I want the Hon. Member for St. Michael South in particular, to listen to the argument Sir. My thesis is, and my contention is, that the establishment of a Defence Force in Barbados is a bi-partisan issue. The only Hon. Member who I understand is on Record in his Party as not agreeing to the need for a Defence Force is the Hon. Member for St. Michael South West. I do not understand how this could have been because the Hon. Member, was a Member of the Cabinet at the time, in which the then Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Member for St. John committed the Government of Barbados to the establishment of a regular Defence Force. Now, if the Hon. Member for St. Michael South West, as a member of the Cabinet of that day, disagreed as a matter of fundamental policy, with the need for a Defence Force, then, the Hon. Member should have stated this in public, rather than wait some six or seven years later, in order to make a statement on this issue. I do not believe him Sir.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of Order, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Hon. Member perhaps, because he is unclear as to what my position has been on this issue, may inadvertently be misleading this Hon. House.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sick of this, every time the Hon. Member rises, somebody says that he is misleading the Hon. House, it is an expression that I am satisfied, according to Erskine May, the Hon. Member is not aware of the seriousness of the accusation.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it now, that you have reason to elucidate a point.
5.40 p.m.

Mr. TAITT: I rise on a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let me have the point of order.

Mr. TAITT: With the greatest respect, the hon. member speaking about my person as a Cabinet Minister suggested that I ought to have resigned and not waiting for five years to take a position. He then went on to say he does not believe me. I do not wish to repeat his entire speech. The suggestion, Mr. Speaker, is an assault on my integrity and I am suggesting to this Honourable House that the hon. member is misleading this House because the facts which he adumbrates to make his point are not correct.

Now, Sir, may I go on to make the rest of the point? The hon. member is suggesting that as a Cabinet Minister I disagreed with a fundamental point of principle and that I reneged. I am stating categorically that that is not correct and the hon. member should know better because the hon. member is now a Cabinet Minister and he knows it is wrong to impugn the integrity of a person in such a manner, and I ask that the hon. member be directed to withdraw the remark.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, am I understanding that the hon. member for St. Michael South West now says that he did not object? (*Asides*)

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Michael South West: I am praying and beseeching you to behave yourself in this Honourable House.

Mr. TAITT: With the greatest respect, I am not misbehaving myself. Mr. Speaker, all I said to my colleague is that no Speaker should be saying how sick he is of any remark of any hon. member. That is what I said, and I said if he is sick he should go to a doctor.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member for St. Michael South West is now prepared to say that he agreed with the establishment of a Defence Force which was the policy of the Democratic Labour Party Government at the time, he should say so; but the Defence Force that was envisaged at the time envisaged a permanent and regular defence army, fully enlisted as well as a volunteer force, and there is nothing in the present Government proposal which has varied one inch from that type of arrangement; so it is not enough for the hon. member to say *sotto voce* that it is not that type of defence force at all, because the public of Barbados must know that both political parties have agreed on the establishment of a regular army, regular enlisted soldiers in the army of this country and in the Defence Forces of this country, and the reason is because both the external developments, particularly the external environment and internal situation demand that Barbados should have some modicum of sensible defence arrangements for the future

of the country. No matter how much the Opposition may attempt as soon as one is getting near to an election to make this an emotional issue, it does not matter how much they may try to do this, the fact is that they agreed on the necessity for such a Force, and if you agreed on the necessity for it, if you leave the plans to set it up, if you can see the situation warranting the setting up of such a Force, then of course there is a money cost to it.

Mr. Speaker, the estimates of Defence which were presented to this House at the Annual Estimates called for a expenditure both on current account and on capital account including this particular estimate of 0.9 of 1% of GDP and the Government will spend less than half of that during the current financial year. That is one of the lowest, if not the lowest, defence budgets for any independent country of any size in the world. I know of no other country, Third World, First World or Second World which is spending such a low percentage of its GDP on defence, and it is misleading the public and indeed it is undesirable political garbage for people to go around this country making Barbadians believe that a large percentage of the resources of Barbados is being spent on the building up of armaments in the country.

Mr. Speaker, the military capability of Barbados will of necessity be limited both in human and financial terms and to some extent in terms of need, for the simple reason that we could not afford an adequate army even for our defence at this time, and therefore any Government which is approaching the question of defence must exercise a great degree of caution, and that is exactly what this Government has been doing. I want to underscore one or two points which the Prime Minister has made, and particularly for the benefit of the press of this country. We have repeated on numerous occasions that it is untrue to state that Barbados had ever entered or contemplated entering into any arrangement with any countries in the Caribbean or elsewhere for a regional Defence Force. There has never been any such discussion far less any agreement on the matter, and no matter how often we report this, we still find that members of the press ask us about it and now we hear it from the Opposition side as though that makes it gospel. What we have discussed beginning 1977 was the possibility of a regional Coast Guard involving only three countries, Barbados, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and St. Lucia, and the reason for this, Mr. Speaker, is that at the time we were conscious of the misuse of the exclusive economic zones or marine areas by the Japanese and the Korean boats for fishing within our waters, and we recognised that the existing Coast Guard boats had neither the capability nor the know-how of dealing with the plundering of the marine resources of our country.

In addition to this it was drawn to our attention by the International Civil Aviation Organisation that our ex-

isting Coast Guard facilities were inadequate to carry out the search and rescue duties which are obligatory under the ICAO and other international civil aviation conventions. The third point which was influential in our discussing this arrangement with St. Vincent and the Grenadines and St. Lucia was the fact, Mr. Speaker, that information coming to us showed that there was an increase in smuggling and in the trafficking of drugs and other materials within this area of the Caribbean. The fourth point of some significance to us and an event which occurred subsequent to our initial discussion with the Vincentians and the St. Lucians was the fact that terrorism was increasing in this area, even with the presence of Mr. Sidney Alleyne and his assault on Barbados.

Now the Democratic Labour Party refused to accept that the Sidney Alleyne event ever happened. They continue to believe that Sidney Alleyne was taken up by the French police and himself and his co-partner were imprisoned and that that was a fancy story. 5.50 p.m.

Now, if the Democratic Labour Party does not admit these four very cogent reasons for Barbados having a proper capability, reasons based on military considerations and strong economic considerations, then they will never ever be able to put forward a proper and sensible policy on defence. But they are vital matters and it would be stupid of any Government which has responsibility for the country to take the easy road to try to say to the people we are not going to spend a penny on arms and when the evil day comes what are we going to say to the people? We were afraid of dealing with these problems because we anticipated the Opposition would be in a position to make emotional capital out of it? Anybody who is sensible about Government must be able to make decisions such as these in a sensible and rational way and expect the country, as the country is capable of doing, of understanding the nature of the decisions and appreciating the necessity for the decisions, and I am satisfied that despite the paranoia coming from political platforms on this issue about the Defence Force, that the people of Barbados understand the necessity for this type of expenditure.

Mr. Speaker, it is not the wasteful type of expenditure which we have had under the Democratic Labour Party in which a Coast Guard Station was built which has never functioned properly and which has had to be abandoned, in which they have bought boats such as the George Fergusson, that if for instance the George Fergusson is pursuing a Japanese fishing vessel and it has to fire a shot across the bow of the vessel even as a warning shot the George Fergusson has to stop before it fires its gun. Now, let us be serious, Sir, I really do not expect the hon. member for St. Lucy whom I taught

and I thought he had taken in the teaching when he was at Coleridge and Parry not to appreciate these little niceties, Sir. Can he be serious? And my friend from St. Michael South, Sir, like myself and the hon. member for St. James would say, we belong to the Trade Union of Barbados Scholars, Sir, I expect him to understand these facts. What sort of boat could we have bought with the George Fergusson that the Japanese and the Koreans are poaching within our waters and they cannot fire a gun without coming to a halt first, dropping anchor and then firing a shot? It is ludicrous, but that is a fact. You know, Sir, if a human being had to wait before firing shots in certain circumstances it would never be able to catch a vessel, or a broad, as we say, Sir, in that way?

Now, Sir, one really has to be serious about this matter. The George Fergusson — I do not know if it says anything about that illustrious former member of the House after whom the George Fergusson is named — but the George Fergusson cannot fire any shots, not a serious shot at anybody, and therefore it is irresponsible for us to continue to make people believe that the disused vessels which we have here in the Coast Guard have the capability for which they were bought.

Now, what has the Government done? The Government has called in experts from overseas — and we have not got the expertise in Barbados or the Caribbean — and we have asked them to advise us on the minimum naval facility which we need in order to give us the minimum capability of looking after our coastal waters. Barbados — and I am going to make some statements so that they must not be forgotten — Barbados has a smaller regular Defence Army or Force than Antigua, Dominica, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Jamaica, Bahamas or Grenada. Now, Sir, when the Opposition is talking they should explain this to the public, that even today Barbados has in terms of military personnel a smaller defence capability than Antigua, than St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla which had a regular Army for some time, than Dominica, than Trinidad and Tobago, than Jamaica, than Bahamas, than Belize and than Guyana and than Suriname. These are military facts that the hon. members should seek out and put before the public.

All of this nonsense about we are building up a standing Army of this size, again, Sir, I am really disappointed with my pupil, the hon. member for St. Lucy, because he was one of the star pupils that I taught, Sir. The hon. member cannot seriously come in here and say like the member for St. Michael South West that he does not know what money we are spending on military expenditure. It is impossible for any Government to use and spend money unless it is voted in the Estimates, and the hon. member if he is able to look at the Annual Estimates would have been able to find out the amount of money spent on defence, and if he has

any concept of the sort of pay claim he would have worked out the number of men that there are in the Defence Force. Honestly, I hate to see hon. members having to put forward their politics except on rational grounds, and when I say I do not believe the Opposition that there is this lack of knowledge it is because I know the Opposition when they want to find the knowledge here. It is a different matter if the Press does not want to take the trouble to look through the Annual Estimates of Expenditure and say now much is being spent, but there is no way you all can mislead the public of Barbados by making them believe that the Government has some private secret fund that it is using for defence purposes in this country. Even the purchase of these boats has to come to Parliament by way of Resolution, and we are laying the contract before the House, Sir.

Now, Sir, the hon. member for St. Michael South, my friend, says that there was some private agreement with the United Kingdom. Now, the hon. member should be aware of the fact that the contract which is now before this House was only signed in 1980, I think less than four or six weeks ago. That is the first thing. The contract in respect of this Resolution was only signed less than four or six weeks ago. That is a fact. What private arrangement is he talking about? Barbados is not a member of NATO, it is not a member of the Rio Pact, it is not a member of any military pact, and indeed any military capability which existed on Barbados prior to 1976 was established with the consent of the Democratic Labour Party. I believe that the Democratic Labour Party, Mr. Speaker, is trying to prevent the public of Barbados from knowing that they sat down — I do not think the hon. member for St. Michael South West knew, because apparently the Prime Minister of those days did not let them know too much — but they sat down and allowed to be established in this country Space Research Corporation in which 25% of the ownership was owned by a South African Company, and they were producing guns to shoot down black people in South Africa. If they want to hear about military capability, let us get on the platform with them.
6.00 p.m.

Today, Dr. Jerry Bull — you will remember Sir, that one newspaper said on one occasion, that, I do not believe that this refers to any Hon. Member, that Brathwaite and Barrow gone to Bull in Canada, meaning that they had gone to visit Dr. Jerry Bull in Canada, Sir. But, Mr. Speaker, you will recall that. Those were the days in which the then Rt. Hon. Prime Minister was going to Canada, to discuss with Dr. Jerry Bull, the military might of Space Research Corporation being established in this country, in circumstances where, the public of Barbados, did not know of the military potential which was up in the East of Barbados, the South East Coast, under the Democratic Labour Party.

They passed an Act in this Parliament to prevent Barbadians from suing Space Research Corporation to get an injunction. That is what I call secret agreements and private agreements with a private, military Corporation of the worse sort, contrary to the dignity and the moral standing of this country and for which, the Democratic Labour Party stands condemned. (*Asides*). (*Applause*).

We have brought the Agreement in here, but more, Mr. Speaker, I am sorry, that the Hon. Member for St. Michael South Central is not here too, I am very sorry that he is not here because he knew a lot about Space Research Corporation as well. Members of Cabinet probably did not know a lot of things then. But, I will undertake a Shadow Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sir, to let the Hon. Member, the Shadow Minister know a bit more about Space Research because it is something which ought to be known. The country ought to know that Barbados had gone through one of the worse periods of this country, set up under the Democratic Labour Party, where we were creating military might here, which the South Africans have been using in South Africa to cut down Africans in Angola and which was introduced in the Middle East War. (*Asides*). The Radar van which was up on Space Research Property is right in South Africa, being used right at this moment. (*Asides*).

Seriously, Sir, how can a Democratic Labour Party, with such a moral morass behind them, have the guts to come into this Hon. House to argue about the expenditure of \$15,000,000.00 over a period of seven to eight years of buying Coast Guard facilities, in order to make sure that the Japanese do not ravage our fishing resources and prevent the small fishermen from up in Checker Hall, St. Lucy Sir, from earning a proper living. You mean that the Hon. Member for St. Lucy does not want to defend the fishermen from St. Lucy? What about Brandons? I heard the Hon. Member for St. Michael South West pleading for the three fishermen off Brandons, Sir. Does he not feel about them now, Sir? Do you mean that they have become so uncultured that they are forgetting the small man Sir? Is it only the Dr. Bulls and the Dr. Brathwaites who they want Sir?

Sir, one has to put these cases so that the people understand. They would want us to leave the defence of our fishermen in the hands of Dr. Jerry Bull who is now spending six months in jail in Vermont. They would want us to do that Sir.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you remember that I brought a Resolution in here, dealing with the purchase of sale of a house in Canada and I pointed out in the Debate in 1977, that the purchase of the house for the then High Commissioner was a transaction done between the then Hon. Minister of Finance and Dr. Bull. That is the same Dr. Bull, Sir, who paid the deposit, that is the link that there was and I

am not yet ready to reveal what the North Point was to be used for Sir, but, that is another part of the story. I will tell the Opposition if they really do not want a few skeletons out of their cupboard, that they had better be rational in approaching this type of issue.

Sir, I regret very much, that the Acting Chief of the Defence Force came under some lashing from the Hon. Member for St. Michael South West. I will tell you, why, Sir. Professional soldiers are no different from professional Lawyers, or from professional Doctors, or from professional Engineers. They have their task to perform, regardless of who are their masters and they may well come a time, sometime after the year 2000, that the Democratic Labour Party may be back in power having responsibility for this same subject and wherever possible, we should avoid the sort of Debate, in which we bring into play, the personalities of those persons in charge of the Forces.

I would like to say, that the person referred to, is a Barbadian with the highest integrity for military training and whose sense of obligation to the Civil Laws of this country, happens to be unquestionable, I know that, in the Caribbean, there have been one or two examples of Defence Forces acting outside of the legal framework, but, I have every confidence in the fact, that the Barbados Defence Force will comply with the Laws of Barbados and will become the full servants of this country and not the masters of the country, or, the people of the country.

I want to talk about the relationship between the Police and the Defence Force, Sir. Once again, here Sir, people will take an incident of a Defence Force personnel being arrested for a breach of the Civil Laws and magnify this, as evidence of bad relationship between the two Forces. We have set up, Sir, outside of the Defence Board, on a regular basis, consultation, at Officer level, between the Defence Force and the Police Force. The Police Force has, on more than one occasion, invited the Defence Force to undertake certain duties because of the lack of adequate Police personnel, or because of the emergency of the situation.

A lot of play has been made of the fact that the Defence Force was called out to assist the Police in relation to a matter in St. Andrew which occurred some months ago. Sir, the information which the Commissioner of Police had available, at the time, was that we had spotted, from the air, what appeared to be a Military Camp in the St. Andrew area and that we had certain other information which led us to believe that illegal activities, of more than an ordinary nature were being conducted. I am talking about Turners' Hall. In those circumstances, I was acting for the time that the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister was out, it was represented to me, by the Commissioner of Police, that they needed the support of the Defence

Force in an exercise because the available information pointed to more than a normal growing of what it appeared to some extent to be, marijuana.

It would have been highly irresponsible of the Commissioner of Police, or of myself, as the Acting Hon. Minister, not to have acceded to that request and I have not, on the basis of the information which was available, disclosed to this Hon. House and I do not intend to disclose the total amount of security information which we have.

6.10 p.m.

We are still not satisfied that all that was being done there was growing of marijuana. I do not want to say anything else on that issue, Sir, except that those of us who have to take decisions in circumstances such as those must not be afraid to take the decisions even if we get unwarranted criticisms about it afterwards. I am satisfied that the defence and police services conducted themselves properly on that occasion and that there was not any abuse of their power or of the human rights of any Barbadian at the time, and I think that they acted in the interest of this country.

I want to deal with the incident referred to by the hon. member for St. Lucy concerning a fire in Bridgetown. I first learnt of the fire myself, Mr. Speaker, whilst I was driving in a part of my constituency and I heard it on the radio. The information then was that the fire had spread to areas such as Alleyne Arthur and Cottle Catford. That was the information on the radio. When I contacted the Commissioner of Police the information which he had received from the Chief Fire Officer was that a danger was posed to all of Victoria Street and would be posed to Broad Street as well, because the fire people were battling in circumstances where the surrounding areas there was some of the most explosive material that should never have been stored within an area as crowded as Bridgetown. I myself saw exposed in one of the buildings next to the fire bottled gas.

Now, Sir, standing there seeing that at any time the conflagration could have been greater, the firemen and the police came to the conclusion that there was a great danger that within less than an hour they would be presented with a situation that the whole of Victoria Street and possibly Broad Street would be in conflagration. They therefore asked for all forces, all of the disciplined forces to be on stand-by and those who were near at hand to come within the area to help in circumstances that they anticipated could have been more serious. They asked that we forget the Red Cross personnel standing by. We called in, without abandoning the Airport, all the firemen that we could find, we were asking policemen to come back into duty and also those military people who were on duty got on the first available vehicle and came within the area. (*Asides*) That does not matter. They

brought three or four guns to shoot whom? There are many civilians that walk around here, even come into this House, with more guns than the Defence Force carried down there that night. There are over 4,000 citizens of Barbados with legal firearms and many more with illegal firearms, and you will find at political meetings people with firearms. I have seen members of this House brandishing firearms in worse circumstances than the three or four guns that the Defence Force men carried down there.

I hear a lot of talk but I know that under the Democratic Labour Party guns had been used even when children were being rescued in circumstances in Bay Street. Let us be serious. What is this sudden hysteria? I understand that one member who has just turned coat and for the third time has explained his joining or leaving and going back to the Democratic Labour Party on the basis that he saw a few defence personnel with their guns; the same people who lived in countries and go to countries where they see guns being carried as a matter of course by the police force of the country and have never had any problem, and this hypocrisy, this pretense in politics to get cheap votes is one of the things that really we should try to get rid of once and for all. If it was a regular feature of the Defence Force to walk around here armed as they do in some other countries, then I could understand the criticism in the circumstances of a conflagration that could have involved the total destruction of Bridgetown, and when you have to make a decision and your Heads of your various Forces get together and come to a decision, it would be a weakling of a Minister who has not got the guts to stand up and defend the forces in these circumstances. I want the hon. member to come into my constituency and say I sent the guns. All the poor old ladies up in Balmoral and Marine Gardens are too glad that Bridgetown did not burn down, and they are glad that we have people who can protect us against that sort of thing. Let him go up there; 85% to 95% of the votes next time. I am not going off the point with the hon. member.

The point is that if you are here and you are making a decision and your chiefs are making a decision and you know that the circumstances justify that sort of thing, you have to have the guts to get up and say it happened and this is how it has happened, do not go pandering to the public to think you are making up to the public on cheap things which are not in the public's long term interest. One of the dangers of politics in our country and in Third World countries is that we tend to go for what appears to be a popular decision even although it is not a decision in the national or in the public interest as a whole. I have never gone to the public on that basis, Sir, and I regret very much that the Opposition does not see the necessity when dealing with matters of defence in Barbados to try and raise the debate up to a rational level, because I will agree with the hon. member for St. Michael South to this extent. We have a duty

to make sure that the safeguards that we put into the Defence Force are such as will hold and that the Defence Force will see this as a necessary instrument of the Government, but never be in a position to have a military solution in a democracy such as ours to the problems which are arising. My friend and myself will agree on this point, but on the little matters on which he takes issue, he and I regretfully will have to part company.

Sir, the stand which this Government takes in no way compromises our call for a limitation of armaments in the region or in the world. International armaments must be reduced. We who spend less than \$3 million a year on defence and can hardly be considered as breaching the necessity for a limitation of armaments, and I know my friend in no way takes that point seriously. He is too skilled a debater to pursue a point such as this except to throw it up as a red herring in order to see how I am going to deal with it in reply.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, there being no other hon. member who wishes to speak, I should like to reply to the debate. Mr. Speaker, I have to be brief where I only have ten minutes at this stage. The speech of the hon. member for St. Michael South West reminded me of a peculiarly bitter and unpleasant speech which he made in respect of the expedition, as he described it, to St. Vincent. I realise, Sir, that he has bitter and hostile feelings to the Defence Force. His attack on the Colonel telling him to go back into the jungle and kill people as he is accustomed to is one of the most disgusting attacks that I have heard on a public servant in this country since I have been in Parliament. I say no more about it. He said there is no need for gun mounts on the ships. He said on an earlier occasion that the George Fergusson was not meant to carry guns. This is quite false; it was meant to carry guns; it merely proved incompetent so to do. I am not sending any Barbados patrol vessel to sea without the capacity to defend itself.

6.20 p.m.

On an occasion, Sir, not very long ago when the Canadian Navy had instructions not to shoot at Russian trawlers, Russian sailors subjected a Canadian patrol vessel, the crew of which were trying to board it, to such a hail of bottles as to cause serious injury and the Canadian boat had to withdraw. That may seem frivolous, Sir, but Sydney Alleyne with a yacht full of rifles could have done a great deal of damage to the George Fergusson had it got alongside it. He was boarded by Frenchmen who do not make sport.

The hon. member for St. Michael South West, I cannot say that his description about six people with walkie talkies at a Democratic Labour Party meeting was false, because I think he believes it. It is objectively false, but I think that over the period of time he has been re-

peating it it has come to be true, therefore he thinks he is telling the truth. There is a word for people who think they are telling the truth when they are telling lies, Sir, but I know I would be unparliamentary. What are popularly known as walkie talkies are not possessed by the Defence Force at all, a different type of wireless equipment is in use that would be instantly recognisable, instantly. The hon. member may be assured that a careful investigation has been made of that allegation ever since it was first given circulation by the Leader of the Opposition, it is entirely false so far as any officer in the Defence Force is able to discover. It is a complete lie that any Defence Force personnel went to any Democratic Labour Party or any political meeting with any walkie talkie.

As far as the Colonel is concerned and the attacks on him, I want to say that I have complete and utter confidence in Lt. Col. Rudyard Lewis, a son of the soil, he will soon be promoted Colonel, Sir, when a vacancy occurs in that post. He is one of the best trained officers and he perhaps does not even know that I have been told this, I have been told by a senior British military officer that Colonel Lewis is one of the best trained officers ever to pass through Sandhurst, and I believe that he has both the military and technical training and the political knowledge in the sense of the propriety of soldiers' approach to politics. I have never heard of his being in a jungle anyhow, but these expressions, Sir, suit the gutter and I do not think that I should get down in there swimming too much dealing with that.

The hon. member for St. Lucy said expenditure is escalating. All expenditure is in the Estimates and the hon. member can look it up and tell his constituents. I happen to have taken note of there being an exceptional number of recruits for the Defence Force from St. Lucy, most of them coming from Pie Corner, I happen to note this very large number, I look forward to speaking to speaking on a political platform in Pie Corner and repeating some of the things that the hon. member has said about the Defence Force in here when the next election campaign comes up.

He talked about guns in High Street. The hon. member for Christ Church West in a very outstanding contribution has mentioned that there were also guns at Bay Street but neither the Press, nor the Opposition, nor Vernon Smith had made any complaints of the soldiers carrying guns when they went into Bajan Patsy's house to rescue the children and snatched them from the flames. When the Defence Force faced flame and falling roof or falling wall nobody knew then they had guns, it is only when they went to High Street that people could see guns. Idiots could talk about guns, when it is a question of bringing children to safety from the fire nobody is interested in that.

The hon. member for St. Lucy talked about the British in top positions. I gave the hon. member an absolute assurance that if he can find any sea-going officer of Barbadian origin that he will be considered if he wishes to command the Defence Force. We have searched and the nearest that we can find is an officer of the Royal Navy who is married to a Barbadian, and I believe is a flier on an aircraft carrier, I believe that is his background. That is the nearest we can find. It is an appeal to the cheapest sort of nationalism when a situation is achieved that you need a sea-going officer, the Force has been hampered by lack of a qualified officer, and you then say you must not get an officer from Britain. Today, Sir, Sir Edwin Bramble, the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, is holding talks with Mr. Robert Mugabe in Salisbury, and it is an open secret that Mr. Mugabe wishes possibly a British or possibly a Commonwealth officer to come and command the Armed Forces of Zimbabwe. Call Robert Mugabe a colonialist and tell him that he is reverting to colonialism. The Chief of the Imperial General Staff is now advising the Government of Zimbabwe.

I believe that if we get a Commander who is a person of the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, the equivalent rank, for two years to command our Coast Guard, methods can be laid down which will ensure that the Coast Guard will never fall into the type of inefficiency which had made it impossible for it to be operating properly as it is at the present time.

I make no apologies for seeking the services of Petty Officers in electronics engineering, in training, of seeking the services of an engineering officer who knows about marine engines. I heard more nonsense talked by the — I cannot use that word, Sir — I heard more mistakes made by the hon. member for St. Michael South in his speech, all about ships, about Austin motor cars because they go out of business it does not mean you cannot get spare parts. The hon. member said that the ships were not working because we did not maintain them. The hon. member must understand that 8 million motor cars are made every year in the United States, 1.8 million in Britain, 2.3 million in Germany, 1.7 million in Italy, and all these motor cars are on the road with spare parts. They do not have a million ships in the whole world. The ships which were made, the George Fergusson and the small craft, are not regulation ships, are not standard ships, they are not ships where a million were turned out even in 20 years and you can just ring up and ask for a part. They are vessels which were made by a company which went out of business. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition, if he were here, he would tell you that he thought Vosper Thornycroft made the ships, and I can tell you from within the grapevine that bad advice was given perhaps after the hon. member had made a decision as to where the ships came from, and the ships

were actually built by another company. I do not believe it came from Space Research.

The hon. member for St. Michael South said there is nothing technically wrong with the vessels, a failure to maintain. I know the hon. member for St. Michael South is the shadow spokesman on defence. In one of his early days as a shadow in a subject with which one is familiar, one obviously makes errors and mistakes. I do not believe the hon. member is a technical man, and I am sure the hon. member has had no access to the Defence Files. If he would like to see one of the reports I would see if I could find one of the reports for him, but I really do not think in the face of a Captain in the Royal Navy, a Captain in the United States Coast Guard, a Captain in the United States Navy, a Commander of the Royal Navy, an independent engineer, that I must reject their advice and take the advice of the hon. member for St. Michael South. With great respect, I admire him a lot, Sir, I think he has fine academic qualifications. Today's speech made me realise, as one member on our side had warned me, that he can also be very sneaky, but despite all that, Sir, I have a lot of regard for him. My regard for him does not extend to accepting what he said about naval vessels. He is wrong as far as I am concerned, and the advice we have received is more nearly right.

6.30 p.m.

The Hon. Member also — and this is an example of the sneakiness — talked about the humpty-dumpty road and the \$15 million. The humpty dumpty road, arises from the Sewerage Project, which was signed and brought into force by the Hon. Member. He authorised River Road to be humpty-dumpty, so he is very qualified to complain about it. The \$15 million, can be used in something else. That is the last point which I want to deal with. The Hon. Member, I know, understands the nature of Foreign Loans. That \$15 million is not available for any purpose, other than, building a vessel at the Brook Marine Yard. I had the same feeling with the \$80 million for the Cement Plant, when I came into power. I said that I am not prepared to spend \$80 million on a Cement Plant, that it should go into housing, or something else and it was explained to me that a Foreign Loan cannot be regarded as an alternative to doing something within the System.

If we want \$15 million, the borrowing of this \$15 million in hard currency. I do not know where the talk about hard currency came from because this \$15 million would be added to the Foreign Reserves. The borrowing of this will allow you, to use that money in the Local Projects otherwise.

He asked why the British are not helping with CBC. Indeed, the British are being asked to help and I believe it must very nearly be through, to improve

the Engineering capacities at CBC. If the Hon. Member believes that this \$15 million represents an unwarranted expenditure, he should perhaps look at Memorandum of Barbados and the World Bank which was sent over for their perusal earlier. You will see, that in four years, on the principal projects, Government is planning to spend \$428 million. He will see that we are going to spend \$43 million on building factories under the Export Industry Programme, to give work to those Barbadians who are at present, not working. You will see, that we are spending, I would not even mention the Bridgetown Sewerage Project because he will know all about that, he will see that we are spending \$60 million in Vegetable and Agricultural Programmes, in the Scotland District and vegetable exports, Self Sufficiency and Export Programmes, he will see \$28 million for Fisheries and he will see, a Project, which is very near to the heart of the Hon. Member for St. James, \$12 million in Low Cost Housing. All of these. I have not even mentioned the World Bank Education Project which is so well known. All are projects which far exceed, the \$15 million of this Defence Scheme and are of a social nature.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the case for the re-equipment of the Coast Guard has been well made out and I can only ask Sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Member for Christ Church North Central.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Speaker, in tabling this Resolution this morning, I was distressed.....

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, on a Point of Order. I am just asking, we are now discussing a Resolution, a copy of which we have not seen, I was under the impression that it would have been circulated.

Mr. SPEAKER: Have you not seen a copy of the Resolution?

Mr. GREAVES: No, Sir. (PAUSE)

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, if we are dealing with this matter, I think that perhaps, the Hon Member for Christ Church North Central might consent to letting us do something else until Dinner Time. 6.40 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member may proceed.

RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNMENT TO PREVENT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NUDIST CAMPS IN BARBADOS

Mr. WARD: Mr. Speaker, small countries like Barbados will always have influences from the outside world. This is only to be expected. In recent times a very damaging custom from the outside world was imported into Barbados. I am only leading up, Mr. Speaker, to what I intend to speak on. In recent times a most damaging custom, and custom that existed for thousands of years in the Middle East, the matter of smoking Ganja and marijuana was imported into Barbados, and it has done tremendous damage in this country. Many families with young children are now watching them to see with whom they keep company just to protect them from this custom that comes, as I understand it, from the Middle East. It has damaged many of the young children in this country, and it is found in our schools. Please note, Mr. speaker, that this custom directly affects the youth of this country.

Now to our utter astonishment, Mr. Speaker, we find that someone wants to introduce nudism in Barbados, a nudist colony, in a way of profiteering, of making it a trade and a business in this country, and it is shocking to think that anybody who has been living in this country and has seen the objections of many people of authority for even having people bathing on secluded beaches in the nude, could even in the face of all that come now and suggest importing another custom into this country. If it were, Mr. Speaker, that Barbadians both men and women were requesting or starting a business like this for Barbadians, you would feel a little more relaxed about it, but the fact is that they are going to start a new custom in Barbados, a custom of having a business and a trade where people from other countries will be bringing something totally foreign and unacceptable to the people of Barbados in the way of organised bathing, sun-bathing and walking, and as the newspapers today say, playing games in the nude. This has shocked this country, Mr. Speaker. I myself have two young children, one is in the teens and the other will be in a year, and I would hate to think that they ever came home and told me in their teens that they had gone to a nudist camp. I would be concerned enough about marijuana; now one has to be concerned about children going to such places as this.

Mr. Speaker, we know that we have cinemas in Barbados where the shows are censored and they advertise "No Children Allowed", and yet children go in the cinemas to watch, and according to the Regulations of their terms to operate the cinema in Barbados the Rules are broken, because the children either make themselves look like adults, or the person who is receiving the money is only concerned with the money and then the children

end up seeing those films. Now the next thing that we are exposed to is that our children will be going to nudist camps. Mr. Speaker, make no mistake about it, when it first came up in the paper, the article said it would be \$45 to go in for a day and you would get a meal and drinks and that was it. Today now they are talking about a club; you have to join a club and you will have to get somebody to propose you. The proposer is your wallet. The proposer is when you arrive at the door and you have the \$45 you are instantly proposed. Could any tourist coming here from Scandinavia, arriving in front of a club in a mini moke have somebody out there who knows him to propose that he is a suitable person to go into a nudist camp? The whole thing starts off obviously corrupt.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to say that it has shocked the sensibilities of the people right across the country. I happened to speak to a reporter of the Advocate last Friday morning without any organised statement; I did not prepare it, I just said quickly what ran through my mind. I was amazed since then and up to today at the number of people who have communicated with me to tell me how they support it. I never realised that feelings were so strong in Barbados against something I spoke against, and I am only confirmed that I should have brought this Resolution here today, because the people of this country are horrified by this custom that is practised outside being imported into our country. It is a shameful and disgraceful thing. We have had cases before the Courts and we had the Tourist Board speaking against it, we have had the clergy speaking against it and yet somebody in the face of all that can say they are starting a nudist colony in Barbados. It will demoralise this society, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have problems enough with our children already not to find a situation that somebody is going to expose them to circumstances such as this.
6.50 p.m.

It is a pity that some of the people do not know of the shirts that are worn at these nudist camps. They were shirts enticing people, they do not only put them on but the writing on them, all kinds of things. "Brunettes are better than blondes", all this kind of thing goes on, this is the atmosphere we are encouraging in Barbados, "T" shirts, they call them, with all kinds of things for our children to see. You only have to bring out two and carry them to Harrison College and Queen's College and every high school, and all the children will be flying down there for \$45, they will get \$45 to go in there.

Mr. Speaker, this is what our country is subjected to, a foreign custom. We are Barbadians, I hear people say that we do not have any particular culture in Barbados. Our culture might not be that distinguishable between Spanish countries or Latin America or Africa, but we have a culture, and one of our cultures is

that we are a people who believe in certain respect and morals in our country. Each of us in our private lives might not live up to all we hold in our minds, but the point remains that if we start to drop the moral standards in every capacity of life, where will the country end up?

For this reason, Mr. Speaker, I find that it is a shocking disgrace that this thing has got as far as it has gone. I would also like to say at this time, Mr. Speaker, that there are some people in this country saying there is no kind of legislation which could stop it. I do not want to call the gentleman's name, but an Attorney General of this country, one of the finest Q.C's the law has ever produced and a member of Parliament, and he said this, "the only thing that Parliament cannot do is turn a woman into a man." So when I hear a lawyer telling me they cannot get any legislation to stop this commercialising of nudism, he is making joke, he had better get advice from another lawyer, because there is no way that a country has a Government and the Government cannot find legislation to stop something that is shocking to the country and the sensibility of the people. This is ridiculous and is a poor argument, and if they carry this argument out to the people they are not going to accept it. We have to have legislation to stop this, and stop it now, but I will speak about that a little later on.

There are many other things too. If you are going to have a restaurant you have to have it inspected, you have to have a permit to operate a restaurant, but in any event, Mr. Speaker, I would now like to deal with the matter as it affects the tourist industry. I have had the opportunity to visit Guadeloupe and I want this part of the matter, not dealing with the demoralising effect but dealing with the tourist industry. The French Government gave an organisation known as Club Mediterranean a small portion of about five or six acres of land in a corner of Guadeloupe to operate Club Mediterranean, and it was to be a nudist camp, and it is a nudist camp. Within two years every hotel in Guadeloupe was practising nudism. I went to Guadeloupe myself, stayed at the Holiday Inn, we sat down in the bar and when we looked over to the swimming pool we could not believe our eyes, because we had heard it was at Club Mediterranean, but it is now at the Holiday Inn and will soon be at every hotel in Guadeloupe. I say to all the members of this House, if they allow this thing to start it will get like Niagara, we will never ever stop it, because the minute people at Sandy Lane go out to the pool and take off their clothes and the police arrive, they will ask "but isn't Barbados a place where you can go nude?" They go at Paradise Beach, they go at all the pools, the next thing that is going to happen Mr. Speaker, is that the traditional people that have been visiting us because they like the customs of this country are going to say Barbados does not suit them and they are not prepared to go to Sandy Lane to see naked people walking up and down the beach, or Paradise Beach, or any other place in Barbados.

They will be all over the Hilton, and then the police will be going in arresting them in the pool at the Hilton, this will cause a disturbance at the Hilton and people will ask why you can be nude in St. Philip and you cannot be nude in St. Michael. All down in St. Lucy people will be in the nude, all down in St. Peter — St. Peter has a piece of the Atlantic, too, out there by Pico Teneriffe, Boscobel, all out there in St. Peter — all over this country. Then of course the local people will take it up too. Barbadians will start saying if this is a custom that the foreigners can enjoy, why can't we enjoy it too? And all this nonsense about not wearing shorts and wearing swim suits in Broad Street, that will have gone through the eddoes, because if you can walk on the beach naked — and if it starts in St. Philip it is going to spread — and, Mr. Speaker, I say on the floor of this House for the record, if they allow it in St. Philip it is going to spread the length and breadth of this country and it will be totally impossible to stop it. Make no mistake about it.

A gentleman — he is dead now, Mr. Charles Pierce — invited me to meet a German couple who were staying at Sunset Crest, they had a big proposition to rent Eastry House, and they were going to introduce this. They called it a health camp, but that is just a cover up, the whole thing is to put a polished name on it, a nature camp, a health camp and all kinds of camps, all it means is that these people want to go and undress and walk all around naked, and I told the gentleman at the time that this is not going to be acceptable to the people of Barbados. He spoke of how much money he would bring into Barbados. Mr. Speaker, do not let us sell our morals just for money, and more than that, I am not convinced that it will not severely damage our tourist industry. In fact, I put it stronger than that, I believe it will severely damage our tourist industry, I believe that people who have been coming here for years and walking these beaches and enjoying the respectability that they find in this country will move to other destinations. I am perfectly certain, Mr. Speaker, you have a son the same age as my boy; you will be concerned. If he was at Lodge School and he came home late one evening and said he took a detour and went to a nudist camp you would be horrified, and do not let anybody fool you that he would not do an odd job here and an odd job there to pick up the \$45.

I say, Mr. Speaker, what I have said, I am not going to speak any longer, it is not a matter of trying to make any great speech, it is just a matter of getting a very serious point, or two serious points, across: (a) the damage to the youth of this society, and (b) the damage to our principal industry in this country.

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

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, it is not often that one finds a member of the Opposition seconding a Reso-

lution brought in by a member on the other side, but there are times when there are matters which come before this Hon. Chamber which cut across the party line, and it is my humble opinion that this is one such issue.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will just warn the hon. member for St. Lucy, there is no such thing as cutting across the party line in this matter. None whatsoever, I give you that assurance.
7.00 p.m.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I really do not understand your intervention, but we will go ahead on this one.

The purpose for which this Resolution was brought here, is to awake the Hon. House to what can be described as the clear decline of this country, on the moral role. The fact that we have reached a situation in this country, where someone could have the temerity to invest money to open a Nudist Camp, or a Nature Camp in Barbados, is an indication that this society is in a state of decay and moral decline. We, as people who are supposed to set standards must sit up and certainly attempt to give some direction in this particular issue.

There is no doubt that this matter has aroused some considerable concern in this country and like the Hon. Member for Christ Church North Central, I would hope that the Government would have the moral authority and the moral conviction to take upon itself, at this very moment, to make sure that there is Legislation to ensure that this particular monstrosity which is being introduced in Barbados, is stopped in its tracks. There is no doubt that once a crack has been open and somebody has got in a toe hole, that one will see a proliferation of such camps all around Barbados. Of course, one could refer to a number of other areas to demonstrate this particular point.

There was a time when the question of drug abuse, or drug use, in Barbados, was utterly unheard of and then, it started trickling in, and now, it would seem, from the reports which one gets, that the use of drugs in Barbados, is something which is at every level of the society and in every parish and district of this country. At the same time, of course, one could make reference to the one-armed bandits. When they first came in, the Police moved in, shut them down, but, of course, it would seem as if the feelings of Barbadians had been aroused towards them, then, they reappeared and next, we found one-armed bandits all over this country. You could see a pattern developing, Mr. Speaker. Drugs, one-armed bandits, prostitution, nudist camps, all of these are part of a pattern to demonstrate quite clearly, in my view, that we are going downhill rapidly and I think that somebody has got to put on the brakes. I would certainly like to commend the Hon. Member for Christ Church North Central for bringing this Resolution here today.

The other point which I would like to make, relates to the situation of this nudist camp. Now, I am opposed to a nudist camp whether it is in St. Philip, St. Lucy, or anywhere in Barbados. But, the fact of the matter is that this particular nudist camp is situated in the centre of a residential area. If anybody knows where it is, you will see very clearly what I am talking about and I think that one has really got to question how is it that we can sit down and allow that kind of development to take place in an area where people are living and do nothing about it. I think that we would be totally insensitive, if we would allow that kind of development to go on and allow the club to be open, as the owner has indicated that he will be opening this coming weekend. I believe that the Government, if it does not take action, would never be forgiven, in this country, for doing nothing about it.

The other point which I would like to make, Mr. Speaker, relates to this question of private clubs. I believe that something has got to be done in this country, about the whole idea of private clubs. Too often, one finds that people, particularly in the hotel industry, in the tourist industry, are getting around, conforming to the Laws and conforming to accepted and established practice in Barbados by the formation of private clubs and we see, for example, and we hear of problems which Barbadians, local people encounter in attempting to get into these so-called private clubs. When you want to keep out certain people, you say that you have a private club and therefore, you cannot come in. It is known, for example, that at the Sunset Crest Development, in St. James, that black people generally speaking, are kept out of that because it is a private club and therefore.....

Mr. WARD: Mr. Speaker, on a Point of Order. While I appreciate the Hon. Member supporting my Resolution, he must not say something which is not accurate. Anybody who is a property owner of Sunset Crest is entitled to go to the facilities. The same arrangement is at Sandy Lane. You are provided in perpetuity, a lot of land on the beach, which is for your use. I have been to Sunset Crest and I have seen coloured people there, who own houses, or, are renting houses and can go in there.

Do not preach in the ears of people, something which is not true.

Mr. SPEAKER: The point is taken.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, it is my belief that something has to be done about private clubs, the establishment and the operation of private clubs in Barbados. The establishment of this nudist camp and the intention of the owner to operate as a private club, is an indication that there is some loophole in the Law which will enable him to slip out.

The Hon. Member for Christ Church North Central has indicated that he has been told, legal people have told him that there is nothing which could be done because there is nothing in the Law to prevent a person from establishing, or operating a private club. We want to see Legislation which will control the operations of private clubs in this country. I think that that is a very important point.

I would just like to make this point, Mr. Speaker because I was rather shocked yesterday to hear that somebody was in a conversation coming from church on Sunday, where this was the topic of discussion and a Barbadian was telling this American lady that this nudist camp was owned and operated by the Barbados Workers' Union because it was at Mangrove. I want to say, very clearly, that there is no connection between the Barbados Workers' Union and this private club. They are two separate and distinct properties. But, I just thought that I would make that point absolutely clear because it is very strange sometimes to see how people in their own minds — because when you talk about Mangrove generally speaking, you assume that the Barbados Workers' Union owns the whole of Mangrove and then the nature camp, or private club, or the nudist camp is part of the Barbados Workers' Union property. I thought that this point should be made.

But, if we could just get back to this particular point, I think that it is important that we enunciate and certainly, the Government, this evening, should make a policy statement on this particular matter. We are calling on the Government for a policy statement on this particular matter because we have heard from the Board of Tourism and what have you, but there is an Hon. Minister of Tourism, there is a Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Ministers. There is an Hon. Minister of the Environment. This, after all, has some environmental implications. There must be some policy statement made here this evening about this matter.

7.10 p.m.

I would further like to say, Mr. Speaker, that the nature camp is situated just below the Mangrove depot of the Transport Board. There are lots of workers up there; lots of workers operate from that area and maybe the Minister of Communications and Works might want to think about this. I know the hon. member for St. Philip North is searching all the books to see if he can find some legal argument to justify or indeed to.....

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, it must not appear in the records of this House that I am searching for anything to justify nudism. When I speak I will deal with that.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, that was just a little jibe at the hon. member for St. Philip North. There was

nothing particularly serious about that. But I think in all seriousness this is a matter which we have got to take a very serious view of, and I would like to hear from the Government side a statement of policy on this, and certainly I would like to suggest that every effort should be made to ensure that this kind of development which will ultimately assist in contributing very rapidly to the decline of the standards in this society is stopped in its tracks before we see the proliferation of this, and hence the kind of problems which could develop in this society, because after all Barbados is a small society, a society in which impressions can become part and parcel of people's way of life very quickly, and I think that sometimes we have got to protect people from themselves, and this I am suggesting is one of those occasions.

Mr. Speaker, we as legislators must do something about it and we must express our point of view, and I would hope that in this matter we will hear members of the Government side speaking up against this particular development. After all they have on the back bench a prominent Seventh Day Adventist preacher in the person of the hon. member for St. Michael West. I would like to hear him on this because this is a very serious moral issue, and all the other members. I think this is a very serious matter, Mr. Speaker, and I would want once more to commend the hon. member for Christ Church North Central. He nosed me out this morning, but that as it may, I give way to him in supporting him on this particular matter because I had intentions of doing a similar thing.

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, the societies in which we live, and Barbados is no exception, are passing through a phase or moral decline. There is a general pervasion of a climate and attitude of decadence and moral decay and it is expressing itself with frightening speed here in Barbados. I, Sir, would not have imagined five years ago that the hon. member for Christ Church North Central would have had to introduce a Resolution of this nature in the House of Assembly here now in 1980, but, Sir, that is the nature of the age that I have just referred to. I do not believe that generally speaking five years ago any of us would have thought that Barbados would have at this point in its history be dealing at some great length with the problems that are caused by people's general loosening up towards the use of marijuana, for example, as a socially acceptable convention. Barbadians are for the most part people of very strong moral fibre and the attitude of deviance has not always been part and parcel of our society.

When I was a young boy growing up, one murder a year used to take the headlines, but now we are hearing of murder and that kind of violence with regularity that has tended to numb our senses to the point where we accept it now as something which is part and parcel of

our society and our civilisation. I would like to lend my voice not necessarily in the capacity of a Seventh Day Adventist preacher as the hon. member for St. Lucy alluded, but in my capacity as a representative for the constituency of St. Michael West. I believe that I take my orders from my constituents and I am satisfied that St. Michael West, if you were to canvass the attitudes and ideas of the constituency of roughly 8,000 people by now, overwhelmingly they would register their objection to the introduction of nudism as a commercial activity in Barbados. People will do anything at all, I am satisfied, to earn money. In New York the mafia will come and shoot anybody for a price. They need not feel any anger towards him, just pay the money and designate the person that you want eliminated and the job is done. That is a form of economic activity. In other societies like French and Spanish cultures, nudism is fairly readily accepted. The French have been notorious for the avant garde position on matters of most natural deviance. Whatever it is that is deviant particularly as it relates to heathenism, the French have been in the vanguard.

I believe, Sir, that there are few questions that should come to mind when we debate this question of whether or not we ought to allow the introduction of nudism as a commercial form in Barbados. In the first place it is a question of standards versus the question of the right of the individual. I hear people advancing the view that it is a question of a man's right to earn a living in the way that he sees fit, and I suggest, Sir, that it is the responsibility of the governors of this country in the interest of the majority of persons in this country to determine what form of conduct are to be endorsed. In my view, Sir, Barbados has a set of standards and its standards allow our country to be recognised as one of high moral integrity, and consequently we have traditionally attracted a calibre, a class of tourist, if you will, to our shores.

Now there is another class of tourist who come particularly to smoke pot unperturbed, engage in all kinds of illicit sexual peccadillos undisturbed and feel it is a right, their own individual right to be involved in any form of conduct they choose to be involved in since it is their person that they are dealing with. I am hearing this argument being advanced in Barbados, that we should allow people to do precisely as they like. My contention, Sir, is that people can do as they like so long as doing as they like does not constitute a violation of the rights of others. The majority in Barbados does not endorse nudism in our society, and that is one of our standards. I do not believe that any lobby however vociferous should be allowed to come and impose their own set of deviant standards on the majority of Barbadians strictly because they regard it as as their right to behave as they please. I believe in the interest of those persons who are not always as vociferous but who are nonetheless entitled

to a certain standard in the society in which they live, it is our duty in here to express our concern and our disapproval of this newest activity that someone is seeking to introduce to our country.

7.20 p.m.

We are dealing with a question of standards. When we begin to compromise standards in one area, that compromise tends like an avalanche to go down to other areas altogether unrelated to the first incident. I will give you, Sir, an example of what I am referring to. When you allow people to feel that they can walk around with long hair and dirty clothes in a society where that convention is alien, that person then begins to accumulate other sets of deviant behavioural patterns, smoking pot in a collective, and then you have the birth of cults and that subgroup becomes a larger subgroup and that secondary subgroup becomes an even larger subgroup until it looks as if it is the dominant group in the society.

I know that persons who are interested in nudism are interested in it for a variety of reasons. There are people who are hoping that this will mean that they will be able to go down to Rockley beach on a Sunday, and like a bunch of voyeurs, feast themselves on the exposed bodies of women of loose standards, which will ultimately lead to further expressions of appetite gone mad. Now, Sir, I hear people chuckling, but I am telling you that what started off in Martinique and in the Dominican Republic as perfectly acceptable, harmless practices in a secluded and sequestered area has spiralled into what has become an enormous social problem for the Government of the day. In Santo Domingo in April one of those nudist colonies got into extreme difficulty with the Government after a period of practising their art form, because I believe that that is what some people refer to it as, a cultural art form in the Dominican Republic and had to leave, but, Sir, I am saying that in Martinique it is an epidemic and it is almost abnormal now to walk with clothes on.

I do not believe that that kind of behaviour in any way at all accumulates towards the better elevation of standards in the society, and I do not want to see it in Barbados. These forms of catering towards the baser instincts, the animal instincts in man, usually go together in groups. First, it is nudism and a sequestered beach, not interfering as they will tell you with anybody, they are minding their own business, they are a club, if you do not want to go do not go; that sort of talk, but after you get that beginning it becomes an open house. Then it becomes organised orgies, then somebody is going to be saying we could enhance our tourist industry significantly and earn a lot more revenue by attracting more deviants, so let us legalise prostitution. It may sound far-fetched now, Mr. Speaker, but I am issuing a warning that I have watched, having been trained in sociology, I have watched situations like this develop where you start off with what might be regarded as a partially accepted area, and it has

spiralled into all kinds of attendant behaviour, each incident, each step, each progression being far more disgusting than the first.

In Germany you will hear them saying it is possible to go into the show windows at Hamburg or Cologne and shop for a woman as you would go and shop for a pair of shoes. They are lined off, Mr. Speaker, like so much merchandise and you can walk from one stall to the next until you see the woman that you want to spend your money on and you go in and purchase her pleasures for half an hour, or an hour as the case might be. They will tell you that there is nothing wrong with it and it is better than letting them run around in the streets because when they run around in the streets they are conveyors of disease.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was reading the Time magazine here last night and they tell me that herpes, a venereal disease that has been quiescent for centuries has reached epidemic proportions in the United States, and I should like to share the information with some of the gentlemen who are looking at me now, because I do not want hon. members to have any gaps in their medical education. Herpes, which used to be an obscure disease — you would hear about it up in Africa in the jungle somewhere — is now a social disease in the United States incurable, it is a venereal disease, and it is going, sooner or later, with or without this nudist colony incidentally, to find its way into Barbados via the tourist industry, I am sure. I am hearing that it is already in Barbados, and when you catch it you have it.

Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of people who regard tourism as a means of making money in all kinds of forms, acceptable and unacceptable. I am cautioning, not necessarily this body here, this legislative body, but all Barbadians who respect our long standing history of being a nation of strong moral tone, regardless of what religious affiliation you hold — Seventh Day Adventist, Pentecost, Gospel Assembly, Anglican, Catholic, I do not care what — I am calling on all of them not to wait on the legislation, because I am of the opinion that the Legislative Assembly sometimes is impotent, afraid of the constituency it is called upon to represent, and I am asking the people of Barbados not to depend upon any legislative body, let the people who want to open a nudist colony in Barbados know that a nudist colony is unacceptable in our society, and make certain by their collective force that it is not to happen. Waiting for legislation, it may be dangerous? Is it not dangerous, just write to the Advocate, write to the Nation, get on CBC, Night Ride, Day Ride, all sorts of avenues and let people know that we in Barbados have not slipped so far down that we are prepared to tolerate anything at all in the interest of making a dollar. We are not to sell our souls on the altar of filthy money. Nudism serves no purpose at all except

to satiate the appetites of people whose lusts are so overpowering that they cannot admit or control.
7.30 p.m.

There is no socially redeeming virtue to nudism, except the form which is practised in the privacy of people's homes between consulting adults. A man can pull off his clothes at home whenever he feels like doing it. He does not have to go and pay \$45.00 for this privilege of being naked. He pays \$45.00 for the purpose of gazing upon people's bodies and for the purposes of exciting himself and engaging in all kinds of depravity.

I know that there are people whose views are not the same as mine, I am expressing my opinion as the duly elected representative for St. Michael West. I believe that I am putting their case. Not everyone in that constituency will endorse my view, but I am satisfied that the majority of my constituents do not want nudism in Barbados and I am speaking therefore, as their representative in this Hon. Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has three minutes in which to wind up his speech.

Mr. JOHNSON: Yes, Sir. I have put forward my view Sir, on the social and moral implications of this adventure.

I suggest Sir, that we in this Legislature, have a responsibility to the people who elected us to be here to make certain that our own personal views do not transcend the views of the people whom we represent. My personal conviction may not necessarily coincide with the convictions of the people out there. I hope Sir, and I believe that I am not only expressing my personal conviction, but I am expressing the conviction of the masses of Barbados who feel that our standards are too precious to be compromised by the whims and fancies of people who feel that they have a right to earn money at whatever price.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I intervene to make one point as I believe that both hon. members have asked that they wish to hear a statement from the Government's front bench. I am going to make a statement now because another hon. Minister, or other hon. ministers are going to speak on this issue, Sir.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has referred to the office of the Attorney General and the Director of Public Prosecutions, the right of any citizen of Barbados to operate on his, or her premises what is commonly referred to as a nudist camp and the Legal Officers are examining the existing law to advise on whether or not, breach of the existing law will occur if such an eventuality took place within the confines of private

premises, as distinct from a place to which the public has access.

Existing Legislation under the Vagrancy Act of 1897 makes it an offence for a person lewdly to display his, or her person in the public's view, whether it be from premises or not, or, to display himself on premises to which the public has access.

The penalty under the Act, has never been changed since 1897, it is \$9.60, or one month's imprisonment. I am afraid that when the hon. members spoke on this matter, you would get the impression that the present Government has, by some active means, given rise to the circumstances which have led to some person trying to get around the existing legislation. It is obvious that the promotion of a nudist camp is a matter which has occurred all of a sudden in this country.

Between 1897 and 1980, no legislature has saw fit to change the law. I want to make the position clear. The Vagrancy Act is Cap. 156. No legislature has seen fit, between 1897 and today, to change the law. It is \$10.00 Sir, it used to be \$9.60. and when changes were made to the penalties in 1968, it was changed from \$9.60 to \$10.00. That is the only penalty which there is and it is under Section 3(1)(d). A person who wilfully, openly, lewdly and obscenely exposes his person in any street, public road, or highway, or in view thereof, or in any place of public resort. That is the existing section in dealing with cases of nudity and therefore, I do not want hon. members to debate this matter, which is highly emotionally charged, depending on which stand you take, or which hypocritical position you may adopt, for the purpose of satisfying what you think, is a public attitude on this issue because there is a lot of hypocrisy in this society as well Sir. It is well that somebody reminds Barbadians that there can be a good deal of hypocrisy on some of these issues and that is why I said that one wants to consider the matter properly and certainly, the Government will not take even the suggestion, regardless of whether it comes from the backbench, or the Opposition, or from the front bench, that circumstances leading to the opening of a nudist cap has nothing to do with the slowness of Government, or Government's dereliction of duty in any respect.

Between 1897 and 1980, I am not so infantile as to believe that there was not some practice of nudity in this country. Mr. Speaker, every one of us has witnessed people bathing naked at Stand-pipes and each one of us has been conscious of the fact that some Barbadians themselves have bathed naked on the beach. I think that it is a little bit hypocritical to believe that nudity is only being introduced to this country by non-nationals, especially when the camp is being opened, or threatened

to be opened by a National. I wish to make these points quite clear. Do not blame the visitor for everything which is wrong in a society such as ours, for it is our people who are exploiting tourism themselves, for making a quick buck however they can, regardless of the feelings of the majority of people on issues such as this.

One has to drag this Debate back to the position where Hon. Members are honestly going to admit that the person who is pushing the nudist camp is not a non-national, not a foreigner, not a tourist, but a Barbadian himself and I do not believe that a Debate connected on the basis of attacking your own Barbadians who themselves may be doing immoral things would be a proper Debate in this Hon. House and it would be misleading to the people.

Some Hon. Members may be frightened to get up and say this because they are looking for votes, or believe that the issue is a vote catching one. With me, it is not that. All of the evil and effects of tourism which we say are brought in by tourism, some of it pre-existed tourism. Some of them are being brought in by our own people

The Hon. Member for St. Michael West talked about new diseases. Is the Hon. Member really believing that Barbadians are holier than thou, and that they do not go abroad and indulge in these practices and bring back the same thing here, some Barbadians?

Mr. JOHNSON: On a Point of Order. I do not think that anywhere in my speech, that it was suggested that I was attributing blame, or any of that sort of thing to the tourists who come from abroad. I think that I clearly indicated that there are people in our society who are prepared to make a dollar by whatever means and I did not say that I am only speaking of North Americans.

In the case of Hercules, I indicated Sir, that it was now and epidemic in North America, that it has reached epidemic proportions in North America.
7.40 p.m.

It has not reached epidemic proportions in Barbados.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I have taken the hon. member's point of explanation. The point I am making is that I think as legislators we must conduct the debate in here that we do not take the easy way out of it by believing we must place the blame at the feet of non-nationals, because it is the easiest thing where some of our people, admittedly a small minority, will misuse a position and confront us with a situation that perhaps the majority of people find obnoxious, whereas in some societies, like in Grecian societies for instance of long days ago and even in present European societies, some

people find that sort of thing acceptable. At this point in time all I can say to hon. members is that the Ministry with primary responsibility for the tourist industry is obviously concerned about the introduction of nudism in this country. They have sought the advice of our Ministry and we will be advising them so that they can decide whether or not they wish the Government to bring down legislation changing the existing legislation and clarifying the situation.

I want to say, however, that in drafting legislation of this nature there are certain points we will also have to bear in mind. It will be how far you can go by legislation firstly to set moral standards in a community, and secondly how far you can go by legislation to affect fundamental rights of people in their private homes. So that it is not as easy as the hon. member for St. Michael West may think in just not waiting to bring a particular bit of legislation before the House. We will make sure we maintain that balance and that the existing law will be enforced, and I will say to the hon. member that I understand from the Commissioner of Police that in case any offences are committed under the existing legislation, he will be enforcing that legislation strictly against the person committing those offences.

The only other clarification I would like to give as Minister responsible for the police is not an expressed statement but an innuendo that in this country there is a large rise in the number of murders and that sort of thing. That is just not so. We have had on an average the lowest number of murders in any year, approximately five, and we have gone up to as high as 23, but the average is 13 or 14 murders a year in this country. Between 1976 and today we have never exceeded that average, don't mind the amount of emotionalism that you have had. Between 1887 and 1980 the people who have gone to the gallows in this country have been something like 53. I am only giving you an example of the community in which you are dealing and the number of murders have never been that high in this country at any time at all regardless of whether or not you get emotional on the subject. So when I hear hon. members saying that when they were children they would only hear about one murder a year, that is not so. The factual statement is not so.

I hope soon to lay before this House the Penal Reform Committee to bring a little bit of objectivity into facts and figures, so that when we are dealing in the realm of crime in this country we will be aware of them. I am as concerned as the hon. members who have spoken about any increase or any signs in existence, not even any increase, in the use of drugs in Barbados or in the Caribbean for that matter; I am as concerned about any instance in which there is murder in the country; I am as concerned about people lewdly exposing themselves to public view in order to demoralise other people as any-

one in the country, but I do not think we do our case any good if we get highly charged and highly emotional about it without looking at the issues and sometimes attacking the root causes of these matters in our society. One of the root causes, one adverted to by the hon. member for St. Michael West with which I agree, is that you have a small minotia of people who want to exploit any situation to their benefit when there are negative factors involved, and in this instance it is not a non-national who is exploiting what they think is a lacunae or hiatus in the law, it is a national himself. In fact, in a conversation which I had with the hon. member for St. Michael South West we were both adverting to the difficulty that you have in a situation where you want to balance the rights of the individual as against the wider public interest, and how far the subject is one for legislation as distinct from education, as distinct from moral persuasion is a difficult one. Let me say that we will not hesitate to enforce the law as it exists. We are prepared to react to the advice asked for by the relevant executive Ministry. They will get that advice and I am sure in due course the Acting Minister I believe and certainly the Parliamentary Secretary for that Ministry will want to bring before the Cabinet any changes that may be necessary to deal with the situation.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, I am not quite sure whether some hon. members who have spoken on this Resolution are asking the Government to introduce legislation which would see the non-operation of this proposed nudist camp. There have been a number of comments made, and I think it is my duty to make a response to some of them. We must realise that Barbados is said to be a very moral country and anything at all that seems to impinge on the moral principles of people tend to create a lot of stir in our society. I remember when there was a.....

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I was saying, I remember when there was a show called the Queen of the Bees which projected homosexuals parading on the stage of one of our popular theatres that there was a lot of stir and it brought considerable comment, and as a result of those comments some force was brought on the management of the particular cinema so that he did not grant permission for the holding of that show. Since then we have not heard anything more about the Queen of the Bees show. What I am saying, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that on the occasion when Barbadians felt that the moral fabric was being contaminated, we had people getting together with the authorities concerned and by mere persuasion were able to accomplish their task. We have got a situation now which I am afraid would need a bit more than actual persuasion to prevent the operation of a nudist camp.

7.50 p.m.

I am not one who feels that tourism has brought with it this sort of moral misconduct, as some of us may term it, what I am prepared to say is that Barbados has over the years tried to attract tourists by promoting a very clean image, promoting our sea, our sun, our hospitality, certainly not nudism or nudity, and I remember as recently as three months ago when on the front page of one of our leading newspapers, there appeared a story which brought home to Barbadians that there was nudity in Barbados practised on one of our beaches, I well remember that beach is called Long Beach, and the immediate response of the Board of Tourism was to devise ways and means whereby they could get that sort of behaviour stopped. They went a bit further, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and the Board of Tourism printed leaflets and they went on with a publicity programme which came out against nudity in Barbados. What we see from that exercise is that the Ministry of Tourism does not condone in any form or fashion the promotion of nudity in Barbados. We do not condone that, we do not condone it on the public beaches, and I am quite sure that the Ministry does not subscribe to nudity in Barbados as a form of promoting tourism.

What we must examine carefully is this, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The Board of Tourism has been promoting Barbados as a clean resort. Surely they have been trying to deter people who wish to come to Barbados in order to practise and condone in their nudity behaviour, they have been trying to stop and prevent that sort of behaviour. We deem that sort of tourist undesirable, and surely if it is known by the Board of Tourism when they are in their promotion drives overseas that people are looking for this form of behaviour in Barbados, then I am sure that the Board of Tourism will not advertise, or it will tell those people that it is undesirable as far as Barbados is concerned, but we are faced with a serious situation in that the Board of Tourism is doing everything in its power to prevent that sort of tourist coming to our shores and at the same time we have got Barbadians, or a Barbadian, promoting it.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. We do not have a quorum in here, get your members back inside here.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the bell be rung.

The bell was rung and a quorum was obtained.

Mr. BRADSHAW: You see, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we must be careful with what we say on matters such as these. We must not convey the impression to the general public that with tourism evils have emerged in our society. We must not give that impression. After listening to some contributions made by some hon.

members one will tend to feel that this has been the distinct impression. What we must understand is that the proprietor of this proposed nudist camp has said, according to the newspaper report, that some 5% of the tourists that come to our shores are in search of nudist camps, but I would like to ask that proprietor what data does he have available which is surely not available to us to come to such a conclusion. If we are expecting some 400,000 tourists this year, and this figure of 5% is correct, it means that some 20,000 tourists will be in search of nudist camps. I find that hard to believe, because most of the people who engage themselves in nudist behaviour come from Scandinavia, and nowhere does Barbados attract 20,000 or even 6,000 tourists from Scandinavia, so on first hand that information is terribly misleading. We must not accept that, that should not be a basis for setting up a nudist camp.

Now, then, I feel — and this has been the opinion of people who are interested in the tourist industry and surely the economy of our country — that what we should do in Barbados is to examine ways and means whereby we will be able to trap the tourist dollar. Certainly it cannot be trapped by operating a nudist camp. Mr. Deputy Speaker, when tourists come to these shores or to any country the demand for locally produced items is greater, and any Barbadian, any national who wants to assist in contributing to the economy by way of trapping the tourist dollar should find some sort of suitable business, some business that the tourists will be able to leave their dollar in, it will not be trapped by way of a nudist camp. I will suggest that entrepreneurs develop businesses, handicraft, artifacts and the like, production of more locally grown food. That is essential because as the tourists come it means that the consumption demand will be greater, and if we are not to import in order to satisfy the tourists we must produce, and I will suggest that anyone who is thinking in terms of helping the tourism industry and helping this country and its economy would go into those particular areas, because it will help us to solve what is known as the leakages problem. 8.00 p.m.

Now, then, we have heard a lot of fuss, there has been a lot of fuss with regards to dope, gambling and the one-armed bandits. There has been a lot of fuss, a lot of talk on the public platform by the Opposition. They feel that that was eroding the moral fibre of Barbados' society, therefore, I find it rather strange, hearing it come from the Opposition Benches, or at least one Hon. Member called on the Government to make a policy statement. This is not a matter for the Government, it is a matter for all of us who have got responsibility. It is a matter for all of us, the Opposition, as well as the Government Benches and they cannot seek to shirk from

the responsibility and place it on the Government and think that that would give them some cheap, political mileage. I want them to understand that whatever step.....

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a Point of Order, Sir. I feel that in a Resolution where an Hon. Member of this Side has seconded the Resolution that it ill benefits an Hon. Member of the Government to talk about the cheap, political points.

As it is said in Proverbs 10, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please. The Hon. Member will not be permitted to quote the Good Book as part of his Point of Order. You have made your point.

Mr. TAITT: Have I, Sir?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you will take your seat, I will call upon the Hon. Member to continue his speech.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I can understand, he is trying to show off some of his knowledge.

What I am saying, Mr. Deputy Speaker is this, I am sure that the Hon. Member for St. Lucy will not be annoyed with what I have to say because it was the Hon. Member who called upon the Government to make a policy statement. This does not require a policy statement. The Hon. Member, if he has any moral fibre left in him, should be man enough to get up and say that.

Mr. TAITT: On a Point of Order, Sir, The Rules are very clear on this capacity of Hon. Members to cast aspersions on other Hon. Members and to make insulting remarks. I recommend Sir, that "if he has any moral fibre left in him" suggest that a lot of his moral fibre has escaped him Sir, which is insulting in the extreme.

I submit that the Hon. Member should be asked to withdraw that remark.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member will withdraw the offending words.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I withdraw the remarks.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, what must be borne in mind is that the Opposition has got a duty to this country. They must not seek, at any time, to relinquish that. They are to get up on matters of principle and tell the public how they feel and do not try to score rather narrow political gains by asking the Government to take a stand on it and the Hon. Members understand what I am trying to say.

Now then, the Board of Tourism speaks for the Ministry of Tourism on this particular matter. The Board of Tourism is not in favour of the setting up of a nudist camp. As far as the Law is concerned, I do not know whether or not, as it now stands, the nudist camp will be allowed to operate within the framework of the Laws of Barbados, but I do hope that something will be done, to prevent this sort of operation. It is selling Barbados cheaply and I do not believe that this sort of promotion can do Barbados, or the future of Barbados' Tourism any good. I do not think so.

I have heard in different quorums where some countries have been promoting sex and that did not redound to the benefit of those countries. I have not seen that. What I would like to say is that anyone who is seeking to assist in the Tourism of this country should find ways and means of having a business which can attract the tourist dollar. Certainly, that is what would be welcome.

I do support the Dean and those religious Heads who have spoken out against the operation of a nudist camp. My colleague, the Hon. Member for Christ Church North Central has been brave enough to bring this Resolution before this Hon. Chamber and I am sure that all of us in here would wish to associate ourselves with this Resolution.

I do hope that everything will be done by the Attorney General's Office to respond to the request of the Board of Tourism, with a view to having this sort of nudist operation stopped, or prevented from operating in future in Barbados. We consider ourselves fortunate to have a thriving tourist industry. So far, our promotions have proven successful. No one can convince me, or convince anyone who is involved in tourism, that advertising Barbados as a nudist country can attract, or expand our image as a tourist centre. No one can convince us.

What I do feel, and this is the considered opinion of many, is that tourists will then begin to think differently of Barbados. They will feel that the very moral fibre of the society stands a chance of being contaminated and we have got to be careful that we guard ourselves against this very erosion of our moral fibre.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am going to lend my voice to the support of the Resolution by my colleague, the Hon. Member for Christ Church North Central. Of course, this Resolution is a Private Members' Resolution and it is a conscience vote. It is not a vote whereby it affects the policy of the Government, when the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, or Backbenches are supposed to support it. I am giving it my fullest support.

Now, earlier in the day, I said to one of my friends that I am going to support this Resolution and of course, to him it was a joke. I think that it was the Rt. Hon.

Leader of the Opposition who referred to me as a libertine so therefore, I have to be everything which is immoral and bad. I think that this evening however, will prove that there is some element of morality in me. I have no apologies to make to anyone on the floor of this Hon. House, or to my wife, or to anybody for playing the one-armed bandits or for playing poker. That is my hobby, that is my money. But, what I am not going to support is nudism in Barbados at a commercial level. This is what it boils down to.

Until quite recently, the Barbados Board of Tourism, a Statutory Body of the Government was appealing to the hotels to ask their tourists, the visitors to Barbados in particular, to dress properly along the streets of Bridgetown. I think that it is highly immoral, it is ugly and it is bad taste to see visitors and even Barbadians themselves walking into the stores, or in supermarkets with their skimpy bikinis, on and their undergarments showing, I think that it is ugly and very indecent and there is nobody Sir, who likes to see women in bikinis better than I do.

But, I cannot support the idea of a commercial venture where people are going to expose their bodies to each other and I have no doubt in my mind, knowing Barbadians as well as I do, that they can have a 20 ft. paling, or wall, or fence, you cannot stop the Barbadian boy, or girl.

8.10 p.m.

You cannot subject the Barbadian boy or girl to that, and I can imagine seeing the Cammie Tudors with the long iron bars pulling off the paling to look at the men. I would not be surprised that when you have these restaurants and these bars in there Mr. Cameron Tudor would be applying for the tender for cooking there. Then it would be a camp of dope. Now this is what I am concerned with. I see that police have made raids at Harry's Niterly where you have people dancing naked. I have seen a lot of nude shows. I have seen them on 42nd Street. I think we have seen them in Honolulu. If that is some form of entertainment which I accidentally ran into, I am very honest about it.

You take this Resolution lightly and because of the nature of the Resolution you feel it is a joke Resolution, this is by accident, so because I as an individual have these comments to make that I ran into a nudist show by accident, you believe it is a joke. I am saying on the floor of the House now that my colleague and I when we were in Hawaii or in Hong Kong I think, and one of the Assistant Clerks of the House too, we did not leave the hotel going to look for a nudist show; we started out to go to see a show and discovered that it was a nudist show. (*Asides*) You have just come to Bridgetown, so you want to see

naked men and women. I was around for a long time. (*Asides*).

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please! Will the hon. member please continue with the debate?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: The position therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that if you are hearing some quarters of the society condemning the one-armed bandits and asking to shut them down — a very small percentage of the society complain against the one-armed bandits — and I know that the Opposition would go out there and say that this Government, the Labour Party Government is now introducing into Barbados a nudist camp. I can imagine hearing the hon. member for St. Michael West, the hon. member for St. Lucy and the hon. member for St. Michael South Central shouting to the top of the mountain how the Barbados Labour Party brought gambling and now they are bringing naked people in this country, and this is what I have to protect.

I have not got any young children that I have to be worried about, but I am concerned with the actual moral fibre in the society, so we have to ask ourselves where are we going. I want to say this because I am going to be very short. I am prepared as a Minister of Government to join any demonstration to picket the Mangrove nudist camp as from tomorrow. I am prepared as a Minister of Government to join in any demonstration to picket around the nudist camp at Mangrove, and I will go further; I am going to urge upon my colleagues in Cabinet that legislation should be brought down to make the penalty much greater than \$9.60 or \$10.00 or whatever it is. They must pay \$10,000, if they want to lie down in the sun in Barbados. This is my view because I cannot understand what 5% statistics somebody can turn up with. In today's paper it is said that 5% of the visitors who come to Barbados want a nudist camp, so that is something like 70,000 persons who want to go and see naked people lying down. That is something I can do in my yard any day. What pattern do we want to set now? With the bikinis they are wearing they are uncovered already; what more do you have to do? What more do you want to sell? I am not supporting it.

I want to salute my colleague for bringing the Resolution. It is one where I know the Speaker of the House was able to lend his support in accordance with directives to see as a matter of public importance. Barbados is still a very church-going society. You can talk as you like. The fellows may go out there and drink their liquor, they may play the one-armed bandits, they may play poker, they may ride horses, they may do all these things, but whenever it boils down you can still hear around the rum-shop the singing of hymns. I believe, Sir, that it is still a Christian

society in spite of the growing problems which you are having in these developing countries. I am not supporting that tourism is responsible for all these diseases. I read the Nation where there were four young persons who supported it and two seniors said they were not in support of it. Well I am in the younger brigade and I am not supporting it. I cannot stand up in front of a Gospel Assembly Youth Group and address them and be part and parcel of people parading up and down. They tell you they will lie down naked, but I am quite sure if you decide to climb up on the paling you will see a lot of different things going on. They will be naked and that is what I am not supporting, because you will get children leaving school during the vacation, and it is going to be somewhere where they can drive to look at the camp, and I am sure that all of Mangrove is going to become blocked up now. The buses would not be able to pass; everybody will be driving up there in motor cars like when the airport was first opened and they wanted to see what it was about.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, all I will hear from the Opposition is that this wicked Government is introducing into Barbados a nudist camp, so the people in Springhead and Sion Hill not knowing this, when you go out there and tell them this, they will say that Craig was part and parcel of it. I am therefore lending a dissenting voice to the camp and I am prepared to go up there and demonstrate every day for an hour, and if there is anything within my Ministry that I can possibly do to close it down, I am prepared to do that. I am prepared to bear whatever consequences there are. I speak now as a Cabinet Minister. I am going to ask my Permanent Secretary to research some aspect of the Town Planning legislation, environment or whatever it is, and you can rest assured that if there is anything in my Ministry to close it, I am going to close the Mangrove camp, if it is within my power, and then the Prime Minister or the member for St. Joseph who is a supporter of it can do what they feel like. That is all I have to say about this aspect of it.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member can speak as vociferously as he might want to speak. He has his rights to say what he wants to say; he has his rights to do what he wants to do. I have my rights to do what I want to do, I have my rights to say what I want to say; but nobody has yet heard me speak on this issue. If I had to speak I would say clearly let us cut the hypocrisy, and when we are going to move laws, let us move laws to deal with from the rastas, the gamblers and all down the line; but I have not spoken yet. If this society has become a hypocritical society and we want to speak about hypocrisy in Parliament, if we want to speak about moral fibre, let us all have a day of debate and let us call everybody's name and what we are doing, but don't bother to pull me in before I need to come in.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member has made his point. Has the hon. member for St. James finished his speech?

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: You want to draw me in, but you are not getting me in.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please!

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I did not shout at you.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Chair does not shout at anyone.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: It sounded so to me.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does any other hon. member wish to make a contribution to the debate? *(Asides)*

Mr. TAITT: I apologise, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you intend to speak on the Resolution?

Mr. TAITT: Yes, Sir. I wish first of all to apologise for my gesture towards the hon. member for St. Michael East, but, Sir, the hon. member for St. Michael East does nothing if he does not drive me to my Bible.

Sir, you will recall, I know you will, Proverbs 10 Verse 14. It says:

"The wise man holds his tongue. Only a fool blurts out everything he knows; that only leads to sorrow and trouble."

And then a little later, Sir, Verse 19, it says:

"Don't talk so much; you keep putting your foot in your mouth. Be sensible and turn off the flow."

Mr. WARD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, that is not in that Bible about putting your foot in your mouth. I read Proverbs and I never read about putting your foot in your mouth.
8.20 p.m.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am now being assailed on the back bench by the Acting Minister as being something, Sir. I am quoting from the Living Bible, paraphrased by Tindale, which was distributed and I fortunately am using the copy, at page 507.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you please continue with your speech?

Mr. TAITT: Yes, Sir. *(Aside)*.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Philip North, I am calling on you not to interrupt the hon. member for St. Michael South West who is trying to make a speech.

Mr. SIMMONS: I am sorry you heard, Sir, but I was only asking which Proverbs he was referring to, whether Harold Proverbs or "Goot" Proverbs.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please continue your speech.

Mr. TAITT: This Resolution concerns morality, Sir, and on the basis of some of the speeches I have heard, I heard the hon. member for St. James indicating that this is a Resolution on which the vote will be one of conscience, and I believe that in all good conscience I should make a contribution to the debate.

I myself am not overwhelmed by the possibility of nudism *per se* because I think that as I used to understand it, and as I have heard it described, that there seems to be a misconception on the part of the person who is about to set up this camp, or the persons who are discussing it, and what used to be described and I used to read about as, I think they call it nature lovers or something like that, in which, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a number of persons across the world, certainly in some of the eastern countries and in England and in some parts of the United States, people take the concept very seriously and they meet in their own private areas and they have discourse, and from all what one reads about this, it does not suggest nudism and/or the kind of activity which one is hearing about. I, however, feel that what the hon. member for Christ Church North Central is seeking to do is worthy of the support of hon. members in this Chamber, from this point of view, Sir.

I listened carefully, although I was not in this Hon. Chamber, to his introduction of this Resolution and it is especially in that area that I wish to support him. It is a fact that a number of customs misunderstood, misread and misapplied have been brought into this country by a number of persons who do not have the welfare of Barbados and Barbadians at heart and who are seeking merely in the context of greed to assist

themselves toward becoming as rich as possible with as little effort as possible. I believe that in a society of 250,000 souls that it is necessary for us as a people to determine what kind of moral standards we are going to set as the parameters within which we will function as a society. It is all right to set those standards, and if the 250,000 people of Barbados generally and collectively feel that the introduction of nudist camps in Barbados is undesirable, then it is right that their representatives should reflect their views.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, for as long as I have been living, just over 40 years, I have been aware in Barbados of a number of practices which are offences against God and man. I have been aware, I have heard.....

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

Mr. TAITT: I welcome you back to the Chair, Mr. Speaker. I have heard, as most of us who grew up in this society in our various villages have heard, of a number of activities which are frowned upon within the context of the society, but I think, Mr. Speaker, that we have always been aware as well that there are fundamental rights in our society which permit people in the privacy of their homes to do a number of things which they would not or cannot do outside of those homes, not because necessarily the things are wrong *per se* but because by doing them in public or in a public way they then offend the sense or the right of the other individuals. It is in that context that we must view the establishment of any such camp.

Mr. Speaker, it is well known, for example, that in the United Kingdom they have agreed that homosexuality between consenting males over a certain age is now no longer illegal. They have not and cannot comment on the morality of it, and I think that always when we are discussing these matters we should seek to delineate between the morality of a particular act or actions and the legality of that act or actions. If in fact it offends our sense of morality in Barbados, then the legislator may be called upon to do something to preserve the sense of that morality, but I do not think that it can be done merely because I do not like it, or the hon. member for St. Michael West does not like it, or somebody else does not like it, it has to be that a sufficiently large number of the persons in a community find the particular activity sufficiently offensive that they call upon their law makers to do something about it. It seems to me that the hon. member is saying that a sufficiently large number of persons in Barbados find the establishment of a nudist camp to fall into that category.

It would seem to me that no nudist camp can be successful in Barbados unless it is going to be serving

liquor, and selling that liquor at prices that are remunerative, and it would seem to me from what I remember of the Liquor Licence Act that where in a community the members of that community feel that the issuance of such a licence to any person would offend the mores of that community, that those members are free to object to the issue of such a licence, and it is my understanding that in the granting of such licences the Magistrate will take due account of any representations that have been made. It would seem therefore that this person or persons who have been attempting to establish such a nudist camp must fall within the ambit of that law which requires that the issuance of the licence will not in any way redound to the discredit of the community in which and where the licence has been issued.
8.30 p.m.

I do not know if this route has been taken by any of the persons who object, but I think that I have to agree with the Hon. Attorney General that we are not to become so emotional about this issue that we lose sight of what it is that we are discussing.

Mr. Speaker, it is wrong for anyone to impose his morality on anyone else. It is only when it can be clearly shown, in my opinion, that the imposition of that morality is offensive to some other person, that we are in a position to cease to ask that person to cease and desist. Some of us read pornographic material, some of us do not read pornographic material. We heard earlier Sir, that one Hon. Member enjoys poker and he enjoys playing the one-armed bandits. That is his privilege, Sir. I, myself, feel that the one-armed bandits have the same degenerative attitude for the society, as nudism in this context. That is my personal feeling and I am going to hold that feeling irrespective of what other people say, or, until someone convinces me that I am wrong in that feeling.

But, Mr. Speaker, I want to make the point, I am not embarrassed to say that I am a Christian, a practising Christian. I may not be a perfect Christian, for if there were any, there would be no need for Christianity. But I would be wrong in my attitude, in this Hon. Chamber, if I sit on the Synod of the Anglican Church and I go, as I do regularly on Sunday mornings to the church of my choice and then, when an issue which suggests that it will interfere with the moral stability of the community not by itself, Mr. Speaker, not in itself, but because of the attitude of the people to it. It seems to me that the time comes for us to cry halt.

I do not feel happy at the prospect that a man would have been led to believe that it was alright for him to set up a commercial activity and only after the commercial activity has been set up, he may discover that he has spent large sums of money only to discover that it has gone in Maxwell Pond. But Sir, if, as this Resolution

suggests, and the seconding of it, by my colleague indicates, that the vast majority of the people of Barbados feel that the introduction of nudists camps in Barbados will redound to the degeneration of our moral fibre, well I am not in favour of seeing the degeneration of our moral fibre, so I would support a Resolution which urges the Government to do something about it. But I hope that the same fervor which is brought to this Resolution, will be applied to other areas in the society, which are crying out for Legislators to pay the same attention.

There are a number of social issues, and time does not afford me the opportunity to list them, but I think that there are a number of other things in this society which are more destructive than any nudist camp could be. Mr. Speaker, it is wrong for us to be concerned about the establishment of a nudist camp, but say nothing about the widespread spread, if you will pardon the expression, of drugs in this country. We have a very serious issue confronting Barbados and what we are getting is a lot of suggestion that it is not as bad as we say that it is. But, I have heard a headmistress indicate that drugs are now in her Primary School. Now, she had no reason, as far as I know, Mr. Speaker, to lie, but she suggested, that within the ambit of her neighbourhood, that we had drugs in a Primary school.

Mr. Speaker, if there is only one case, of a single child of Primary age, which has been exposed to marijuana, or cocaine, or whatever drug, then, that is sufficient cause for us to be concerned. Sir, if you, as I know you do, like me, have young children, you must be concerned, way and above the political activity and that is why I object Sir, when it is suggested that to discuss these matters, the Opposition would be looking for cheap political mileage out of an issue like this. We, as political people, are going to have to determine either by a Treaty, or, by osmosis, or by just plain, common sense, that there are certain issues which we will not allow to become politically divisive. Drugs, in this community, has nothing to do with the Barbados Labour Party, or the Democratic Labour Party. It has to do with drugs in Barbados, and when we speak out about drugs, we should be able to speak out about drugs, as free men and women in a society and not as persons tied by some system of politicization which does not permit us to speak unless constantly, we see it in terms of the Chairman of the Barbados Labour Party, or the President of the Democratic Labour Party.

This is not a politically partisan issue and that is why, when my colleague on this Side gets up to second it, and it is a Resolution which comes from the Hon. Member on that Side, we can talk about it in this Hon. House freely. So that, if we, in making a point suggest that blame should ascend or descend in one place or the other, it must flow from our personal view of the

matter, more so than any desire to attribute base motives to any one person, or group of persons.

No one, as far as I know, has accused the Government of setting up a nudist camp. I believe that the Government is in somewhat of a quandary as to know, how, specifically, to deal with this issue, because the Government has to weigh and balance the rights of the individual, versus the rights of the majority, or the rights of the people, and therefore, the Government would probably have preferred to say, like the Master, if this cup could pass, and see the thing quietly disappear.

The Hon. Member has forced us to deal with the issue and you either have to stand up and be counted, be absent, or sit down and say nothing and let people wonder where you stood. We cannot win, or lose votes on this issue. Those of us who have been good representatives will get back in, and those of us who have not been, will get out. We do not have to take each single issue and turn it into some major political fight. You could believe that somebody will read in New York, in a newspaper, that the Democratic Labour Party and the Barbados Labour Party were fighting over the establishment of a nudist camp. Mr. Speaker, I would prefer not to believe that anyone will hear that of me. I have a position on it and I am sure that it differs from the position of some of my colleagues and we saw, that the colleagues over there have different positions on the issue and the reason is that it is new to us.

When we are travelling in the far off lands, whatever debauchery we see, we figure that it is no big thing because it is only there, but that we are going back to our paradise and that we do not have to worry about it. When it follows us home, then we have to worry about it and we cannot put it off.

Mr. Speaker, one of the problems — I am coming to the end now Sir — one of the problems which we have in this community is that we, because we are developing, have to go into a state of mendicancy I will tell you what I mean. Any kind of riff-raff, hoi-polloi, rabblement can get on a plane and travel into Barbados and when he gets to the Airport, if he has not got proper documents, we lean over backwards to assist him to come in. On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, if you go down any morning, to the American Embassy and see our people lining up, sitting down, with tears coming out of their eyes, in all kind of torment and being mistreated, as less than humans, in some instances.
8.40 p.m.

I say that quite advisedly, being treated as less than human in some instances, being questioned as to their integrity, being questioned to whether they are going to come back to Barbados. We have married women being told that they have not established clearly to anybody's satisfaction that they have a home in

Barbados which they do not intend to abandon, and a whole manner of foolishness which passes for consular activity. Our people want to go to America. Ninety percent of them only wish to go and see it because they have heard so much about it. It is true there are some people who do not wish to come back, but whenever any of our people get away in America all they do is enhance that society. On the other hand when the dregs of the American society come down here as tourists, and again, Sir, that is only a small part of the large number of tourists who come, but nonetheless we have to admit that in catching the large numbers of which we brag we pick up some dregs who come in here and push dope, they push homosexuality — they are free to do that — they push a whole number of social ills and, yes, communicable diseases some of which defy the best medical brains in this country. We have to put up with that partly because of our underdevelopment and our need to depend on tourism.

In supporting this, Sir, I am making a personal statement saying that I do not approve of these fly by night, catch as you catch can entrepreneurs and other types who want to feed on the body politic by pandering to the basic and most degenerate wishes of all and sundry who come in this country as visitors. Thank you for your indulgence, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Speaker.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member wants to wind up. Is there any other hon. member who wishes to make a contribution to this debate?

Mr. WARD: Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to stop you saying your usual remarks, but the Deputy Speaker had asked that question and I stood, but the hon. member asked me to give way; so I knew I was not intending to infringe on your rights.

Mr. Speaker, just in winding up this debate, I would say that some interesting points have come to hand, and I think it is pleasing to me that this Resolution has been in the main supported on both sides of the House, and there are a few further comments I would like to make. One is, of course, which is very accurate, by the Attorney General when he says that this is a problem that has come upon us suddenly. This is nothing that has been neglected by the Government; this is a matter that has only come to the attention of the public of Barbados in a matter of ten, twelve or fourteen days, and in truth and in fact it is amazing that all this construction has gone on and this rumour had not got out. So the Attorney General is quite right on that. Where I do find it difficult is when the Attorney General gets up and says do not get emotional and says it three or four times, when this very evening he delivered one of the finest speeches he has ever made and got extremely emotional; so we are all emotional creatures. We are politicians and we get emotional when we face the mike, and the bigger the crowd the more emotional.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of explanation.....

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no point of explanation in this Honourable House.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of explanation, Sir, I believe.....

Mr. SPEAKER: On what point does the hon. member rise?

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of explanation.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no point of explanation in this Honourable House.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Clarification, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no point of clarification.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Elucidation is the word I am looking for. The point I would like to make is simply to tell the hon. member that there is a distinction between an emotional manner of speaking and an argument which is emotional, and the point which I was trying to make is that our arguments must not be emotional.

Mr. SPEAKER: I must stop you at this point because you are not elucidating. The hon. member only expressed his opinion of your conduct at a particular point in time.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, I do not think it was either an explanation or anything else. The Attorney General in spite of all he says is a person that when he feels something deeply he becomes very emotional. We know this, we appreciate it and we expect it, so he cannot get out of that point. The other matter of course, Mr. Speaker, is that the Attorney General has said that they will be increasing the fee and so on. I want to warn the Attorney General not to bring down any token Resolution without getting to the crux of the matter. This nudist camp must discontinue, and if he does not think that the people of this country feel very strongly about it, let him go out in the field and find out what is happening. The people feel extremely strongly about this.

Now the Attorney General has used an expression that we must not be hypocritical. Now, Mr. Speaker, this raises a moral issue which must come up in every human being's mind. Each and everyone of us has a private life. This does not mean that we carry our private life and hang it on the clothes line for the world to see. Furthermore all of us have children. I personally do not let everything that goes on in my life be known to my children, nor does anybody else in here for that matter. If my children bring matters into my house, sometimes my children would use language that I use and I pull them up, and they would say that I use it, but I would say yes, because I am senior to you. (A VOICE: Behave yourself!) Behave myself? If I talked about some of the things I do that I would stop my children from doing and things

the hon. member does that he would stop his child from doing, he would not laugh. We all know, Mr. Speaker, that we have private lives. In my house I have seen magazines which when I think they would get into the hands of my children — pornography — I destroy them rather than let them get in the hands of my children, and the Attorney General would do that too, I am absolutely certain.

Mr. Speaker, I just dealt with that because this matter of being hypocritical was raised. We are legislators; we legislate and bring in laws as the Government of this country and we must therefore protect all the citizens of the country. What you and I might be exposed to without becoming involved in we must protect our children from, and nobody can tell me that because I may have gone to a nudist show that I therefore must consent to it being put under the nose of my children. Nobody can tell me that we must accept the fact that because we have been to a striptease show that we must allow striptease to be practised where our children can go to them, and nobody can tell me that I must not get emotional on this either.

Another point I would like to raise, Mr. Speaker, is the urgency in it. I want the Attorney General to know that there is hardly an aeroplane that leaves this Island that does not take newspapers out to every destination, every city in Europe and every one in North America, and therefore within a matter of a week if this thing is not halted and this place opens, the news is going to be spread wide and far that Barbados permits nudism. (Asides) You were a Minister speaking with authority just now; now I hear you are shifting. I have body movements too.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I never shift, Sir, but the hon. member must know that the Ministry of Tourism has the responsibility for tourism matters. He is making a speech as though he is afraid to say who has the responsibility.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Speaker, you know myself and the Attorney General are close colleagues and we do not want to get different about something. He has already said that the Ministry of Tourism sent to his office and I am telling him there is urgency in it, and he is now backing out saying it is not he.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of elucidation, the hon. member is again getting emotional.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am just saying that because there is urgency the hon. member has been allowed to raise the matter this afternoon.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Exactly. But the hon. member must understand, if he does not understand, that he is getting in here making it appear, because I have got up and explained and given him information that he did not

have, as though I have a responsibility for the delay. There is no point preaching to me about it. The point is that we are going to deal with the matter. My office will attend to whatever questions we are asked and we will send it down. I cannot do any more than that. There is no point preaching to me to tell me it is urgent. I did not create nudism in Barbados; it pre-existed and will continue beyond me; so I do not want a lecture on how urgent it is because I am not taking those sorts of instructions.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Attorney General would know that I would not say that he would delay anything, but what I am trying to get at is that delay in this can be dangerous. I would be the last person to say that, because I know the Attorney General is a very hard working man, but I am saying that the urgency in this matter is very important. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank you very much for taking the matter as serious, or more serious than I did. Although you are not able to speak I know how you feel on this matter.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to end up by saying I believe that basically speaking we in Parliament are agreed that this thing has shocked our sensibilities; there is no doubt about it. I do not think any member of Parliament, with the exception of one, does not feel shocked about this whole matter, but there is a problem of how to solve it, there is a problem of how to get around it and pass legislation, and I have confidence in the Attorney General's Office that within a short space of time we will be able to stand up and say it is illegal to start a nudist camp in Barbados.

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

THE LIQUOR LICENCES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1980

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: This is a budgetary measure, Sir. It increases the cost of various liquor licences, it also increases the number of liquor licensing sessions in order to accommodate people for whom it is inconvenient to wait until the next full licensing session to get a first licence, it deals also with the making of regulations respecting the holding of special licensing sessions, and it gives the public greater opportunity to object to liquor licences, Sir.

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

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

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

On the motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, 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.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I beg to move that clause 3 stand part.

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

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I shall not delay you very long, I wish to ask the Minister a question. I should say that I agree with the legislation, but licensing sessions will now be during February, April, June, August, October and December. I am just wondering, will there still be provision for those persons who are opening new operations to get their licences in between sessions?

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Yes, provisions will be made under the regulations.

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

Clauses 4, 5 and 6 were called and passed.

Clause 7 was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I beg to move that clause 7 stand part.

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

Mr. TAITT: I wonder if the Minister could indicate what is the thinking behind going from \$50 to \$2,500? Are these consequential amendments coming to fruition now? I just want to find out what is the rationale behind this \$2,500. Is this in keeping with the general policy on fines?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Perhaps one fine should in general correspond at the very least to the maximum licence to be paid, otherwise you get more out of committing an offence and paying a smaller fine than you might out of paying the licence. I think this has to do with obstructing the police, or it might be worth the while to stop the police from coming in, if that is the offence, Sir, and paying \$500 rather than coming in and have them find you should have paid \$25.

The question that clause 7 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.
9.00 p.m.

Clause 8 was called and passed.

Clause 9 was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The reason why Sir — since the Hon. Member is asking these matters — the reason why these fines are so much smaller is that these are daily fines, you pay so much per day for certain offences and I am raising the daily fine from \$10.00 to \$25.00. That is necessary Sir because you must have a daily fine of at least the amount that it would cost you to have a daily licence.

I beg to move Sir, that Clause 9 stand part.

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

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

Clauses 10 and 11 were called and passed.

Clause 12 was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: This is a fine with a different character, Sir. This is a fine which was imposed on persons who refused to leave licensed premises, if the Licencee thinks that they are drunk and misbehaving themselves and tells them to leave. The fine now is \$20.00 Sir. I think that it is a little bit small. I do not think that Hon. Members will think it unreasonable that you must give a man power to keep order in his rum shop by supporting him with an adequate fine.

I beg to move Sir, that Clause 12 stand part.

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

The question that Clause 12 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 13 was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sir, I am very glad that the Hon. Member for St. Michael South West drew these points. This Section relates to persons who have a wholesale licence and proceed to retail liquor. Therefore, these are well-off people who might very well be just mischievous in not taking a retail licence. This might be a supermarket Sir. This is to stop people with a Supermarket Licence from selling rum by the snacks on premises and I think Sir, that this should be \$2,500 so I am going to move an Amendment Sir, to delete the word \$1,000.00 and substitute \$2,500.00 in line four of the Bill.

I beg to move that the Clause, as amended stand part.

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

The question that Clause 13 as amended, stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 14 to 16 inclusive were called and passed.

Clause 17 was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: This, I suspect is a Section under which offences are committed all the time. I am sure that the Secretary of the Barbados Labour Party has been guilty of failing to renew the Licence and not notifying the Authorities. I daresay that the Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union may even have had it happen to him at times.

I beg to move, Sir, that Clause 17 stand part.

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

The question that Clause 17 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 18 was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: This is the Clause about which the Hon. Member was asking. This preserves special licensing in between the main session.

I beg to move Sir, that Clause 18 stand part.

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

The question that Clause 18 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 19 and 20 inclusive, were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

On the motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. H. deB. FORDE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee with Amendment and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, each seconded by Hon. H. deB. FORDE, the Bill, as amended, was read a third time and passed. 9.10 p.m.

THE PUBLIC LOANS (REDEMPTION) (REPEAL) ACT, 1980.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 9 stands in the name of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister to move the second reading of a Bill to repeal the Public Loans (Redemption) Act.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, there are a number of financial Bills on the Statute Book that deal with all kinds of subjects. We are going to have a field day in due course dealing with the Revenue Equalisation Act if we want to hear appealing of self-justification by the Democratic Labour Party, and I am going through, I have gone through in fact all the laws of Barbados appertaining to public loans and have discovered that this one which was passed in 1942 to deal with the redemption of loans raised between 1920 and 1942 has been occupying the attention of the printers of successive editions of the Laws of Barbados ever since, although the Act is totally and fully spent.

I beg to move that this Bill which seeks to repeal the Public Loans (Redemption) Act, 1942 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 the motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS 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.

On the motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS each seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 1 stands in the name of the Leader of the House to move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of this Island.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, there are four matters we want to discuss in Committee of Supply, two which are on the Order Paper and the two of which notice was given earlier today, and I indicated that these relate to the appropriation for the radar equipment at the Airport and other equipment at the Airport.

I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply and in Committee of Supply to consider the Resolutions of which notice was given earlier in the session.

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

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

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, could the Hon. Leader indicate to us up to what time he is planning to go? Quite frankly I am getting a little tired. I am just wondering if he could give a little indication.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I must say at this time that we hope to stop at 10 o'clock. I would like at this time to thank the Chief Reporter at the desk who has so kindly consented to stay on to assist us in this. We are aware of the Union negotiations and in respect of these things we feel we should make sure that we keep in consultation with the delegate or persons who are responsible for the Reporters of the House. I would like to thank the Reporter of the House for his consent. 10 o'clock is the time we are going to stop.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1980-81 No. 1

Head 75 – Ministry of the Attorney General – was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, under Head 75, Sub-head 9 the \$53,589 which is being asked for is a supplementary to enable us to complete the work which is being done at Worthing Fire Station. The station has been re-occupied and is now operational, but the additional area of work to be done concerns recreation facilities for the men at the station, and although we have had a vote in last year's Estimates, we have found that the cost is a bit more than estimated then, so part of this is a revote.

The balance of the money is being requested to place a wire fencing around Headquarters Fire Station, Grantley Adams Airport and Four Roads Fire Station. We have had various problems of security at the Fire Stations involving a theft by someone who had broken out from the Government Industrial School actually being found sleeping in the headquarters of the tower at the Station, and in another case of people who described themselves as rastas actually attempting to assault a female Fire Officer at one of the stations on the grounds that she was the wife of a policeman and that the policemen are getting after the rastas.
9.20 p.m.

So we have had one or two problems and we are dealing with the problems of increased security, and hence the reason for this vote. I hope members of the Committee will therefore accede to the request.

I beg to move that this Head stand part, Sir.

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

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

HEAD 79 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, this is merely a revote under this Capital Item to provide equipment and furniture at the Trents Secondary School, which is one of the schools being built under the World Bank Subproject. I believe in the last Estimates members would have had a lot of details on this by the Minister of Education. (A VOICE: We did not debate the Head of Education and Culture). I think that the matter has come up in here on several occasions, Sir, on this particular project involving the World Bank Schools, but this is to get the furniture down for the school to be fully operational from the coming September term. (ASIDE). Furniture here in Barbados is being made specially, that that can be made here is being made here but there is a licence with one of the companies which are producing the furniture here under licence, and it is in those circumstances that we are asking for the vote.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to be controversial about this, and I plead not having any information on it in the past. I am aware that the Attorney General is not the substantive Minister, but since he has come down with the Resolution I presume that he has the files.

Now, Sir, I formed the impression that he is indicating that the furniture is being manufactured outside of Barbados. Did I get that impression, Mr. Chairman? I hope not. It seems like the Prime Minister is going to answer, so let me stop at this point and get the facts.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, as I understand it, the manufacturers here of furniture for the schools are not in a position to supply all the furniture they require. As a matter of fact, I will go further. You cannot even get people to repair the furniture, there are stacks and stacks of furniture in schools that you cannot get the artisans to repair. That is the fault of the Democratic Labour Party who put the children out of school at the age of 14 when they should have been having some skills training programmes where they could be trained as carpenters, electricians, masons, all these things, and that is why we have to lose this amount of money now to import these things into Barbados because we just have not got the skilled labour.

Mr. TAITT: This is a new ball game now. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I recognise that the hon. member who just spoke is not normally familiar with the Ministry of Education and its problems, and I am surprised that at this hour he would seek to make what has been described earlier as cheap political play.

Now, Sir, I did not know the Democratic Labour Party used to manufacture furniture, and I wish to state that when I was Minister responsible for industry in this country not a single piece of furniture used to come from outside this country. And do not tell me about 14 year olds going back to school, the number of 14 year olds which you sent back to school then — and it is not yesterday you started that — you said you were planning for them and that it was policy, so do not come in here now and tell me that the 14 year olds you sent back to school three or four years ago have somehow interfered with the furniture.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I am not saying they interfered with the furniture, I am saying that because you turned them out at the age of 14 there is a shortage of skilled persons in Barbados. This is a known fact. There are stacks and stacks of furniture in the schools, and do not get up and talk about the Ministry of Education, this is simple commonsense, I sit in Cabinet. I know as a fact from my colleague that you have stacks and stacks of furniture in the schools that you cannot get people to repair, and I am saying that one of the problems we have on our hands is that you have turned out the 14 year olds out of school, gave them no trades, they learnt no skills, they could not work, and this is the problem that we have to rectify, and that is why the Ministry of Labour and Community Services is now in a position to introduce the skills training programme.

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

9.30 p.m.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I am just trying to get in.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister making a speech?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Yes, Sir. I am trying to get in to deal with a question of the furniture coming from abroad. It is quite an important matter, Sir because this occupied the attention of Cabinet but, this furniture had to be obtained under International Tenders procedure, since it is being paid for by a Loan from the World Bank, it is part of the World Bank's Rules that all equipment procured under its Loan must be open to free, competitive tender to all its members.

I have not got that file in front of me, but I do remember that the entire matter had to be tendered, the tenders approved by the elected authority, and if any, furniture has to come from abroad. That is the

reason for it, which the International Tendering system enforced upon us, for the purchase of furniture from foreign parts.

The question that Head 79 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I must have order in here, please.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1980-81

RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE SUM OF \$253,589

Order No. 1(b) was called — to move the passing of a Resolution to grant the sum of \$253,589 from the Consolidated Fund and place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1980-81, Part II, Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1980-81, No. 1 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

HEAD 39 — MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Head 39 — Ministry of Education and Culture, Sub-head 20 Subscriptions and Contributions to International and Regional Organisations.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, this is the subscription to UNESCO. Until this year, Sir, all subscriptions used to be paid by the Ministry of External Affairs and were voted on that Ministry's vote. This tended to swell the vote of the Ministry of External Affairs and services which were related to other Ministries and it was therefore decided, to transfer each Ministry's subscription to an International Organisation where appropriate, to the Ministry's own vote.

The Ministry of Education and Culture forgot to include the vote for UNESCO and therefore, it is unable to pay its UNESCO subscription, although the Permanent Secretary is one of the Governing Counsel of UNESCO and it has occasioned some embarrassment. The Permanent Secretary will shortly be going on long leave during which time, he will be at UNESCO's disposal rather than that of the Government and it is considered politic that we should be up-to-date with our subscriptions, Sir. We therefore need urgently, to supplement this item by the required amount and I beg to move that Head 39 stand part.

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

The question that Head 39 stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. (Asides)

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I really do not know which is to be done first out of these matters but, the two Resolutions are connected together. Shortly, we will have to pay for the new Radar at the Airport. We have got rid of Space Research Corporation from managing the Radar and the Air Traffic Control at the Airport and we are getting a new system.

To be honest to you, Sir, I could make a long speech on this occasion, but it is late at night. I will only say that this is the end of the expansion of the Airport which was financed by the Canadians, I would just say in passing, that I heard a lot of offensive things said about the British Government, armaments business and lending us money to buy armaments. I never heard anybody attack the Canadian Loan which was tied to the purchase of Canadian equipment as the British Loan is, to the purchase of British equipment. I never heard anybody say that it was wrong for the Canadians to lend us \$30 million on condition that we even let the Canadians come down and lay the tiles at the Airport because the Canadians came actually to do the flooring, help put up the electricity and help put up the glass panels, ordinary, every day Canadians all that was tied into the Loan. But, that is really in passing, Sir.

Down, now, at the end of it, we have to spend \$2.8 million in Radar equipment which was similar to that which was installed at Johannesburg Airport and I do not know that from hearsay, I know that by Colonel Gregory coming into my office and admitting to me when he told me that the only connections which they have with Johannesburg is that Barbados and Johannesburg were two places where they were doing the Air Traffic Control and that the former Rt. Hon. Prime Minister had approved of it. If you want to hear a little more about the Space Research. 9.40 p.m.

We want to get away from this South African equipment, and therefore we need the \$2.8 million to buy new radar systems. So we have two Resolutions: one is a Resolution to supplement Head 77 by the amount of \$2.8 million and the other is a Resolution approving the borrowing by the Government of Barbados of up to \$US2.2 million from the Export Development Corporation of Canada relating to the matter. I am just making the one speech. The Clerk will tell us which Resolution to put at which point, but it is necessary because we want to wind up the matter and complete it very urgently so that we can get these monies paid, Sir,

I beg to move that Head 77 stand part.

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

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

On motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of three money Resolutions in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE USE OF THE SUM OF \$US2.2 MILLION FROM THE EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF CANADA

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Resolution stands in the name of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the use of the sum of \$US2.2 million from the Export Development Corporation for air traffic radar equipment.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I have already made a speech in Committee on this which relates to the radar at the airport which we are buying in substitution for the radar which the vagabonds at Space Research used to run for us at great cost on a contract that was never put out to tender and organised by Carlton Brathwaite and his friends.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

I am sorry that the Deputy Prime Minister was not here to give you the full flavour, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT HOWELLS CROSS ROAD AND TWO MILE HILL

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 two parcels of land at the corner of Howells Cross Road and Two Mile Hill in the parish of St. Michael for the purpose of road improvement.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, this is another acquisition out of the Ministry of Lands for the purpose of highway improvement. There is nothing for me to expand on.....

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, I would like to draw to the attention of this Honourable House that according to the recital in this Resolution we would be in essence debating a Resolution where according to the present state in Barbados we have an Acting Governor-General who may be called upon to give assent, and therefore participate in a matter which he may not wish to participate in. I am wondering if the Government is aware of this and whether this Resolution ought not to be postponed bearing in mind that there is some personal interest on the part of the Acting Governor-General.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think I should tell this Honourable House that the interest of the Acting Governor-General is declared in the Resolution itself.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, this is something which I myself in the Ministry had queried, but I am quite sure that the Government had acquired land from the late Governor General, Sir Arleigh Scott. There is nothing to be worried about in this. The Acting Governor General as the Speaker said has declared an interest in it. What has happened? Can't the Government buy anything from me now? There is nothing wrong with this. *(Asides)* You say he is giving assent to it. As long as it has Parliamentary approval there is nothing wrong with it.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

RESOLUTION TO VEST LANDS AND BUILDINGS AT FRIENDSHIP, ST. LUCY IN THE BARBADOS AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 6 stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment, to move the passing of a Resolution to approve of the vesting of land and buildings at Friendship, St. Lucy, in the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation for the purpose of implementing a Farm Project.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution before Parliament is to vest the land at Spring Hall. It was under the control of ADC all the time and we are just seeking to have vested in ADC the lands at Friendship Plantation in St. Lucy. That is the text of the Resolution; it is just a matter of actually vesting. I do not think the Opposition would object to this to give ADC full control.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: In seconding that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to add that the development at

Spring Hall is actually about to take off and the BADC will be responsible for the servicing of that project there. They will be the legal authority for executing the project. 9.50 p.m.

Therefore it is necessary that the lands there be vested in the BADC. I think it is known that there would be around 22 farmers who will be occupying the project there, and there are going to be two dairy farms. They will be occupying about 20 acres each and then the other farmers will have between 9 and 10 acres up.

The project, as is known, will be financed by the Caribbean Development Bank, and we are in the process at the moment of selecting staff for the execution of the project. People who will work the lands have not been coming forward as well as we hoped but we will again be advertising. We have only had, I think, around 11 applicants. Probably the criteria for such persons might be regarded as a bit high. We were hoping to get a good selection of people hopefully to make a good start, and we are again looking at the criteria for selection for the project and we will again advertise, and we hope very shortly that the project will get underway, so the lands will have to be vested in the BADC in order to get off the ground as required by the funding agency.

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

THE UNITED STATES (OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH STATION) (REPEAL) ACT, 1980

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, this Bill will repeal the United States (Oceanographic Station) Act, the station having been discontinued on this island since March, 1979. All outstanding issues between the United States Government and ourselves have been settled, including an additional payment of half million Barbadian dollars over and above the initial figures which were announced, and this Act seeks therefore to repeal the legislation dealing with the establishment of this station.

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

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

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, just one question I would like to ask the Hon. Attorney General and Minister of Foreign Affairs. The question relates to the workers at the Naval Facility who were displaced as a result of the closure of the Facility, and as I understand it, representation was made to the Attorney General in his capacity as Minister of Foreign Affairs about exploring the possibility of additional payment to the displaced workers over and above what is provided for in the Severance Payment Act, and the rationale for this of course was situations which

developed in some other countries where foreign bases were closed, and we know for a fact that payments over and above what was provided for in the law were made to workers who suffered as a result.

I would like therefore to find out from the Attorney General what is the position on this. I seem to recall that some promise was made at some point in time that if at any time he had had an opportunity to meet with representatives from the United States Government that he would have made it possible for the Barbados Workers' Union which represented those workers to at least meet with them and to put a case forward for these workers, and I would have thought that the Attorney General would have taken the opportunity to clarify that particular matter, and I am therefore hoping that he will use this opportunity to do so now.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad that the hon. member has reminded me of that matter. We raised with the United States Government the question and I had an undertaking to let the Workers' Union know the outcome of that question.

The United States Government has refused to pay any compensation over and above the Severance Payment compensation law, taking the technical point that the workers were not employed with them but under contract of services with Mr. Armstrong, and it is impossible to get them even to discuss the matter. As a result, we got not much co-operation at all from them.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. If I may just pass on some information in connection with what the Minister is speaking, Mr. Arnold Armstrong was the agent and he told me that the workers were paid over and above what the law provided in Barbados under severance pay. Even workers who were over 65 and who were not entitled to any severance pay were still given it, so this discussion comes strange to me.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, the workers were paid in accordance with the severance pay legislation. The Government directed all statutory agencies and Government bodies to give priority of re-employment and reabsorb almost everyone in the Government Service or in work who wanted to be employed. Some of the workers took their money and a few went into private business, some emigrated to the United States, I believe the United States Embassy re-employed one person, and one other person went to the Canadian Embassy helped by them. Other than that, the Government found work for all of those who were at the age that they wished to work. I have not checked recently, I only know of two or three cases who some time in the distant past had not been accommodated, because one of the persons went overseas, but I am certain that no money over and above the severance payments liability was paid out by the United States Government to any of the persons, Sir. This is the position.

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

On the 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.

On the motion of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.
10.00 p.m.

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

SUSPENSION

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, that brings us to the end of this evening's work Sir.

Let me thank the staff of Parliament again, for the time which they have spent with us and I think that Hon. Members on both Sides, are rather appreciative of this, Sir.

I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended until 2.30 p.m. on Thursday, 31st July, 1980.

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

The question that the Sitting be suspended until 2.30 p.m. on Thursday, 31st July, 1980 was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the Hon. House accordingly at 10.05 p.m.

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

THE CROWN LANDS (VESTING AND DISPOSAL) (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1980

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 3 stands in the name of the Hon. Attorney General to move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act, 1980.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, this Bill follows on a Bill which we passed on Tuesday which is the repeal to the United States (Oceanographic Station) Act. As a result of that we have to make certain amendments which are set forth in the Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act. That is the sole purpose of the Bill.

I therefore 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 the motion of Hon. H. deB. FORDE seconded by Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair

and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 4 inclusive were called and passed.

Clause 5 was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to move that Clause 5 stand part.

I should just briefly say that this finally ends the position about the naval base, and as I announced on the last Bill the United States has since paid an additional \$½ million in full settlement of all outstanding claims, so over and above what figure was paid before an additional \$½ million has been paid to the Government of Barbados, and I must confess that the relationships between ourselves and the United States have improved tremendously since that time, and I believe that we have now got a more realistic way of looking at our relationship.

I beg to move that Clause 5 stand part.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: In seconding that motion, I should just like to compliment the Learned Attorney General for the manner in which he has dealt with the whole negotiations touching on the American base in Barbados, and to say how happy I am to know that as a result of his unstinting determination and efforts on behalf of this country we have been able to get some reward for the uses of the services of this country over a number of years that the American base has been in operation. It was not until this Government took office that the matters were gone into with thoroughness and we were able to discover that we were failing for a long time to get certain benefits which we were entitled to if the previous Government had taken the necessary stand to ensure that the country had got the benefits which they were entitled to. We failed to follow through certain negotiating positions which we were entitled to follow through and as a result we had lost quite a lot.

I am happy to associate myself with the Learned Attorney General in the statement which he made just now that the relationships between ourselves and the United States Government have been much improved since these negotiations which took place some time ago which were regarded as sour to the relationship; but as a small country we stood up very forcefully and fought for our rights and the United States recognised that we were a determined people with sincere and determined negotiators who were not prepared to give anything as far as the sovereign rights and integrity of this country are concerned. I want again to compliment most wholeheartedly the Learned Attorney General acting in his capacity as External Affairs Minister in these various negotiations with the United States Government.

The question that Clause 5 stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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

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

THE BROADCASTING ACT, 1980

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 7 stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House to move the second reading of a Bill to provide for the proper management and control of broadcasting in Barbados, the establishment of a Broadcasting Authority and for related matters.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, for some years Barbados has controlled its broadcasting affairs on pieces of legislation that basically have been cobbled together to deal with circumstances for which they were not originally designed. We therefore have a situation, Sir, where the Minister for Communications and Works is responsible not only for such technical matters as the assignment of wavelengths and control of interference with broadcasting within Barbados, but also in theory with matters of policy relating to content of broadcasting programmes. We also have legislation designed before the days of television to deal with wireless broadcasting only, and we have for no less I think than seventeen years been in a situation where the television station, The Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation has a licence for broadcast that contains references to policy matters and the control of policy, but there is in fact no machinery by which policy can be laid down. It seems to be doubtful even, Mr. Speaker, whether the Minister responsible for Information who appoints the Board of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation has any powers to give general directions as to the content of broadcasts and the control of the station other than his inherent jurisdiction to handle the Board which he himself appointed other than his jurisdiction to give the public officers directions and members of the Board directions.

The Broadcasting Act which has already been passed by the Senate therefore seeks to give effect to the Government's policies in the area of broadcasting, policies which were enunciated in the manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party at the time of the last general election, policies which are long overdue not only in the terms of life of the previous Government, but I must confess, Mr. Speaker, overdue even within the term of the present Government. These policies can be expected to have a positive impact on the operations of both radio and television stations in Barbados and, taken in conjunction with the opening up of the airwaves not only to Rediffusion wired system but also to a new broadcasting station which is licensed, can lead to a great expansion of the information media at broadcast level.

2.40 p.m.

The Bill before the House, Mr. Speaker, provides for the establishment in Barbados of a Broadcasting Authority. That will be found in section 3. It provides for the transfer to the Minister responsible for Information the power to issue licences to establish and operate broadcasting stations. This power, as I have said, is still vested in the Minister responsible for Telecommunications by virtue of the Wireless Telegraphy Act. This is regarded as very important within the policy initiatives of the Ministry of Information for the licensing of radio and television stations as separate undertakings with separate accounting procedures, separate staff procedures, separate operating procedures.

Now, with respect to the establishment of the Broadcasting Authority, the Government long ago came to the conclusion that the present state of control was highly inadequate. It was felt that as in Britain, as in most western European countries, in Canada, and to some extent in the United States where the Federal Telecommunications Commission controls these matters, there ought to be some independent body which can exercise control over programming and advertising in terms of content, quality and suitability, and which has general power over both radio and television stations. We think it very important, Sir, that a body independent of day to day political direction, or indeed of direction from any other group, should be able to set out the times within which stations should operate, the balance of material between advertising and editorial and entertainment matter, a body which can insist on impartiality as between political parties, insist on a proper code of advertising, insist that matters of religious controversy be handled in a fair and unbiased way, and the new Authority is intended to deal with all this and also to have power to receive complaints from the public respecting the performance of broadcasting stations generally.

We think that with the three radio stations operating from within Barbados in the very near future the need for such an Authority is brought into even sharper focus. There have been other territories in the Caribbean, such as Jamaica, that have had Broadcasting Authorities operating very successfully for as much as 20 years, and we think that in Barbados it is high time that we deal with the situations that we now find where there are many complaints against the existing radio station for a wide variety of matters. We received complaints not only relating to political partiality, and it should be said, Mr. Speaker, that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation succeeds sometimes in attaining the impossible of displeasing everyone almost equally in the political sphere, but not only in politics do you get these complaints, you get complaints from the members of the public respecting the frequency of advertising at peak times, respecting the taste of programmes, respecting the quality of journalism on the news and current affairs side, respecting the tech-

nical quality of the actual broadcast picture. All of these matters the new Authority will be in a position to deal with.

The Bill proposes that the new Authority will comprise five people, including the Chief Information Officer as an *ex officio* member of the Board. There will be two categories of persons not eligible for appointment to the Board of the Authority. These will be people who have an interest, whether direct or indirect, in any radio station or television station, and people who have an interest in any undertaking dealing in equipment for the transmission or reception of broadcasting and television programmes. This means that you will not as far as possible allow anyone to sit on the Board who has a financial interest in broadcasting as a business. Each member of the Board will hold office for three years and will be eligible for reappointment.

All the present powers of the Minister of Communications and Works will be transferred to the Minister of Information with the exception of powers relating to the allocation of wavelengths, the detection of sources of interference and the furnishing of advice and assistance in connection with the prevention of such interference. The Minister of Information will also be given power to issue licences to establish and operate radio and television stations.

There may be one or two amendments which will have to be proposed in the printed Bill in Committee, I am not sure how many of them were dealt with in the Other Place, I will wish to be advised by the Clerk in due course on that aspect of the matter.

It will be found that the Bill is short and endeavours in as small a space as possible to provide for the matters mentioned. There will be other pieces of legislation which will come before Parliament during the remainder of this year dealing with other aspects of the broadcasting business. The Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation is to get a new Act, a telecommunications Bill is also in preparation which would provide for the repeal of the Wireless Telegraphy Act, and these two measures will impinge on the area of broadcasting but they will either be specialised or technical, the main power is contained in the instant Bill now before the House.

I recommend the Broadcasting Bill to the House, Sir, we postponed its discussion from Tuesday in order to facilitate full participation in the debate by members on the Opposition benches. You, Sir, and hon. members will recall that when we proposed on Tuesday night to proceed with this Bill it was indicated to us, I think by the hon. member for St. Michael South West, that the Opposition wished to contribute. If the Opposition wishes to contribute to this matter equal to their wishes to contribute to progress in this country, I think the public will

agree that they did a wise and good thing in 1976 and will again do a sensible thing when the bell is rung in due course.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, unlike earlier years we are blessed in the House with someone who has a day to day responsibility for the broadcasting business, that is the Chairman of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, the hon. member for St. Philip North. I hope in due course the House will have the benefit of hearing from him, but the Government in this Bill is not dealing directly with the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, this is something I really want to make quite clear.

2.50 p.m.

We are dealing with the Broadcasting business in general with the five entities which will come into operation as a result of the Government's policy. The five entities being the wired broadcasting service of Rediffusion, the Rediffusion Broadcasting Station, the new Broadcasting station which I understand will be called the Barbados Broadcasting System, the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation Television and Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation Radio. There will be five entities in all initially and the Broadcasting Authority will deal with all of them.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this Bill be now read a second time. Hon.....

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I think that the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister indicated in his speech on the Second Reading that in my capacity as Chairman of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, the Hon. House would wish to hear something from me about how this Legislation and the proposed Legislation is likely to affect the operation of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, the Bill before the Hon. House, in principle, and as its main objective, seeks to establish an independent Broadcasting Authority to ensure that material which is put out for broadcast, in future should be on as impartial, non-partisan basis as possible. But, at the same time, Clause six of the Bill and I am not speaking principally to the Clause now, that is a Committee matter, but I just want to indicate that Clause six of the Bill does provide for the establishment of a separate organisation to run television and radio.

In the case of CBC, it says:

"Where a licensee operates a radio station as well as a television station the two stations are, for all financial and operational purposes, to be treated as separate undertakings."

So that, in lieu of the Provisions of Clause six, is the legal authority for the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation which presently operates in television and radio service to have separate organisations for financial and operational purposes, in essence what people call the split. Now, the split of the Corporation is fast becoming a fact of life.

There is a lot of planning which is going into the re-organisation of the station at the moment involving many long Meetings and very interesting Meetings. If I may give Hon. Members a bird's eye view of what is intended; we intend first of all, to have a Headquarters Unit not necessarily at the Pine. The Headquarters Unit will comprise the Board, the Executive Director who is already designated, Mr. Best, the present General Manager and there will be the Executive Engineer and the Financial Controller, as the main arms of the Headquarters Unit together with the Board. There will be other support services in force to service the Headquarters Unit adequately.

Standing below the tier which is set out for the Headquarters Unit, we have two tiers on the same level, that is, the tier administering radio and the tier administering television. There will be separate Managers of radio and television and each Division, if you like, radio, or television will have necessary administrative support services, each will have its own Sales Personnel, its own Accounting Personnel and its own Programming Personnel. Now, Mr. Speaker, that is the broad outline of the proposed structure for the re-organisation of the Station which we have been following.

The Hon. House ought to know, that insofar as, the financial relationship between television and radio is concerned, that television has been the co-relation of radio in terms of revenue generation. CBC has been making an increasing profit over the last two years. But, the majority of this profit originates with radio.

We believe that in the future, we will be able to see the financial operation of the two sectors of the station in better perspective and better able to organise ourselves both internally and also, with a view to attracting any external financing which may become necessary for the future improvement of the two branches of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation.

Necessarily, Mr. Speaker, the split will involve the creation of some new jobs. This is a feature to be welcome in view of the level of the unemployment in Barbados. But, what has concerned us more than anything else, in planning the split, is not so much the creation of such jobs as will accrue, but the whole

question of the proper and adequate re-equipment of the CBC.

Now, this station was set up in 1963, under the Act No. 36 of the said year. In the 17 years which have elapsed, there has been little physical expansion of the Plant at CBC. There has never been a Plan or a co-ordinated policy for the regular replacement of necessary plant and equipment at the station. At the same time, there have been necessary adjustments to the Personnel at the station and what you have today at CBC, is a small station which was originally designed perhaps to house reasonably, comfortably 30 or 40 persons.

3.00 p.m.

The staff at CBC, not all at the Pine, is well above 130 at current level. At the same time there is a lot of overcrowding at the Pine and there is a lot of overcrowding in the Sales Office in Bridgetown, so that seventeen years after the establishment of the station the management of CBC and the Government now find themselves having to plan the future development or, if you like, the redevelopment of the Caribbean Broadcasting Station for at least the next ten to twelve years. Ideally, Mr. Speaker, this would involve the erection of a completely new complex to house what is presently housed at the Pine, and I say "ideally", Mr. Speaker. Ideally it will also involve finding proper accommodation for the Sales Staff who are being oppressed by the conditions under which they have to work in Speed Bird House.

Mr. SPEAKER: I appreciate the details into which the hon. member is going, but the occasion does not provide for this.

Mr. SIMMONS: I was speaking as to the law which we are passing today, Mr. Speaker, which provides for the separation of the station into two. I am looking at the over ramifications of what is involved in Clause 6 as a matter of principle.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Committee stage of the Bill provides for this.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to enter this debate today, but when I look around, Sir, and see no member of the Opposition here, I consider it my duty to say a few words.

Mr. Speaker, in all Governments we can exchange from time to time and in dealing here with this Bill today, it is a change which we do hope will improve the standard at CBC. On the other hand we hope it is not a means of muzzling the staff because, Sir, an independent Broadcasting Authority must be appointed by the Cabinet, and in many cases because this is so it is quite

possible that certain things can occur, but what we do hope, Sir, is that with this independent Broadcasting Authority the standard will be improved and that it will be non-partisan, that is, Sir, that the members of the Government and also members of the Opposition will be given an opportunity to express themselves fully on certain occasions. In the interest of Barbados, Sir, I think the time has come when the Government should give careful consideration that when certain matters are being clarified by them, the opportunity should also be given to the Opposition to put over their case because as you are fully aware, Sir, every story has two sides, and therefore I feel that the politicians and in this particular case especially members of the Government should do everything possible so as not to dictate policy to the Authority, and also they should be very very careful in selecting this independent Broadcasting Authority.

I would like to say, Sir, that the Government has been very careful in selecting members of the community for honours, and in this case I do hope that they will continue with that policy. Mr. Speaker, the suggestions which I have made can bring peace and tranquility to the public because as one from among the masses you can always hear the criticisms of various speakers at certain times because others are not given an opportunity to reply to them. We must also take into consideration in selecting this Authority the percentage of votes which each side received, and therefore you have to realise and understand that while you may satisfy your percentage, you still have to meet the other percentage half-way if not fully so that the people of this country can see that justice is being done.

3.10 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, with those few remarks, I do hope that the members of the Government have listened attentively and that they will do everything possible to see that the selection of this Authority will be one above board.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, this Bill which we have before us today on the establishment of a Broadcasting Authority in Barbados is one which this side considers should not be rushed. I say this, Sir, because of the fundamental role which the Opposition conceives that the broadcast media can play in the educational, cultural, economic and political development of this society.

My colleague in speaking on this Bill referred to it as a Bill to establish an independent broadcasting authority. I see nowhere in the Bill any indication that this Broadcasting Authority will be clothed with the kind of independence which he has indicated. I believe that he obviously misunderstood the whole purpose of the Bill and I would like at the very outset to state

that we must not delude ourselves into believing that this Broadcasting Authority will be an independent Broadcasting Authority. I say this because there is a feeling going abroad that when once an Authority has been set up that there is some measure of independence attached to that Authority. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, you will probably recall that the present Chairman of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, the member for St. Philip North, was pretty critical of the way in which Statutory Corporations in this country function, because he recognised that there was, as he put it, too much ministerial interference into the day to day affairs of these Corporations, so that I think we have to be very clear at the very outset when we are talking about establishing a Broadcasting Authority, we have to be aware of this particular point, and indeed if you were to look at the way in which the members of the Board of the Authority will be selected, you will see very clearly that these will be selected by the Minister of Information.

From this side we certainly do not see any independence in this particular matter, as a matter of fact, we see the Authority as just being an opportunity for the Minister to hide behind to get across what he wants for his particular political advantage. This is how we see this particular Authority, so that when talks about establishing an Authority.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I wonder what motive the hon. member is here attributing to the Minister.

Mr. GREAVES: For his political advantage, there is nothing sinister about that motive, we are facing facts and those are the facts of the situation.

Now, I think, Mr. Speaker, that if we could then describe this Authority I would certainly like to describe it in the way in which it is going to be appointed, as a puppet Authority. If one were to look at the present broadcast media that we have in Barbados today, you will see a number of interesting things taking place. Let us look, for example, at the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, CBC, the Corporation which was set up by the Government, and let us look at the way in which that particular Corporation is manipulated. I recall that the Barbados Labour Party Manifesto in the last election stated on page 17 under the heading "Broadcasting and the Media" that "the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation will be rid of partisan political influence and patronage." I am sure that members of the public, and certainly members of the Opposition, who have had to watch the operations of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation listen to its slanted news items and the way in which every effort is used by that Corporation to suppress the views of the Opposition, one would see very clearly that this pious statement which is included in the Barbados Labour Party's Manifesto,

the present Government's Manifesto, is not adhered to, so that we see very clearly that CBC is still very much a political football, it is still being kicked around. We have to be very clear about this, no change has taken place. I know very clearly what I am saying, no change has taken place.

You said in the Manifesto that you want to rid the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation of political influence and patronage. Now, we have an opportunity now, Mr. Speaker, to look at this in as dispassionate a manner as possible, and I think that we should be very clear when we are talking about now setting up this Authority, we should try to set up an Authority which would be to the credit of this country.
3.20 p.m.

We, from this Side, would definitely like to see the establishment of an Independent Authority, but we know very clearly that this is not going to take place.

We would like further, Mr. Speaker, to express a very serious criticism which has been made and which continues to be made about the quality of the programmes which one has to subject oneself to, from time to time, both on CBC Radio and on Television. If we accept the view and indeed that view should be accepted, that the broadcast media has a role to play in our cultural, educational and political development, we must be critical of the fact that this is not being done and the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation is more like a juke box, spinning out records and music, than doing anything to enhance the cultural development and the educational development of people in this country. We therefore feel that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation has failed this country. We think that there is an opportunity for a Corporation like this, to play an important role. We would like to see the role changed and we would like to see a more serious approach being adopted, by the Corporation, in order to fulfil the role for which it was established and I would think that there is no better opportunity being provided than, on this occasion, when we are seeking the passage of this Bill in Parliament to set up this Authority.

We would want, for example, without calling any names but the programmes which we witness and which we see from time to time, as I said, are not at all uplifting. I would like to think that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation would make a greater effort to recruit people who would be able to develop the kind of educational and cultural programmes which we consider to be necessary in shaping the whole cultural and indeed, making a serious input into the educational upliftment and development, particularly, of the young people of this country, but that is not forthcoming.

It seems to me that the whole question of planning must come to the fore. I know that under the functions of the Authority is indicated that one of the functions would be to see about the training of Journalists and I just want to make a couple of observations in this particular area. We are very disappointed that very little effort has been made, in this country either by the people who are involved in the broadcast media, or those in the print media to provide an opportunity for the members of their staff to be trained.

I have had some intimate knowledge in this particular area because on one occasion, I was approached, by a member of the staff, by one of the journalists here, about the possibility of getting leave from his place of employment to go to Jamaica to attend a one year course in Mass Communications which is offered there. When the management of that Company was approached, his response was that the course was academic and served no useful purpose. He was only interested in getting people who could go out, collect news and bring back and write a story. So that, the whole question of development of the journalists, people who have the kind of background for the kind of feeling for being able to get across news in a dispassionate and in an unbiased way to the public, does not seem to figure very prominently in the whole scheme of things of the people who control the media in this country. The same thing can be said of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation because I recall, about two years ago, that one of their employees was accepted in this same Programme at Mona, the Mass Communications Programme, one of those Diploma Programmes and when he applied to the Corporation for leave, he was told, in no uncertain terms that this would not be given. So much so, that the person concerned was promised and indeed had wrapped up a Grant from the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation, CFTC, and all he needed was some money to tide him over until I think, January, when the money came through. But yet, Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation refused to give him the leave in order to go and do this.

I know that recently, they have recruited one of the Graduates from the recently concluded Mass Communications programme at Mona. But this was nothing at all to do with the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. I would like to say very clearly that the Barbados Workers' Union has had more to do for the training of Journalists in this country, than any of the current media, or the broadcast media because it was through the instrumentality of the Barbados Workers' Union that at least two people out of the four or five people who were trained in the Mass Communications Institute in Jamaica, were able to get their Scholarships which were organised by the Barbados Workers' Union. So that, we would like to see the broadcast media and the media generally, paying more than lip

service to the question of training. There has been too much lip service in this area. Indeed, there has been a lot of lip service from the Government in this area and from my recollection, I do not think that the Government has been very helpful in making it possible for budding Journalists to participate in this Programme of training, at Mona.

So that, with the setting up of the Authority and with a clear indication that there would be some commitment towards training, I would hope that that kind of backward looking attitude which has been demonstrated in the past, will no longer be the case and an aggressive approach to the whole question of the training of journalists would be adopted in this country.

I think that the whole question of political broadcasts must feature in any discussion on the establishment of this Authority, because one of the functions of the Authority has to do with the question of broadcasting on matters of Religious, Political or Industrial controversy. I would like to think that this would be a useful opportunity on the part of the Government to make a Statement on Political Broadcast. Let us know what is the policy of the present Government on the question of political Broadcasts because this is very important and I can recall the way in which the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation functioned during the last Bye-Election in St. Michael South Central.

The Hon. Member of the Democratic Labour Party who was successful in that By-election had to be very critical of the way CBC functioned and some people sought to take him to task because he used an interview on CBC to criticise CBC. I think that we have got to get very serious in this particular matter. We are approaching a General Elections and I think that all Political Parties would want to know how much time is going to be allocated, if indeed, time is going to be allocated.

3.30 p.m.

Sometimes there are programmes which are not supposed to be political in content, but we are concerned with the political slant which comes across in these programmes, and I think that we have got to be very careful about this because the slant which comes across is a pro-Government, pro-Barbados Labour Party slant, and anything to do with the Democratic Labour Party you find is either left out or relegated to a very minor position.

In discussing this Bill, Mr. Speaker, I would have to find out from the Government its policy on the establishment of other broadcasting stations here in Barbados whether the stations are for radio broadcast or for television broadcast. I saw in the press recently that licences have been granted to various people to establish a radio

station. I understand that one of the companies which has been granted permission to establish a radio station is one Crown Publications. I am not sure if this is the same Crown Publications that publish the Beacon newspaper, the party organ of the Barbados Labour Party. We could easily find that out, but I wonder if the Government could state its position on this question of radio stations. At the same time I wonder if the spokesman on broadcasting in Parliament could give this House some indication about the number of applications which were made for licences and whether or not, for example, there was an application from a religious group for a licence to operate a station, and whether this application was not in long before the one to which a licence was granted, how long was it, and what are the reasons, what is the present state of this application. I think we should have a policy statement on this particular matter, because, as I said, broadcasting is fundamental. We know the use to which it can be put. One is reminded, for example, during the Second World War an Englishman was able to broadcast from Germany — I think he was James Joyce who was properly known as Lord Haw Haw — and the way in which he was able to use the airwaves in order to propagandise on behalf of the German Government, so that we know that the broadcast media is a very powerful instrument for propaganda, and I would like to get the assurance from the Government that the airwaves which are at present existing, the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, and indeed the ones to which licences will be granted would not be used for propaganda purposes, but for educational purposes, for the cultural development of our whole political life and the upliftment of the quality of life in this country.

Mr. SISNETT: Mr. Speaker, I just want to say a few words on the Bill before the House dealing with broadcasting. As you are aware, I have spent a few brief years working with a radio station here in Barbados during which time I have acquired a great deal of experience as a broadcaster and what it calls for to be in this profession. I believe the Bill is one that certainly is moving in the right direction as it says "to provide for the proper management and control of broadcasting in Barbados and the establishment in Barbados of a Broadcasting Authority".

If there is one industry that as a developing nation Barbados has got to ask a few suggestions on, it certainly is to my mind the broadcasting industry, and I think people who have mastered all the rudiments of this industry are certainly the Americans. Broadcasting is an art form and I believe that once this industry has been established in any society, automatically will follow an endless number of problems that are associated with the uncertainty of broadcasting. The Americans have covered the complete aspect of broadcasting, what communications are all about, what actually is a broadcaster;

they have been able to tell us how it all began, the young and lusty years of radio and television, how the television dream came true; they have been able to put at the world's finger tips a new industry whereby developing countries themselves can play a very interesting part.

This Bill before the House seeks to regulate in Barbados that authority and I believe it is long overdue. The Opposition are a little skeptical, they are a little concerned about aspects of political broadcasting, and I believe the Opposition has a right to be concerned about that aspect of broadcasting because radio is an extremely devious device placed in the hands of incompetent people can destroy a complete community. We know how much people believe in what is said on the air and how much they take to heart what actually is heard, and I think that the Opposition has a right to be concerned; but yet I believe if the Authority is properly established, if the Authority sets about to do what it says in the Act, then there is no need for any political party, any private citizen in this country to be overly concerned about misuse of the airwaves in the hands of any private concern.

I said earlier that we must perhaps copy, for lack of a better word, from the Americans in respect of broadcasting, but what has happened in Barbados today is what has happened in the United States during the early Twenties when radio was a new mechanism, when people enjoyed the novelty of hearing a voice transmitted by electromagnetic waves into their homes, into their automobiles when radio was just a play-thing. In those formative years of radio, Mr. Speaker, the situation in the United States became a little out of hand, so much so that citizens themselves were unable to listen in any great measure to any one radio station which was on the air because it was not controlled.

3.40 p.m.

I have before me, which I think all members should try to acquire, a book entitled "The Encyclopaedia of Radio and Television Broadcasting" by Mr. Robert St. John, and in Chapter 11 Mr. St. John speaks of the supervision and ethics of broadcasting, and that is one area which this new Authority must at the outset make unmistakably clear to the people of this country that there will exist constant supervision and ethics in this industry that can make a nation or break a nation. Reading from that, page 131, and I would like to make it a document of the House, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the hon. member is quoting from a document he must be asked to make it a document of the House. The hon. member might very well refresh his memory from the notes or something, but quoting from it can be dangerous.

Mr. SISNETT: Very well, Mr. Speaker. In part Mr. St. John outlined the problems that the American broadcasting system encountered when the Governor of New York City, Alfred Smith, ran for the Democratic presidential election and there was in those days one radio station that was anti-everything. It was anti-Catholic, anti-Protestant, anti- the Government, anti-everything, and the Mayor of New York appealed to the operator of that station to give the candidates of his political party equal time to explain the other side, but radio was not regulated to any degree then and the operators of that station simply said there was no other side.

Here in Barbados today I think we have reached the stage where we have passed that aspect of our broadcasting. The Authority will be responsible for regulating what goes out on the air, it will be responsible for seeing that the other side, whether a station is established as a music station or a religious station, that a fair presentation of the facts to the people is always given. I would not want to see the Authority giving a licence to anyone whereby that operator of a station refuses to comply with the accepted standards of broadcasting in Barbados, hence at the outset it might become necessary for us to adopt our own standard of ethics in relation to broadcasting.

The Bill itself, Sir, I believe has a few pitfalls which when in Committee I would want to speak on, and I would only want to say further that the organisation of the Authority itself leaves a lot to be desired when one considers that in Barbados we are short of the necessary expertise in broadcasting, it might very well be necessary to draw upon the abilities of the people we have in industry and commerce that might want to be members of that Board. I think that perhaps in Committee might be a better time to deal with that aspect of it. Generally, Sir, I believe it is a step in the right direction, it can mean that Barbados will be in a position to offer more jobs, whether it be by television or whether it be by radio, to the number of people who will now be applying for licences to operate radio stations, and if for no other reason I would want to support the Government in bringing this Bill before the House today.

One final thing, I would want to say that I believe there is a danger in the split of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation into separate entities, Sir. I believe we do not have the knowledgeable manpower or the expertise for us to go into separate divisions for radio and television in so small a public corporation, and it might be advisable for that Board to reconsider its decision in wanting to split the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation into two entities. As I said, Sir, I am extremely grateful, the Opposition need not fear any reprisals coming out of this Bill, any fear of not having a chance to put their view, the Board should be in

command at all times of what goes on the air, and if it is a question of political broadcasting then I think the Board should regulate how often such broadcasts should be conducted in Barbados.

In Committee, Sir, I have a few other points which I would want to mention and at this point I would just thank you for your indulgence.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I believe it is right that I should comment on the Bill which is now before the House. This Bill seeks to set up an Authority to deal with broadcasting in Barbados, and I would like it to be generally known that the Bill does not remove from the Authority of the Ministry of Communications and Works certain means of broadcasting which were all bound up in the original Wireless Telegraphy Bill. There are things like CB radio, VHF, etc. which would still be regulated by the old Wireless Telegraphy Act, Cap. 285, which is still managed by the Ministry of Communications and Works. The Bill deals specifically with wireless broadcasting, television and wired broadcasting, and I am indeed happy to see that the Government has stuck to its Manifesto pledge and has created an Authority which would in due course bring to broadcasting in this country the impartiality which has been lacking for so long from the inception or beginning of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation.

Many of us who sat in Parliament over the last ten years will recall with horror the many times we have had complaints from the general public, we have had to complain ourselves about the way the management of the Corporation operated. The whole management of the Corporation at that time fell under the Minister responsible for Information and Tourism, Peter Morgan, and I recall, Mr. Speaker, sitting on that side and airing the complaints of citizens of this country against the methods of operation of CBC, and the then Minister, Peter Morgan, came to this Chamber with a transistor radio and with plug, the hearing piece, into his ear, sat down and ignored the complaints coming from Her Majesty's loyal Opposition, and when he did not use his transistor radio he sat with his fingers stuck in his ears. Now, this Government believe very much in open Government and impartiality. The establishment of a Broadcasting Authority as far as I am concerned will remove once and for all complaints against the Chairman, the General Manager or Minister responsible. It opens the way for the average citizen to file a complaint against any medium, whether it be a radio or television medium, as long as that person feels that the particular institution is not operating to the benefit of the community as a whole.

3.50 p.m.

The Authority, in my view, should take a careful look at what is broadcast over the airwaves. As the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister said, more radio stations have been granted Licences. I am happy to see that this has happened. I believe that Barbadians will now be treated to a variety of programmes, where they can switch from station to station and find something of their liking, something to their choice.

I believe also that the staff at CBC will now have to perform in a professional manner, if they really want to keep the station financially sound and to make the station live up to an acceptable standard in this community. No longer, Mr. Speaker, should I be subjected to somebody on one side of the telephone saying, "what do you say about so and so", I will report him to CBC because I know that as long as there are other radio stations out there who will be vying for scoops, whose reporters will probably be knocking at your door and asking for relevant information and who would have done some research before hand and be in a position to query Hon. Ministers, or anybody else, with some sort of authority, then, if CBC wants to perform, they will therefore have to reach a standard of professional conduct which would endear them to Hon. Ministers, Chairman and John Public.

As I say, Mr. Speaker, I am happy today that this Bill will bring into existence something for the first time in Barbados, that is, a Broadcasting Authority. It will also remove from the Ministry of Communications and Works, one aspect of the Wireless Telegraphy Bill. We will still be engaged in frequency allocations and such like, but I am sure that the Division will do well for Barbados. I believe that it will cause a certain amount of professionalism to enter into the field of Journalism in this country because obviously, from advertisers back to listeners will now be in a position to judge the performance of the various media and I am sure that the one performing the best will be the most lucrative and will be the most beneficial.

Thank you.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to make only a few brief comments on the principle of this Bill. I believe that the principle of the Bill is correct and that we have had to wait too long to have a Body with any degree of independence looking objectively at the Licensing and Regulation of the Television and Telecommunications Media in Barbados.

I say advisedly at the Licensing and Regulation because I would hate to think that the mere passage of this Bill would in any way mean any diminution in the freedom of the Press, which we have come to accept as one of the fundamental pillars of democracy in Barbados and other freedom loving countries such as Barbados.

I believe, Sir, that we have come a long way in trying to ensure the operation of a Free Press in Barbados and that indeed, since the 2nd September, 1976 that we have made tremendous strides. I therefore disagree, most strongly, with the views expressed by my friend, the Hon. Member for St. Lucy on this point. Despite the fact that Barbados has had for some time a partially Free Press, there were many ways in which limitation, on that limitation were placed on that freedom. I will begin to cite the practice whereby, for instance, Barbados Rediffusion Limited had to go cap in hand too regular on a periodic basis for a renewal of its licence. It was obvious to me then, that the Station did not feel free, to open its airwaves to independent and objective comment particularly, coming from the Opposition and dissident group and that, contrary to what the then Government, the Democratic Labour Party may have said, there was this element of, if you like to call it, fear, on behalf of that station in trying to give a free commentary, particularly, on Current Events.

The second fact that was significant of the former Government is that there were severe limitations of the identity of persons who could go on the airwaves. I wish only to recall for instance, Sir, the difference shown in the pre 1976 period and the post 1976 period to candidates in byelections, or in any Elections at all, outside of a General Election appearing on the Television Media and I recall specifically that the hon. member for St. Philip North was not permitted even to show his face on the broadcasting media prior to his victory, whereas, the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, as well as, all other candidates at the time, those who lost and those who won, were able to appear several times on the radiowaves.

I cite this example, not to go into details, Mr. Speaker, but to emphasise that it does not come very well from the hon. member, if he is seeking, on behalf of his Party, rather than, if he is expressing his strong views and I know that he may have himself strong personal views on this which has never been accepted by his Party *en toto*. But, I think that the Democratic Labour Party, in Opposition, has now begun to feel the force of the arguments of conviction which we have been advancing for over fifteen years in this country for a true freeing of the airwaves and of the Press, in this country.

Another severe limitation and one which this Bill does not deal with, is the position of the Press, as a whole, in a country such as our own. Surely, Mr. Speaker, it is time when those people who own the Press, and I speak of the news media, in particular, the printed media, but as well as, the spoken media, recognise that they have

a duty to assist seriously in the training of the people of the media. On that point, my colleague, the hon. member for St. Lucy and myself are *ad idem* and I wish to agree with him that perhaps the Barbados Workers' Union has given a lead in this regard and has used its own resources, to send to the University Institutions, workers of the media themselves in order to give them the necessary training which they should have, to carry out a truly independent profession.

But, it is a matter for great regret that still, people who are making money out of the media in this country, by and large, do not recognise that they have a duty to allow their people to be properly trained and to pay for part of the training out of their pockets.
4.00 p.m.

I am again appealing to the media regardless of whether the media is quasi-governmentally owned or privately owned, locally owned or foreign owned to give greater emphasis to the proper training of journalists and the press people and media people whom they employ. I think we are fortunate to have attracted to the Government owned station at present people of the calibre of the Manager, the head of the Current News and the head of the radio research section at present, people who have out of their own resources been trained in management, and also in media work and other general subjects; but I do not think that this is good enough Sir. There must be a policy on this. I know that the Chairman of CBC is himself conscious of this and that in the last four years CBC has sought to implement some training policy, but it has always been a cause of great regret to see that the pleas for advanced training at the highest level at University level, if you like, of people in the journalist profession and in the media profession has fallen on deaf ears by and large in this country.

Since I became Minister for External Affairs I have tried at all stages along with the then Ambassador to the UN, the now Minister of Labour and Community Services to identify training opportunities for the media, and I am happy to say that a Foundation of Germany in particular has at least on occasions offered a few scholarships in this regard, but we cannot plan a policy for the training of media personnel on the basis of a few scholarships from overseas people unless we shoulder our own burden in here, and the primary burden, as I said, is the burden of those people making money from the media. The Government too has a duty in this regard, and I hope more and more national scholarships will be made available for people who want to be trained in this field, and I hope also that the facilities under the Students Loan Revolving Fund will also be made available to them.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say this, however, about where I think this Bill has to be supplemented in some

regard. We have established in the Caribbean an independent body, a Press Council under the chairmanship of Mr. Aubrey Fraser; a representative from Barbados on that body is Mr. Frank Walcott and I am an alternate to him in my individual capacity and certainly not in my role as a Minister, because I would not think it proper for Ministers to sit on such bodies to be able to be disciplining or controlling the press at all. But I feel that there is a strong case for strengthening the Press Council and for the independent organisations, the media including governmentally owned organisations to make adequate funds available to that body so that it can function as a proper watch-dog of the printed media.

I believe also that greater publicity ought to be given to the role which that body can play and that the body will have enough personnel to be able to discipline those few errant people in the media who might not always carry out their duties objectively. Mr. Speaker, I myself cannot complain by and large about my relationship with the media having been a media man to some extent, having written editorials, feature articles; I only remember once writing under a non-de-plume, but always under by own name, and having myself spent several hours learning from some of the journalist in this country, some deceased, people like Mitchie Hewitt and Joe Brome to mention only two, Coppin, some at present still working at the Advocate News and other places. I have an empathy with them, but let me say that sometimes I regret that there is not a little bit more care taken by the media in approaching their task particularly in analytical journalism, and sometimes not only in aggressive journalism but in constructive journalism. I recognise that from time to time errors of reporting will come into the press particularly in circumstances where it is not a telecommunications media but the printed media. Like for instance, Mr. Speaker, today I am reported as saying that it is not necessary that this House should approach the question of the subject of nudity on moral grounds, something that I never said at all. What I said then is that the subject should not be approached in an over emotional manner, and I said that one had to consider the moral principles of the subject and balance this against the rights of the individual in his private home; but there you are. You can be easily misquoted. I am not suggesting at all that there was any deliberate act on the part of the Reporter, but they labour under great difficulties.

On another occasion I remember being misquoted from this House as saying that the Police had done all they could in the Pele case, when the Hansard report showed me clearly as saying that the police had said to me that they had done all they could and that I had a duty to find out what had gone wrong, how it had gone wrong, where it had gone wrong and try to solve the problem. I remember taking the point up with the Nation Newspaper at the time and not even getting an

explanation or an apology from them on these issues. These are the difficulties one has in politics. I am not sensitive; I get my share of exposure in the media and I am not over sensitive on these issues, but there needs to be care because you can by the misuse of a word, by failing to take account of a statement in rebuttal, destroy the career of an individual be he a politician, a businessman, a labourer or anyone, and you can destroy his integrity and reputation in the same way. That is why I am making my plea for a greater effort for training media people and I hope that the Broadcasting Authority would not lose sight of this in carrying out their functions, advice and regulations in this regard.

I also look forward to the time, Mr. Speaker, when the stations who have to ask for licences will not feel that they have to kow-tow to either the Broadcasting Authority or any Government of the day in order to get the right to disseminate information in this country. I have always strongly maintained that this is a wrong principle. It was wrong for us when in Opposition, it remains wrong as far as I am concerned when we are in Government as well, and I am happy that the Government is taking positive steps by this Bill to live up to the pledges contained in our manifesto to free the media in this country. Whereas we can put up with a media as aggressive as that in the United States of America as referred to by my friend, the hon. member for St. Michael North East in a very brilliant speech, a very erudite speech, a short but incisive speech — he is one of the most knowledgeable practitioners of the media in this country, although he was not allowed at CBC to function as he should; one of the most knowledgeable practitioners, a man well beloved by the people of this country, by the old women, by the men and by the young women in particular, Sweet Boy — let me say that like him I agree that there is a strong case for greater freedom, proper standards and proper programming.

I also want to disagree with my friend the hon. member for St. Lucy on the point that CBC has not made any changes at all in what was bad policy. I believe that they have made changes.
4.10 p.m.

I think that it would have been unthinkable to hear on the airwaves of this country before the sort of things that one hears being allowed to be said by members of the Opposition and other chauvinistic groups. I like to call them fly-by-night groups in this country, Sir, on all sorts of things, critical of the Government, critical of Ministers. Where else would you see that we had a case here in which evidence that normally would not be admissible in a court of law is given which is highly damaging to people, and that evidence is broadcast by a radio station irresponsibly and otherwise, and what happens? You do not even ask the person about whom

the statement is being made if they have anything to say about that, because you are going to rely on what you consider to be a fair and accurate report of the proceedings of the House.

I know that in the United Kingdom, in Western Europe or in the United States, or in North America, although they would have carried what was said in the evidence they would equally well feel it their duty to ask the people to deal with that. Our journalists have not yet learnt that, it is about time they learn it. They have not learnt that although they may be able to shelter under certain protective provisions of the law that they have a responsibility — and the word is responsibility — to the other party to at least allow the side of the other party to be broadcast at the same time in order to countermand any damaging effects and allow the listener to have a fair and accurate position of the whole situation. That is not done here, and it is a pity it is not done, because those journalists who have been exposed to overseas know that it is the correct practice, but they are in the minority, unfortunately still, in the media, and some of the others who ought to be able to learn have not had the opportunity to know of these things.

I am not at all running down the media in this country. They have good advantages, there are some serious defects, mostly a matter of training, I think a lot of it has to do with the sort of salary they are paid, because I still think that by and large the people in the media are not as properly paid, having regard to the jobs they do, the hours they spend doing the jobs, and the responsibility which they have to the public at large, and I believe that the public will be prepared to pay a little bit more for advertisements, a little bit more for licences, a little bit more for their newspapers if they were satisfied that the result of that increase in cost to them will be a raising of the standards of journalism and a raising of the standards of living of the journalists who have the hard task of bringing to us news on a day to day basis.

Mr. Speaker, it is still true that we have a Press that is freer than in several other countries in the Caribbean, let us face it, and outside of the Caribbean as well. There is no way in which the Government dominates or seeks to dominate the Press in this country, but there are certain silent limitations which the Press itself seems to accept and from which the Press should try to free itself by being a little bit more independent and sure of the ground on which it is standing.

I believe the principle of this Bill is correct, I trust the House will accept it unanimously, I hope that it will work, we will not only pass the law and that will be the end of the matter, I hope that in practice we will see that this Authority acquires to itself a certain strength and independence of mind, and that it will be prepared

to offer proper advice to the Minister even although he may disagree with some of that advice from time to time, because this is an area in which I believe that true independence, true objectivity matters, and if we are to preserve democracy in these countries we have to rely on a truly independent Judiciary and a truly independent Press in order to sustain the assaults which we will have on the democratic form of Government in our country. Long I hope it will be away from Barbados when a Government can close down the media and acquire the shares under the guise that it is destabilising a Government, shutting up freedom in the country, and still have a pack of cronies outside who are prepared to say that things are all right in that country. They still have people who will run to the same free media in Barbados to defend them when they are assaulted and who will be the first to destroy the media when they do not like what is in the media. It is a cause of regret for me to see that some of our leading politicians, particularly one who has held the highest office in this country, can go outside of Barbados to praise events in countries where freedom of the Press is being restricted and nothing is being done about it.

I am against restriction of the Press in South Africa, in the United States, in Russia, in Grenada, in Guyana, wherever it occurs it is wrong, and we have to have the courage of our convictions to say to our Caribbean colleagues that they must begin to stop putting limitations on freedom of the Press. That is the only way that we will help democracy survive, that and a truly independent Judiciary, and fair and free periodic elections. I think Barbados has a good record in this respect. I believe that the Barbados Labour Party Government from its inception fought for these things, I believe that this Government is firmly wedded to them and is taking concrete and positive steps to see that these principles are maintained in our country, and long may we have the opportunity to continue this good work.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank hon. members who contributed to the debate. I regret that the hon. member for St. Philip North has reserved the main part of his contribution for Committee. I would like to congratulate the hon. member for Christ Church West and also the hon. member for St. Michael North East, the hon. member for St. Philip South for the different points which they made.

The hon. member for St. Philip South requested the Government to ensure fairness on the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. I would like to think that in the ranks of his party before 1976 he used to make similar requests to the then Government. Certainly I would never tell the Chief Information Officer that the Leader of the Opposition was not to appear on TV. I remember being asked by the Acting General Manager

of CBC whether he should broadcast a Press Conference given by the hon. member for St. John. I said I am giving him no direction, it is entirely a matter for your judgement, do as you please, and that has been my attitude. It therefore came as a great surprise to hear from the hon. member for St. Lucy that CBC produces slanted views and CBC in effect is no better, it has not changed. That is an admirable admission on the part of the hon. member to the effect that CBC used to do things that were not so pleasing in the past.

If the CBC gives out slanted views, I would respectfully suggest to the hon. member that he listens to the bulletins on Saturdays, Sundays and Monday mornings of the Barbados Workers' Union on CBC, because if there is one organisation in this society that gets the most favourable construction put on everything it says and gets constant repetition of its views, it is the Barbados Workers' Union. Without fail on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays the weekly Press Conference is carried in the greatest possible depth at all times with heavy adulation, and on Monday morning everything that has been said all over the weekend is said all over again by the persons who in the News Room have had control of the weekend operations. 4.20 p.m.

Mind you, Mr. Speaker, I am a Member in here too, apart from Hon. Minister replying, so I can also say a few things about CBC which may not all be favourable. I can reply on the Broadcasting Bill and the Government's Policy. I can refute the allegations that the Government promotes biased news, but I would also say this, CBC's News and Editorial Department lacks direction. I am not talking about political direction, I am talking about direction. It seems to me that they have never had, a concept of news, such as informed News Departments and Radio Stations around the World. You have to have a Director of News who is prepared to read and know what is in every Bulletin, and I think that the General Manager should too, it is only a small Station.

You have to have Reporters who are not paid any \$600.00 a month. You cannot employ proper staff for \$600.00 or \$700.00 a month. You have to have Reporters, with a University Degree, or experience, being sent to the University to do the Journalism Course, and come back and be paid proper salaries. That is the only way that you will get a News Department which is fully responsible because you do not have to tell a man who is treading for his job and working for a small salary that he must say this, or, say the next in the news against his will.

Very often, they want to know from somebody, what they should say in the news. The greater number of them want to know from the Assistant Secretaries and the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union

what to say and they get told. There are one or two, who in the past, used to run up behind political figures to find out what to say. I do not know why always, it is the Political Figure who has to get blamed. It is not everybody who is like the former Hon. Member for St. Michael North West, Mr. Greaves, who he and members of his family used to ring CBC to complain about the news even when the Bulletins were going on. (*Asides*).

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was attending to a *sotto voce* remark, of some authority, regarding who rings CBC to complain about what goes into the Bulletin. But, the News Department needs upgrading in terms of the personnel you hire, in terms of the salaries you pay. I do not want to give the Barbados Workers' Union any encouragement to make more mayhem at CBC than it has made already. But, when I saw the last CBC Union Agreement, I was ashamed at some of the things which I saw in the conditions which the Union has agreed for the workers at CBC. I know that they are negotiating soon, but the workers at CBC can believe that in terms of some of their material things, they are not even being particularly well represented by the Union. The Union is taking them for granted and they are doing the Union a very great service, industrially and politically at CBC. They really deserve better from the Union than that.

They are so much the Union's yardfowls, that the Union feels that it can take them for granted, and therefore, it is not perhaps put in the same case. But, Sir, there is so much unprofessionalism at CBC. I used to be afraid to say it, when I was the Hon. Minister because I did not want to give them the impression that I was speaking to them from a great height as having been a broadcasting person, reasonably well qualified.

But Sir, at the BBC, you really could not get a job as a Producer at the sorts of salaries which CBC offer and with the qualifications they offer, and until the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation grasps that particular-mettle, it will not achieve what is wanted. I am hoping that the Broadcasting Authority which is set up by this Bill will lay down the sorts of conditions which will make it necessary to send for training, people capable of responding to training.

It probably is not generally known Sir, but when I was a Producer at the BBC, I was offered the job of Chief Information Officer here in Barbados, for the time when it was being set up. But, they were paying \$200.00 per month less and that was a lot of money in 1957. When I left the BBC, I was getting paid when an Hon. Minister of Government was getting paid in Barbados.

Now, unless you are prepared to pay at that level and I was supervising a lot of people who worked for more than me, Sir — unless you are prepared to pay a proper salary and hire proper people, you are not

going to get the best and CBC should buckle down and pay attention to this and instead of getting a lot of people who really do not know that they do not know, they are not humble because they have not got enough sense in their heads, in some cases, to understand how the job could be done, I am only thinking of one person in particular Sir, I should not make too many generalisations. Unless you improve the standards all around, you are going to get these complaints.

Again, something else which is not probably known at CBC, I remember that I was so appalled at some of the things I saw. I sent a directive to CBC asking that with the controversial programmes, that they do not present one side only in politically or religiously controversial matters and so on and so forth. I found myself attacked for it, by an Hon. Member of the Democratic Labour Party who asked what right I had to send any direction to CBC and was I trying to get done. I will even call the name of the person, the Hon. Member for St. Michael South West. I said that when you have issues, you must ask an Hon. Member of the Official Opposition for views on these issues, not some intellectual dissident from the University who represents half a dozen of his fellow intellectual dissidents at Cave Hill who seem to monopolise the air in terms of reaction to things.

I wonder what Hon. Members would feel if they lived in the United States and every evening on NBC, when a major issue was before the public, you heard the President of the Synonon Foundation, you know Sir, the Foundation, one of these things which keeps people from their family, the people who sent the rattle snake to the Lawyer. You probably know of the matter, or the weather men, or similar wild groups, even the Jewish Defence League, which is quite an important collection of terrorists in New York who no doubt, have a point of view. But, the Jewish Defence League is of more importance on American Life than some of the Organisations who get trumpeted on CBC are on Barbadian life. MONALI has less importance in Barbadian life, than the weather men in the United States, or the Jewish Defence League, or the Ku Klux Klan. The Ku Klux Klan actually kills people, causes trouble, burns down houses and throws bombs and nobody asks the Ku Klux Klan to appear on TV. But, Organisations of really no importance are asked to give their views on subjects, when the Democratic Labour Party, one of the great Political Parties of Barbados, one of the two great Political Parties in the State, cannot get its views heard.

The Hon. Member from St. Lucy is concerned about the Government. Leave the Government out, do not quarrel with us. Ask what your Research Assistant is doing on the TV screen, when you, the

Hon. Member for St. Lucy cannot get on it. That is what you must ask. You have less chance of having your views aired on CBC, the Hon. Member for St. Lucy. You too, Mr. Speaker, have less chance of having your views aired than persons whose only claim to notoriety is a capacity to publish Newsletters which do not bear the printers' name and are not read by anybody.

4.30 p.m.

Of course it is against the law. The hon. member is admitting that a member of the Barbados Workers' Union's staff has participated in circulating a document against the law. I am glad he recognises it.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I merely asked the Prime Minister if printing a document without the printer's name is against the law.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member should not seek a legal opinion in this House.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I do not know if the hon. member is seeking my legal opinion on the matter, but I believe if he reads the Printers and Publications Act he will see it is against the law. But, anyhow, Mr. Speaker, my remarks for the last few minutes have been the remarks of an MC, not the remarks for replying to the debate.

The Broadcasting Authority is long overdue; it needs to deal with the matters raised by all hon. members. The hon. member for St. Lucy is merely parroting, if I may say so, the sort of criticisms that you have to make of a Government; you must make your irrational, false and untrue criticisms where you know in your heart the Government is doing a good job, because it is the duty of an Opposition to oppose and to criticise even if no criticism can be done. The hon. member knows perfectly well that a number of people at CBC have got a much better deal and that there is much more independence at CBC of political interference now than there was in the past.

The hon. member in talking about the Minister has power to appoint the Board, unfortunately the constitutional arrangements that prevail in our country do not generally embrace the right of the Opposition to nominate the Boards and Corporations that have to run the Government's business. If it were possible to have a form of Government which was run by the Opposition, we could ask Alice in Wonderland to come back from the grave and run the country for us; but I do not know of any way of making it possible for the Opposition to appoint the Boards, Authorities or Corporations. I really only know that....

Mr. WEEKES: On a point of order, I am fully aware that all Governments must appoint members to serve on Boards. I am not asking for the Opposition to appoint members to the Board, but what I am saying is that you should be very careful in making, nominating or selecting members who are directly affiliated or associated to a particular party.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I was not in any way criticising the hon. member, and I am sure he realises that. I do not see that the affiliation to a particular party stops you from being capable of running a Broadcasting Corporation. The Barbados Labour Party has chosen members of both political parties directly affiliated to be heads of Boards. Dr. Keith Hunte who is a bitter, devoted and long term opponent of the Barbados Labour Party, a man whose partisan views are well known even in respect of such things as the Pele matter, was the Chairman of the Community College Board appointed by us. The hon. members for St. Michael North West and St. Philip North have both been members of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. In none of the three cases do I believe that their partisan natures — and I have every hope that the hon. members for St. Philip North and St. Michael North West are politically partisan persons — have interfered with the running of the Corporations which they head, exceptionally not perhaps in the case of at least one of the three hon. members, if not two. I was really directing my remarks to remarks made by the hon. member for St. Lucy.

There are a lot of words that fall easily from your mouth. The Minister appoints the Board therefore it is a puppet Board. In other words, in one sentence he is dismissing the whole structure of statutory corporations which has existed for over twenty years in Barbados. In those words the Minister appoints the Board so it is going to be a puppet Board, he is dismissing all the Boards that have ever been appointed in this country. He is saying that his party and our party alike over twenty years have appointed a whole pack of puppets in here; well not in here, but in the Government of the country. He is dismissing when he talks about CBC Mr. Marshall, Mr. Wickham, the whole lot who have been Chairmen up there. When he talks about the National Housing Corporation, he is dismissing the former Senator Brathwaite, the former Senator Deighton Griffith as a whole set of puppets. If the hon. member gives a little consideration he will realise that you cannot say that everybody who puts himself forward for public service and accepts appointment from a Minister therefore makes himself a puppet. I do not in any way consider the hon. member a puppet of Mr. Frank Walcott, for example, or the Committee of the Barbados Workers' Union, but I imagine that he was appointed by the Committee on the recommendation of Mr. Walcott. I do not believe he holds an elective office. I really deplore

the use of such words in this context. I also deplore the suggestion that the CBC is as a matter of course partisan. I think it is mistaken; that is what I think it is sometimes, but I do not think that it starts out on a basis of partisanship. In fact they are too afraid, they are afraid sometimes to put the Opposition's views and they are also afraid to put the Government's at certain times. They do not want to be criticised at all, and therefore they serve up a diet occasionally of pap pure and simple that goes down without having to chew it and without making the slightest impression anywhere except in the ultimate passage out of the system.

I am very disappointed that we haven't had the attendance of the whole Opposition on a day that we were re-summoned to Parliament at their behest, but that is the Opposition all over. I would like to thank and congratulate the two hon. members who made speeches on that side as well as hon. members who made speeches on this side.

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

On the motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

Clause 1 was called and passed.
4.40 p.m.

Clause 2 was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sir, except for clause 15 where I know of an amendment the Bill can stand, but I need to know, because I am sure we have not been circulated, I need to know the form of the Bill as passed in the Other Place, so I know what amendments to offer, Sir. Anyhow, I beg to move that clause 2 stand part.

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

Mr. SISNETT: Mr. Chairman, there is just one point which perhaps I would like the Minister to explain here in clause 2 in relation to "radio waves" means electromagnetic waves of a frequency less than 3000GHZ propagated in free space without the use of artificial guides;" I believe, Sir, that this might be a slight error here, because I do not see an ordinary radio station using 3000GHZ. It might be 300, I am not sure whether the Minister is correct in saying 3000, Sir, that is a substantial amount of GHZ to be used for any small operation inside Barbados. I believe it should be 300GHZ or less than that.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, this definition says of a frequency less than 3000, so it would comprehend 300 or less. A number of these definitions were taken from a document which contains these international definitions which are used all over the world in broadcasting as well as in the communications media like Cable and Wireless, and they have in fact remained through a member of the Board, Mr. John Brewster, from Cable and Wireless. He made representations to the Minister as to the technical definitions to bring them in line with international definitions and conditions.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I am glad that the member for St. Philip North has seen it fit to correct the hon. member for St. Michael North East who previously was touted as an expert in this area in here, but it is very clear that he does not understand what he is talking about. I just wanted to make that particular point, because sometimes people get passed off as experts on matters and it is obvious that he is not clear about what he is talking about.

The question that clause 2 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 3 was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I beg to move that clause 3 stand part.

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

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, you are now going to have a lot of me, I now will take the opportunity to talk.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Fifteen minutes each time?

Mr. SIMMONS: Yes, Sir. The establishment of the Broadcasting Authority goes back to a Manifesto pledge in 1976. In November 1979 at the Opening Ceremony for the Chinese table tennis players who were here under the sponsorship of CBC, the Minister responsible for Information then announced that some time this year he hoped to have established this independent Broadcasting Authority which is before us today. Subsequent to the ministerial announcement last year the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, now absent from the House, gave his mouth licence to make a call for an independent Broadcasting Authority despite the fact that the Minister had already announced its establishment. It does not originate with the Democratic Labour Party, but it is probably because of the way that broadcasting had been managed in Barbados before, and some of the experiences that members of this party and the general public have had at the hands of the Democratic Labour Party, that it

convinced members of this party when we were writing the Manifesto to ensure that the country had some independent body standing above the operations of the wireless and television sectors of the media so as to ensure a more impartial dissemination of information to the public of Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, we have to rely on the integrity of the Minister and the competence of the Minister and the Cabinet to choose persons of sufficient independence of mind and thought, and indeed deed, who will constitute the membership of the IBA. Beyond that we cannot go, Sir. This is a small society and every family in this country has a political point of view and you have to rely on people's sense of judgment and integrity when they get in positions in which they should be impartial to bring that principle to bear in the discharge of their functions.

Now, the independent Broadcasting Authority, Mr. Chairman, seems to me to have made itself necessary. When we compare what happened in the past — and I mean prior to September 2, 1976 — with what is happening today, I do not wish to make platitudinal statements, I like to deal in detail, I like to deal with facts which are observable and can be objectively determined, but before I come to an objective appraisal of what has been happening in broadcasting, certainly in respect of the station for which I now have responsibility, I should just like to say that the hon. member for St. Michael South Central has made known publicly that there have been improvements at CBC since 1976, a view shared by the hon. member for St. Michael South West. They have both conceded that things have changed, and therefore I find it very difficult to accept the criticism of the hon. member for St. Lucy when he said that no change has taken place at CBC. That may have been hyperbolic, but in fact it has been said.
4.50 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in 1976, the month of February, in the week prior to the St. Philip North Byelection, my Party and I had been campaigning for the establishment of an Industrial Centre in St. Philip. There was none. The campaign was going well. The Hon. Member for St. Michael South West who was the then Hon. Minister responsible for the IDC, found it necessary to go on television the night before the Election to put the Government's case and I was not allowed an opportunity, nor anyone from my Side, to state a case on the Other Side. In 1976, in the Byelection, where the focus was on three candidates, I certainly was not given an opportunity to make my case known to the parishioners of St. Philip on television, or radio in this country.

In 1978, there was a Byelection in this country in St. Michael South Central contested by the three Hs,

Hinds, Haynes and Haddock. All three had television time on more than one occasion and radio time to deliver their Manifesto, or their programme, or policy to the Constituents, whose support they were seeking. On the very night of the Election in St. Michael South Central, the very Hon. Member who now holds the seat was interviewed on CBC Television and despite all that had been done for him, he took the opportunity to abuse the Station. No way could that have happened Mr. Chairman, in 1976, prior to the Elections.

We have a programme on Friday nights called "Night Ride" which was cancelled one night under the Democratic Labour Party because there was a discussion in which the now Hon. Attorney General was to have been a Panelist and Morgan said no and the programme was cut off. That sort of thing has never happened under the Barbados Labour Party Government Sir.

There is a programme called "Night Flight", which goes on on Friday nights. We have taken the Station to the people. They call in, they curse the Government, the Opposition, whoever they like, not in abusive language, but they attack, they criticise. In 1976 Sir, that was not allowable and I still hear that there has been no change since 1976. When Morgan was the Hon. Minister responsible, he gave a direction to the News Room that only the positive side of news was to be reported and that meant in the understanding of all at the Station that only what emanated from the Government was to be carried.

We have had Mr. Cameron Tudor, a well known Supporter and Organiser of the Democratic Labour Party several times on television, we have had Senator Connell several times on television, especially talking about conservation matters. Every so often, we have somebody who is projected as a Candidate in St. James on television.

During the Pele Enquiry, we had endless shots of Mr. Eric Sealy, fully bedecked in three pieces. You will hear him interviewed from time to time. You heard the first item of news at a quarter to seven on Monday morning, was that Mr. Eric Sealy had congratulated the Government on allowing Mrs. Rodney and her family to reside here and on the matter of National Awards.

Under the Democratic Labour Party, Mr. Eric Sealy never got any play on CBC. Under the Democratic Labour Party, the present Director of News and Current Affairs was told that so long as they were in power that he would have no part at CBC, could not take part in any programme. Under the Democratic Labour Party, Sir, I could not have been on television. It is something which urked the Hon. Leader of the Opposition early in 1976. I took part in a programme soon after we got in for the November races which were put on by David Barnard and was a sponsored programme and the Hon. Leader of the

Opposition the morning after, came into the Hon. House and complained about how he had to be regaled as he put it, by me the night before, discussing the possible winners of three big races at the November Meeting of 1976. Even when I was in Government, he did not want me to appear on television, and he expressed it in here. He said that it was disgusting him, that he was regaled by me and all this kind of thing.

Mr. Chairman, there is a member of the CBC News Staff in this Hon. House of Assembly today and I would like the Opposition to know this, any one of them is free to enquire whether at a recent meeting of the News Staff, of CBC, I did not express the view to them, that I thought that they were not giving proper coverage to the Opposition and I said to them that you have Shadow Ministers on the Other Side. If there is an issue, go to an Hon. Member of the Opposition, get his view and present a balanced picture to the public of Barbados.

People used to have difficulties or said that they had difficulties because the Chairman was a Politician. I do not operate on that basis Sir. I told the people on the News Staff and the whole of CBC that there is nothing partisan. I have responsibility as Chairman of CBC, just as Douglas Lynch has responsibility for BS&T. If I do not like something, I will go in, criticise it and make my suggestion, or do whatever, as Chairman of CBC and no person at CBC can say that I have ever given political direction and said you must carry so and so, or you must not carry so and so. I have queried the sense of giving exposure to fringe people like Bobby Clarke and MONALI, as distinct from giving exposure to Hon. Members of the Opposition who represent 40 something percent of the people in this country.

We have been trying Mr. Chairman, to present a balanced news picture. Anything which I have said in here, I would like published because it is exactly what I told the staff, it is how I feel as Chairman and I have had nobody to pull at my coat and tell me do not do this, or do not do that. They cannot do it, I am too independent for that.

Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Member for St. Lucy said that there had been no change. Even in the Financial performance of CBC, there has been change. In 1975, CBC made a profit of \$59,331.00, in 1976, it made a profit of \$41,570, in 1977, it made a profit of \$289,406, in 1978, it made a profit of \$162,463, and in 1979, tentatively, we expect a profit in the vicinity of about \$400,000.00. The financial performance of the Station has improved. 5.00 p.m.

I should like to think that it is due to better financial and administrative management and competence of the staff at CBC, and I want to write into the records of this House the debt that the Corporation and the people

of Barbados owe to the General Manager, Mr. Best, for the way he has been able to manage the Corporation since 1977 and managed it in a healthy position against very great odds. When we come to other areas of the Bill I will enumerate some of them, but one that was touched on by the hon. member for St. Lucy and to some extent the hon. member for Christ Church West the question of training, has its genesis in the level of staff, the quality of staff. CBC had no proper recruitment policy prior to 1976. A card carrying membership of the Democratic Labour Party was all that was basically required — a passport. When I took over in September last year I expressed the view to the Board that we needed to upgrade the type of person in the News Department and I saw to it that certain people got raises. At the same time I recognised and I expressed the view to the Union in negotiations that we would try to bring in somebody or people from time to time who had academic qualifications especially if he had done special areas like communications and journalism. We now have in the News Room Miss Shepherd who is a graduate of Kent University and has had experience in the broadcasting media at Kent University. (*Asides*)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! The Reporters are having a little problem.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, in 1976 no money was spent on training. In 1977 \$4,826 were spent; in 1978 \$7,103; in 1979 \$30,116 were spent on training and to have heard hon. members speak the general public would get the impression that CBC does nothing about training of its staff. Well let me tell you that since 1977 over sixty persons have had in-house and overseas training from CBC, and I will give you the details — over 60 people in a staff of about 127, in three years. This is what we have been able to do as a party in charge of CBC. We have had management courses for 20 people conducted by BIMAP in-house. Even today we have two professors from Howard University up there doing work. We have had a programme for the last three years with Howard University where they come down, do evaluations and do training. Thomson Television sent people to do training in 1979 and produced a report. Mr. Maxi Baldeiro who has business in Barbados trained staff up there in sound techniques. Mr. Gus Brathwaite, well known violinist, trained staff in musical appreciation; Mr. Ossie Springer formerly of Cable and Wireless did in-house training for operators and technicians. We have had representatives from the Central Bank, Mr. Bert Thompson from BIMAP in human relations, people from the Police Department, myself when I was legal adviser to the Corporation, delivered lectures in the law of libel to the staff. The BBC sent down a team here to train personnel in lighting techniques, and we have sent overseas about fourteen people between 1977 and 1980. The Director of Advertising will be going on a course to America next week. Only today we received notification from Holland that one of the announcers is going to pursue

a course in Holland. Mr. Gibbs, the News Presenter, went to the mass communications course in Jamaica. Mr. Gibbs is information specialist. Mr. Eric Smith went at the very last minute.

Let us get this clear. After he had been interviewed by CBC and offered the job and after CBC told him that it was prepared to commit itself to his training for a year in Jamaica, the day before the course opened the Union produced a ticket for him to go. I want to make it clear to the House that the training course was willingly offered by CBC, because the Union were dilatory.....
(Asides) It is in the Minutes and I will show the hon. member for St. Lucy or he can check with the person himself. The ticket came the day before. The hon. member will have a chance to reply or we can discuss it privately.

Mr. Chairman, I think it is now clear in the light of the facts given that CBC has had an interest and a commitment to training its staff. I have given a statement of the money spent in the three years since we were there compared with 1976 when none was spent or budgeted for even, I have given some indication of the types of training and I have indicated the number of persons who have had overseas training; so that I think that puts an end once and for all to the argument that CBC is loose in its training methods.

I know, Sir, that a general statement has been made in here about the need for training media personnel. I am aware that the Advocate and the Nation, certainly the Nation has adopted policies for the better training of the staff there. I think the question of training is one that has come to the forefront because people can so easily make comparisons today between the quality of news being disseminated today and the level of analysis being offered today as compared with the old days when you had Mitchie Hewitt, Joe Brome and so on, but it would not be right to say that media managers are unaware of their responsibilities in training, and that is why I welcome the proposed course that is to be offered by the Barbados Community College as from September.

The media is an area in which one can do great things and at the same time engage in a really professional activity and maintain some level of independence, but a journalist cannot gain the respect of anybody or claim his independence unless that journalist equips himself with the educational tools to make him independent; to be able to approach somebody and have an interview even in depth, even aggressive, but an interview in which, as the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works said, he is on top of his subject. A lot of questions that are asked a politician are — the Prime Minister talked about — pap, but in my days as a school boy you used to call them papsey; they are condescending as though the journalist is afraid to ask a searching question.

5.10 p.m.

He has no reason to be afraid if he knows what he is talking about, he has no reason to be offensive and he has no reason for anybody to offend him if he is on top of his subject. I would feel nervous appearing before the Chief Justice if I have not prepared my work, or any Judge, but if I prepare my work and I know my case I go in there and I do not suffer from nerves. I will put over my case because I know the corners of my case and that is what I am there about, but when a fellow has not prepared his work then he gets worried as to how he is going to be treated by the Judge or how he is going to look before the jury, and so on. It is all a question of preparation, dedication and hard work. There is no genius in this, I do not believe in genius, if there is anything called genius, genius is 90% hard work.

Mr. Chairman, I have to speak on other clauses and I will let my contribution on clause 3 rest there.

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

Clause 4 was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I beg to move that clause 4 stand part.

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

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, clause 4 embraces a number of functions for the Authority. One area that has not been discussed in the debate today is the whole question of advertising, the problem of cultural dependence, by which I mean, Sir, the importation of foreign programmes to be plonked on the public of Barbados. The whole question of an increase in local productions was touched on briefly by the hon. member for St. Lucy but I think it needs developing.

Let us start with the question of advertising. Complaints are made especially between November and December — and they were at their height in November and December 1979 — by members of the general public — indeed I myself had my own personal complaint — but let us take between 7.10 a.m. and 9 o'clock in the morning in the period, end of October to end of December, you can expect a high proportion of commercials. Now, this is because the business houses are in high gear, everybody is buying and shopping for Christmas and everybody wants to get his product marketed and advertised. There is only one wireless broadcasting station. That time between 7.10 and 9 o'clock in the morning is what the experts call 'drive time' so that people using their car radios, not accessible to Rediffusion, will have the benefit also of this mass advertising that is going on in that time. Everybody is trying to catch the consumer.

CBC is a self-financing organisation. I believe since this Government has taken power, unlike days of old, CBC has not had to come cap in hand to the House for any funds to keep it going. Indeed, they made a profit in 1977, 1978 and 1979, and we were able last year to pay off the balance of the loan that CBC had from the Government four or five years before. Now, Sir, it is annoying to anyone listening to the radio in a car or at home to hear all this commercial stuff, all talk and no music. I listen to CBC, 610, Radio Trinidad and Radio Antilles, and for music sometimes Radio St. Vincent, but when I went to Radio 610 in the same period of time it was worse, and they were getting letters too. One morning Dave Elcock played two tunes between 7.10 and 8 o'clock. It is something that affects the media in the entire region, and when I was recently in Trinidad discussing with TTT and Radio Trinidad and 610 week before the last, they told me that they have the same problem. It is a peak time and everybody tries to catch it. It is important to CBC's financial viability to cash in on this heavy advertising at this time of the year.

Perhaps with the introduction of Rediffusion wireless and the third broadcasting station there will not be such a heavy preponderance of advertising material; I do not know, Sir, but what I do know and anticipate will be that one of the functions of the Independent Broadcasting Authority will be the regulation of commercial matter in between regular broadcast material. In other words, you can have so many commercial spots per hour, per second or what. At the moment you have it, it is in the Broadcast Rules and the Broadcast Licence, but the way it is implemented is determined by interpretation of the operators of the station. In other words, if you can have 12 minutes advertising in every hour, some people cram all at the peak time, the prime times of morning drive time and afternoon drive time. Now these are matters which we all recognise need regulation, and the Independent Broadcasting Authority will obviously have to address itself to that as a matter of urgency, because it will soon be Christmas again and we do not want the same types of complaints that we had last year to rise up again.

On the question of cultural dependence, let us look at television. CBC has one studio which has to do Sixty Minutes, which has to do interviews, which has to do advertising material when advertisers come up and so on, which has to perform more functions than it should. What we really need is one other studio, one more will be enough. We need one more studio in a small place like Barbados, that is all we need. The studio has hardly been changed since 1963 and you know, we had a problem last November, for two days CBC was off the air. There were outages because we had some heavy rain and there was a leak from the transformer to the cable connected under the studio. When CBC was built in 1963 it was put down and all the cables were under the studio, under the

General Manager's Office, out in the yard. Over the years corrosion has set in and the cable has rotted.

5.20 p.m.

When you get heavy rains and we hope that we may escape the same problems of last year, it seeps into the earth, further erodes the cable and then causes a short in the equipment. We had to string up a connecting line over the roof of the Station to be able to broadcast last year. It shows Sir, that the Station is not completely out-of-date, it is obsolete and as I was indicating in the Second Reading Speech, we have to have a new complex. In fact Sir, we have had Plans drawn already which may need some amendment, but we had plans drawn last year for separate wings all in the same building for radio and television.

Now, in the light of the split — those Plans were drawn by Mr. Lye of MCW, my friend does not have to laugh, Sir — in light of the split, some adjustment had to be made to the Plans, but there is no need to scrap the Plans. He took the present staff set up as he saw it, but that could be reorganised. In fact, in order to accommodate the split now, what we are thinking is that on the left side of the Station, as you go in, the News Room and so on, you will have the Radio Department on that side, on the other side upstairs, you have television and we are going to get two additional chattel wooden units for the News Room.

It is all well and good for people to come in here and complain about the quality of news, but at the same time, Hon. Members should have some sympathy for the conditions under which the staff are asked to turn out news. They are shocking. I believe that the Union is tolerant because they realise that I am prepared to do something and they asked for various things and I have got them for them. I have committed myself to the staff to get them proper, temporary facilities for the News Room. What we want to do is to take two houses which are built by the National Housing Corporation, we asked them at any rate if they could provide us with two chattel units which could be placed side by side and set up the News Department and another office, or two, out in the yard, next to where the Personnel Office is now, Sir, above, at the Eastern side of the Station. As I said, they would be temporary and they would be there pending the construction of a proper building to accommodate the staff who are presently at the Pine.

I wish the public, Hon. Members and the members of staff of CBC to know that a lot of hard work is being carried out, at the moment, into reorganisation to provide them with better facilities, and to provide the Barbados public with better facilities.

Now the question of cultural dependence. I will tell you, we have the necessary equipment and the staff to be able to do more local programming. We will have to rely on some extent on canned stuff from America, or England, or wherever you get it. It has very serious dangers, in my view, for the population of Barbados, because here you are imposing foreign cultures and foreign attitudes, from highly developed countries, on a people who I will repeat are still developing. You are raising the level of expectation of Barbadians to seek after values which perhaps are consonant with a developing country, but which are still not attainable for a variety of reasons, not least among which, of course, is economic inability. What I have tried to urge is that in the acquisition of programmes, we have some programmes with which Barbadians can, to some extent identify.

There was a lot of fear when I announced at the Chamber of Commerce that we were buying Roots. I do not know why Barbadians were afraid in 1980, to let Barbadians know what American black people went through. You know, there was a significant thing about Roots, Mr. Chairman. Look at who sponsored Roots. There were Organisations, the four Heads of which have the same colour as the vast majority of people in this country. Do you think that you could deny, when you get it at that level, a willingness to educate the people? Could you deny the average man in the street his right to be educated for fear of violence? They did not have violence in Trinidad or Jamaica, as a result of the showing of Roots. I did not bring it here.

I agree with the Hon. Member for St. Lucy. Television and Radio have a role to play in the development of us, as a people. There should be more programmes of the quality of Roots. Roots may have been edited and perhaps not representative entirely of the truth and so on, but that is not so important as the symbolism and the imagery in Roots.

I can only give the Hon. House an assurance that the Programme Committee monitors from time to time, on a monthly basis, the type of programmes which are put out. As I say, all the Stations in the Caribbean have this problem of the importation of material because there is lack of financing, conditions and facilities to enable them to do their own programming. But, we have some programmes in the pipeline Sir, and I would like to predict that from about September this year, if people would make a comparison, they will see a ready comparison between CBC up to now, and CBC after September.

We have got two ENG cameras to which we are making some minor adjustments, which will now enable us to go out in the community and do on the spot filming. You do not have to set up all the lighting and all the paraphernalia which you had to in the past. Indeed, for example, the cameras could come in here and be set up,

it would not need all the lighting that you need. But, of course, you might get a better picture with increased lighting. But, say outside, we could stand up in the yard and have a conversation with the photographer, he has the camera on his shoulder and you will see the quality.

There was a programme done on Monday night in the Sports Magazine Programme, on the Derby. That whole programme was done with ENG equipment walking around the paddock last Saturday, or Wednesday before, I have forgotten the date now, just walking around with the camera and the light, that is all. It is so much more flexible.

We have bought a van, a kind of landrover Sir, on which I am having scaffolding constructed on the top of it to enable photographers to get on top and shoot film so that they can go to cricket, matches, they can go to races, they can go to basketball, or whatever. They can go in a crowded scene and not be engulfed by the crowd because they can get on the top and look over. There are lots of things which we are trying to do to bring a better type of programme.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Hon. Member for St. Lucy may have some points to raise arising out of this but, I wish to assure him that the question of cultural dependence is one which concerns us and I had to speak about it to the Chamber of Commerce this year and my views were published in the newspaper, so they are known. But, I do not wish him, or the general public to have the impression that we just buy the Jeffersons or whatever.

5.30 p.m.

For the first time in its history CBC has had a poll taken as to view intakes, what age groups like television, what income groups watch television most and what times are prime times. A very interesting result has come out. The prime viewing time is between 7.30 and 9 o'clock. 7.30 is obviously news, Sixty Minutes, and then at 8.30 there is either GIS or one of the American comedies the Jeffersons or Good Times. That is peak time. And do you know who watch television most in Barbados? Persons working for less than \$200 and up to \$600. A strange thing. I know in my constituency a lot do not have their own individual sets, but there is a gathering of people from the area; four or five would go at a friend's house and sit down and watch for a period of time. I will shortly make some of the findings in the report public. Sir, on advertising last year we were able to get to 50% of the advertising market.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, before you put the question, I want to say that the hon. member for

St. Philip North, the Chairman of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, seems to have had his ears to the ground to be able to express some of the fundamental concerns of people relative to the operation of CBC in terms of its programming, and he certainly expressed a number of points which I myself would have wanted to make, and I should just like, Mr. Chairman, to emphasise two of those points in particular because I think that they are very important. One is the question which the hon. member for St. Philip North raised relating to this whole question of cultural dependence. As I said when I spoke on the introduction to this Bill, there is no doubt that radio and television have a very important role to play in the whole promotion of cultural activity and of making the society aware of its cultural roots, and indeed trying to develop the kind of culture within a society, and there have been criticisms of the way in which the CBC has been functioning in this particular regard. The criticism of course relates to the heavy importation of the foreign canned stuff which we see from time to time and which we have to listen to on CBC from time to time. Now the hon. member for St. Philip North indicated that the Corporation has been making some profits over the years and according to him the profits have been jumping, but yet we find that the Corporation does not find it possible to plough back some of the profits which it is making into the area of cultural development with a view to getting away from the cultural dependence which the Chairman himself is complaining about. The fact that the CBC has to rely so heavily on the importation of canned stuff to feed to the listening and viewing public is something which I think we have got to be critical about, particularly in view of the boast which the Chairman is making about the huge profits which the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation is supposed to be making, and so I think we should be moving into a situation now where we should get serious on this matter.

I would want to repeat that both radio and television have a tremendous potential for shaping the outlook of a country, and I think that sometimes the persons who are responsible for programming and giving directions to the Corporation should exercise even a little more care about the kind of programmes which are shown. I am not talking about advertising now, but the kind of programmes which are shown on TV, because I think they have a way, as the hon. member for St. Philip North has indicated, of not only raising people's hopes, but instilling in them values which are alien to this society and then the society is called upon to deliver the goods as it were in a situation where we might be incapable of delivering such goods, and the whole question of the general outlook which develops from people viewing certain things that they see on television. I think that the question of advertising plays an important part also.

Again the hon. member for St. Philip North has spoken about this matter and has been critical and at the same time he is making the point that in spite of the fact that he is criticising the number of advertisements which appear on CBC, he says it is to the advantage of CBC's financial viability that these commercials appear. I think it is annoying and disturbing to see and hear the tremendous amount of advertisements which appear both on the radio and on the television. People have complained about the interruptions particularly in following a programme and the number and succession of such advertisements, and I believe that there is need for a better programming arrangement at the Corporation which would in a way reduce that kind of criticism considerably. But more fundamentally, Mr. Chairman, on the question of advertising I think that we should get more into the whole area of local advertising. I know that there are strides being made in this particular direction but I see that there are still a number of advertisements which are not locally produced and which are used by CBC-TV.

Now both advertising therefore and the question of programming can have the effect of over-all affecting not necessarily in a developmental way people's views, and if we are going to be concerned with the kind of person whom we want to develop in a society and the way in which they relate to the society, the way in which the society is able to deal with the various demands that are placed on it from time to time, then I think we have to pay very close attention to these two areas. As the Chairman, the hon. member for St. Philip North has indicated, we must get into the area of producing more local programmes of a cultural nature. In Jamaica for example, you will see that the Jamaica Service pays a lot of attention to and certainly promotes the Jamaican culture to such an extent that there is a flourishing cultural kind of activity in that country, and I think that the broadcasting and television media do have a very important part to play in this particular area.

5.40 p.m.

I take the criticisms of the general lack of educational content in a number of programmes both on the radio and on television, and at least the member for St. Philip North has not disagreed with me in this particular regard although he might not have put it probably as inelegant as I did when I said that CBC to a large extent is a juke box, and I think that we should be very careful about the emphasis which seems to be put on the question of playing records. It does not take much to be able to do that, but we want to see something more fundamental, something deeper, something more enlightening coming on the air waves and coming on the television.

I am glad that the member for St. Philip North spoke when he did, because to listen to him and to listen to the Prime Minister who wound up the debate on the second reading, one would not get the impression that they both, as it were, are speaking from the same kind of area. The Prime Minister attacked the working conditions at the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation in the same way that the Barbados Workers' Union has attacked the working conditions there. We are not satisfied with the conditions under which the staff at the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation are forced to work under, we are not satisfied with the wages and salaries that are paid at the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, but one would not believe that this is the same Prime Minister who has been talking about a wages restraint and having the nation at heart, and what have you. The member for St. Philip North stated quite clearly when he came to negotiate the agreement — I was not involved in the agreement — but from the reports which I got he said very clearly that he had directive from the Ministry (ASIDE). From the Board, and we know where the Board would have got it from, that it could not go beyond a certain point, and I would think that the Prime Minister would recall that the negotiations with the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation were long and drawn out, much to the disgust of the Barbados Workers' Union. I am not in here going to be involved in maybe discussing tactics which could or should have been used in those particular negotiations, but it is a fact that they were disgustingly long, the Union was certainly disgusted with the length of the negotiations, but we will certainly take into consideration and remember the speech of the Prime Minister. I have taken a note of it and negotiations for the staff at CBC will be coming up shortly again and whatever criticisms that have been made today by the Prime Minister will certainly feature prominently in those negotiations.

The fact of the matter is that the Barbados Workers' Union is dissatisfied with the conditions there at CBC, as the Chairman of the Corporation indicated in his speech, that the Union has been pushing him to get the working conditions improved, the Union has been pushing him to certainly when he came in to finalise the negotiations to get better wages and salaries for the people who are working there. But I would agree that in any situation where you are going to be expected to get the best out of people you have to be able to recruit a better quality person and in order to retain them and to recruit them you have to pay proper salaries and proper wages, and this criticism can be levelled at the approach of most employers in Barbados, where they do not consider that the payment of proper wages and the provision of proper working conditions is something which they should provide, so that the Union has to be always fighting to make sure that this is done. Now, we adopt the position here where we like to ensure that there is as much industrial peace as possible in this country. It

is not always possible to have this, but certainly we like to see that industrial peace is maintained, but be that as it may, I just thought I would make that particular point.

On the question of the functions of the Authority, Mr. Chairman, I wonder if some indication could be given to the House as to the number of licences — I must confess I was not here when the Prime Minister introduced the Bill and maybe if the information was given there is no need for it, because it is my fault for not being here — but if it has not been given I wonder if some indication could be given to the House about the number of licences which have been granted to broadcast, to establish radio stations or another television station in Barbados, and if so, could he indicate as to when these will come into operation.

Mr. SISNETT: Mr. Chairman, I just want to sound a word of warning to the management of CBC, and there are a few observations which I myself have in relation to the financial position of that Corporation over the last three years, and in particular since the new Authority will be issuing licences to operators of radio and television stations. I must warn the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation that with the issuing of licences to new operators for television and radio that the monopoly situation which they enjoyed over the past years will suddenly be removed from under their feet. We have heard the Chairman say that the Corporation has been over the past few months in a sound financial position, and this is so understandably, because advertisers have not got much of a choice in relation to getting their products across Barbados.

There is the Rediffusion Service Limited which is in direct competition with CBC, and an advertiser that has a couple thousand dollars to spend automatically would want to divide it between the two radio stations, but the issuing of licences in the future I believe that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation is going to be under a lot of pressure for obtaining the advertiser's dollar. No longer will advertisers be happy to want to place their advertising in the programme that is overcrowded between 6 o'clock and probably 9 o'clock in the morning when they will have a choice of sending it to another source whereby their product will be evenly divided in the allotted space but more significantly will be a facility with which the listening audience can now switch dials, because if CBC is not programming in the interest of the listeners, automatically the audience will shift to another station for its programmes, whether it be music, news, or what have you. They will have a choice of one or two, or three or four radio stations and the advertiser will want to pay his money where the audience is, so the CBC in my view might experience that they definitely have to devise a new strategy and get around having so many campaigns for its peak hours of programming. Right now

the advertiser does not have much of a choice. Ultimately the advertiser will want to know which radio station, which television station has the audience, which station the people are listening to and there is where he will spend his money.

5.50 p.m.

I believe that with a little creativity, with a good policy, that CBC still can command a sizeable share of the market by looking once again, at its programming structure. I mean Sir, that advertisers currently would spend their money between 6 o'clock and 9 o'clock. Obviously, there is no choice. But, with the coming Legislation here today and that advertiser has a choice of putting his money where the people are, CBC will definitely have to create the kind of programmes which the people want to listen to over its broadcasting day. I am not going along with the argument that people would not listen to the radio between 6 o'clock and 9 o'clock, that is not so. People will listen to radio, as long as the programme content satisfies their interest.

I remember that when I worked for the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation that I proved the point to the then Management. Management considered that time between 9 o'clock in the evening and closing time around midnight was what they called dead time. I said that in a society as small as Barbados, with so few radio stations, there can be no dead time. I proved my point. I created for the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, and for a specific advertiser, a programme within this dead time. That programme went from 10 o'clock in the evening until 11 o'clock. Corbin Compton Advertising Agency in Barbados took a survey on that programme. It is a programme which I myself did for a local garage and incidentally, you would be surprised that the finding of Corbin Compton was that out of that dead time, between 10 o'clock and 11 o'clock, there were more people listening to the Radio when that programme was being conducted, than there were people who listened to the morning show which time is supposed to be your peak time, in any radio station, in any part of the world. So what was happening to the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation was that out of this programme, they were earning a few dollars so basically, my argument is that if, with a little imagination and a little creativity, the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, in its 17 hours of broadcasting can devise suitable enough and programmes of general interest to the public, advertisers will want to sponsor that time.

There is no such time as dead time in radio. That is the point I want to make. I put out a challenge at one time to the former Management of the Corporation that I would withdraw my salary at the Corporation and take any time which the Corporation would give me and I would make it pay not only the Corporation, but my salary. This was possible Sir, only by knowing how to

satisfy, how to generate interest in the general public. It can still happen Sir. The Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation goes off at midnight and the transmitters are still working. There is a constant supply of electricity to the transmitters and I submit Sir, that that is power wasted that could be generated into a profitable and economic entity for the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, by devising programmes of general interest which people in this community would want to sponsor.

But, the Corporation now, Sir, will now have to wake up because advertisers will no longer be satisfied that their advertising material is lost away among so much other competitive advertising literature between the hours of six in the morning and the time which the Station classifies as its day time. I am positive Sir, that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, or any Station which is sensible enough to be enlightened as to the possibilities which are blatantly lying around to be further explored, Sir, that they can make a substantial amount of money, only by devising interesting enough programmes that the public would want to listen.

The Hon. Member for St. Lucy was concerned about the number of commercials which are aired. Now, Sir, despite all that I have said, it is accepted in commercial radio around the world that during the months, as early nowadays, as October to December, and January, that there is an influx of new commercial activity to be generated for any radio station in any part of the world. You will find that people who do not normally advertise in the course of the year, want their products aired between October and December. It is a tedious task, Sir, for any broadcaster, to accept this new surge of financial reward for advertising, not to be faced with problems as to how this would be rectified, when the Americans themselves accept that during October to December, is the time that all these standards are broken, in order to satisfy the commercial content because ultimately, it is the commercial which pays the rent at any radio station.

I am kind of happy Sir, that the new Authority will regulate all these things and that in the process of time, it will not happen miraculously, I believe that the national code of ethics will have to be formulated, so as to guide the Authority, as to what would be the normal, accepted standards for broadcasting in this country as Licences are issued, to operators, to become involved in this new emerging industry, in another developed country.

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

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

Clause Six was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chariman, I beg to move that Clause Six stand part.

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

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, Clause Six provides, in effect, for the split of the Corporation into a Headquarters Unit, and two branches. I have already spoken on that, in relation to the Second Reading. Before I say anything further on it, Sir, I would just like to respond to some of the comments, made by the Hon. Member for St. Lucy when he last spoke on Clause Four.

I just want to revert to the question of television broadcasting and the type of programmes. The question of cultural dependency again Sir. The Hon. Member spoke of how Jamaican culture is being promoted and so. Well, of course, Jamaica has a very protectionist attitude in relation to let us say music. It is reggae all-day long — there is a little bit of — now and then, you may hear, they had a thing called Calypso Corner at 6.25 in the morning, five minutes I believe. I have not been to Jamaica for some years now and I cannot tell you if it has changed. But, basically, it is a promotion of their music.

Now, we have not yet reached in Barbados, a stage where we put out the same quantity of local music as say, Jamaica, even having regard to the relative difference in the size of the country and the size of the population, by ensuring as much as possible, that our priorities, in terms of the music played, in the range, first of all local music, secondly, regional music, thirdly, other music. 6.00 p.m.

We ensure as much as possible that our priorities in terms of music played are in the range first of all of local music, secondly regional music and thirdly other music. In terms of our general programming for TV the percentage of local programming on TV is 32% today as compared with 16% prior to 1976, a now well worn phrase. So again that is an area in which we have made some significant advance over what happened before. The difference is 32% today local programming as distinct from 16% prior to 1976, and it will increase with the acquisition and implementation to use of the two ENG cameras that we have.

Now I accept the general point made by the hon. member for St. Lucy that we must be more critical and selective. I accept the reminder that we must be more critical and selective in the type of programmes brought from overseas, and that is why, Mr. Chairman, we have been sending members of staff and the Board to the film markets, particularly the regional film markets where suppliers of films come and they have a presentation, and the representative from Barbados, Trinidad or wherever would have a look at these programmes and decide what to buy having regard to cost and having regard to the

type of society we are dealing with and so on, so that there is a selection done of suitable material at the film market.

Now there is one area which the Corporation seems to me in the past to have ignored; it is an area that has gained recognition under the present administration. A lot more can be done. They are invited from time to time to send representatives and because we are so conscious of the fact that we are self-financing and we do not want to spend unnecessarily, sometimes we refuse. Now the Cannes Film Market this year in France I was told in Trinidad was a very very useful one for Third World countries, but we had representative. I expect that I may be going to the Commonwealth Broadcasters Conference in Australia in September and I will establish some contact. There is a film market coming up in January in Trinidad and we have already selected some personnel on the Board to go.

Mr. Chairman, in respect of programming, the comment was that the educational content on TV and radio is less than satisfactory. The hon. member for St. Lucy will have seen an advertisement within the last four or five days for a Programme Manager for radio. Now this not only arises directly out of the split but the need for it is as a result of an awareness by the station that a lot more has to be done in terms of developing programmes that are relevant to the society in which we live, and we are advertising and we hope that we get responses from people who have the necessary relevant orientation to a Third World developing country in the Eighties. I just make that general point so that if anything I say gets published or published properly, anybody who may hear of it will know what we are looking for.

I meant no offence to the hon. member for St. Lucy when I omitted to answer the question he raised on gospel broadcasting. It is a fact that a group of persons, I do not know who, were interested in the establishment of a small gospel broadcasting station and they wrote to the Ministry of Information. The Ministry then wrote the Board for its views. To date we have not responded to the Ministry because as from September 1st we are having our own programme organiser with special responsibility for religious broadcasting and community based broadcasting, and when I say community based broadcasting, I include things like cultural groups who do dance and folk singing about the country, who also involve themselves in service of songs and singings. There is a lot of talent in the country. I certainly have a lot of it in St. Philip. I do not know if other hon. members who represent rural parishes can say the same thing. I believe I can pick ten groups in St. Philip who just love singing religious or semi-religious songs, practise as a group of 20 or 30 and go around singing and so on. These people need exposure; they need a development of their talent; they need people to know about them and one of the

functions of the programme organiser will be to coordinate the whole area of religious broadcasts which is now programmed in a way that is not satisfactory to the Board. We want to see first of all in the reorganising whether we are doing an adequate job at the station for religious broadcasts before we make any further input to the Minister. It really is a question for the Ministry and the other people involved in the broadcasting media to make recommendations, but it will be a policy matter, and of course one of the problems in the past with the present CBC Act is that it is the only Act that I know which sets up a statutory corporation which does not reserve to the Minister any powers in respect of policy. The Housing Corporation Act reserves powers to the Minister in terms of policy. There is nothing in the present CBC Act giving the Minister any area to operate terms of policy, but I suppose it is conventional. I am going to be frank. There is none; I checked it, because the hon. member talks of my stance in respect of Statutory Boards, and I am not hiding it from anybody. You have no reserve powers of policy for the Minister and it was in the Minutes of the Corporation earlier this year. I feel that the Board should be making some policy. If the Minister has no power but the Board has power for the management of the station, then the Board logically is the next authority to make policy, but people in the past have allowed.....

Mr. GREAVES: On a point of order, I wonder if the hon. member would say if the way in which the present CBC Board is set up is the way he would like to see Boards set up which would reduce ministerial interference in the operation of Boards.

Mr. SIMMONS: That is the question, Mr. Chairman. It is not ideal. It gives you a lot of autonomy and a lot of flexibility as it is, but because of the convention where former Ministers have assumed that they had powers of policy reserved to themselves and you feel that even though the Act did not say this it obviously meant to say this, they would intervene or give policy directives or whatever, the line of authority between the Board and the Minister and management has become blurred over the years, and this is one of the reasons why probably by the time we resume in September or whenever there will be before the House certain amendments to the CBC Act.

6.10 p.m.

I am not saying that a Minister should not have reserve powers of appointments. I am not saying that but I am saying that in an Act you can do it and you can still give the Board enough autonomy within the Act. If you have a broad framework of policy reserved for him then you know, but the Act at the moment does not spell out any area, it only tells you he can intervene if you want to set up a superannuation scheme or a pension scheme you have to get his approval, you have to get

approval for staff above a certain level, you have to submit accounts and annual reports to him; that is about all. There may be one other but I am speaking from memory now without checking the Act, but there is nothing which says that he shall be responsible for the formulation of policy for broadcasting or whatever. That may be a bad thing and it would be better to have it vested in an independent Broadcast Authority, perhaps such as we are likely to have, but I just wanted to assure the hon. member that a decision on the Gospel Broadcasting station was really waiting until we had an expert in the station for us to respond at any rate because CBC was only asked for its comments and views. We didn't feel that we could adequately respond until we had got a person in the house who could map out a strategy and detailed programme for Gospel Broadcasting. It is something about which the public is concerned.

I took part in a Night Ride Programme last year dealing with CBC and trying to explain how it functions and what not and we had callers complaining about the way in which the religious programmes were organised, not only the time of the day but certain religious people getting too much of the broadcast time and so on, and I can assure the public that after the 1st September a lot of this will be straightened out, Sir.

In respect of the split, one of the difficulties that have confronted CBC over the years has been the fact that its equipment was never properly valued, there was no proper valuation of the equipment at CBC. The Act called for the setting up of a Capital Assets Register, CBC since 1963 has never had one. I just had an appraisal done, a technical assets appraisal done by a gentleman from Canada called Mr. Hurtubise, and it makes an attempt to provide the information from which we can now compile the Capital Assets Register, but would you believe, Sir, that there are a number of things that reveal themselves out of this document? The first one is that a number of documents relating to the purchase of equipment for CBC prior to 1976 cannot be traced and have not been able to be traced. You do not know how much the thing cost, how much the value today, nothing.

The second problem that arises out of the Hurtubise Report is that I would say well over 60% of the equipment at CBC today is obsolete and obsolescent which makes a case for the complete re-equipment of the station, and that is the next step of hard work that I have. Having got the structured reorganisation out of the way — it should have been ready by today, it probably is, we have had endless meetings on that, I think the final structure for these two stations called for in Clause 6, the final structure should be ready. We now have to move in to the next phase of a development project. Never in the history of Barbados has there been any development project or plan in broadcast. We have now a

first document called Development Broadcast for the Decade of the 80's and Beyond. That document is at the moment being revised and revamped with the help of persons from the Ministry of Finance with a view to presenting before the end of August this year a final development plan for CBC. Armed with that document and armed with the physical development plan for the station, CBC will be making approaches to various bodies for external financing to carry through that plan. In the interim the split will start to be functional as soon as possible. That is the up to date situation of the split, Mr. Chairman, in the development plan.

I think now, Sir, that I have done my duty to the station and staff and to hon. members in giving as much information as I can on these matters and I will no longer, I do not believe, unless it is something specific you want me to respond to. I think, Sir, that I have had my share and I hope that members have been brought more in tune with some of the factual work that is going on at CBC and some of the details that our organisation, and some of the problems and so on and I feel it was my duty to give this information in the spirit of open Government to which I subscribe.

Mr. GREAVES: I just want to ask a short question. On this question of the separation of the two stations, I listened to the member for St. Philip North for a long time but I was listening to hear the reason for this separation and he started to talk about the equipment at CBC. He said it is out of date, obsolete and obsolescent but I was listening and I think the public would want to know the reason why the Board finds it necessary to split the two operations. Is it for greater efficiency? Is it for better financial management and control or what? I think that if this is going to be a major change, and it seems as if this is going to be one of the fundamental parts of the Bill, because it prohibits as I understand it any person or any company which is operating the radio station and a television station simultaneously that they should be two separate operations. I wonder if the hon. member could enlighten this Chamber as to the reason for this separation.

6.20 p.m.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, when I spoke on the Second Reading, the Hon. Member perhaps was not in his seat. I did give it then, Sir, but I have no objection to repeating, in the broadest possible terms, what we envisage with the split.

As I explained, you have a Headquarters Unit which comprises the Board and top Management consisting of the Financial Controller, the Executive Director and the Chief Executive Engineer. We see that Headquarters Unit as the thinking tank, the planning and the day to day policy formulating Body for the Station. We know that reporting to the Headquarters will be two Station

Managers, Radio and Television. Each Station will then have its own Accounting, Sales and Production Sections. Radio will have its own Accounting people, its own Sales and its own Production. You will have one or two common service people like the Director of Personnel. It can be a common service person for both because we probably have 146 staff, or something like that. There is no need to have one for Radio and one for Television.

Now, there is, at the moment, a kind of split, but it is not on an organised basis and we feel that in future, it would be better to have two stations operating independently because it would make for better efficiency we hope and also make for an easier operation of the financial viability of each sector. At the moment, the accounts are mixed, I mean that you can extract what is television and what is Radio, but to monitor on a day to day basis now is not as easy now, as we anticipate it was in the past, if you have the Chief Accountant from Television doing his own accounts and the Chief Accountant for Radio.

Now, I have said earlier, that radio is not as glamorous as television but yet, radio makes money and television does not. If we want financing as we will need for the development of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, we have been, I would not say assured, we have been advised that it would be easier to present a case for equipment for television on the basis of known financial and known equipment information, than it would be to present one when everything else is mixed together. That is the representation which has come to us from people who have some experience in that area and how external financiers view these things.

What is being envisaged, is in no way substantially from, let us say, the National Bank. The National Bank has its Board, its Head Office and its President in James Street and then, it has branches at Fairchild Street and at Broad Street. The Insurance Corporation, I believe also has power, in its Legislation, for a Headquarters Unit and branches, or Barclays Bank, with Headquarters in Broad Street and branches all about with their own Managers reporting policy formulated in Broad Street and people reporting to Broad Street on major issues and Broad Street having a controlling interest.

The split; working on it Sir and preparing the groundwork, looking at needs and so, has been a useful exercise because it has now thrown into focus a lot of areas of deficiency where we are more able now, to see our needs in respect of the Personnel for television news, personnel for radio news, personnel for production, personnel for accounts, personnel for sales. At the moment you have a set of Bodies and you try to fit them as best as possible in slots. But, they have all been working for one Corporation, the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. Only, they will be under separate criteria heads.

Now, Managers will have to function and 'be responsible for the day to day running of the Station and they will report as the Board requires, but certainly, monthly, to the Board, through the Executive Director who will be a member of the Board, but not have voting rights. At least, this is what is being recommended. The Executive Director would be a member of the Board, but, have no voting powers on the Board. We think, Sir, that it can work, it can lend to greater efficiency. Initially, there will be a small cost to the Corporation because we see immediately, for example, the need for a Programme Manager of Radio and we have advertised, I think between \$2,000.00 and \$2,200.00 in the advertisement which has been running this week. That is coming into focus immediately.

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister feels and has expressed so today, that the present General Manager, in the present structure, should be able, in a small Station, to check the news prints before they go out every day. But, Hon. Members do not understand perhaps, some of the difficulties in manning a small radio station and television station all in one, overcrowded, in very cramped conditions in circumstances where human relationships and personal relationships, or inter-personal relationships between members of staff are not the happiest between all members of staff and everybody with the General Manager on the spot, as soon as he comes through the door, everybody wants to run in to him. This does not allow the General Manager to function in the best possible way as Manager. You can get yourself bogged down with matters which should not probably reach you. If you do not entertain people who come with the complaints to solve, you hear that the General Manager is a snob, that he does not want to speak to the staff, that he does not mix with the fellows and all that. I ask, where does he have time to look at cost centres, profit margin, planning, or anything like that.

Now, I would hope that with the split, that the General Manager of Radio and TV could have a further supervisory function which he could arrogate to himself that he will make sure that he checks news spots before they go out. They come from the Director of News. He can do this on a daily basis, it will be up to him to direct it, he is the daily Manager. What he reserves to himself is entirely a question of how he plans his managerial function. But, certainly the Executive Director would be above that, in future.

The question that Clause 6 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 7 to 9 inclusive were called and passed.

6.30 p.m.

Clause 10 was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 10 stand part.

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

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, in Clause 10(1)(c) the Board has to report to the Minister and this report should include under (c) detailed information in respect of any matter that the Board considers to be of public importance in relation to broadcasting or television. I wonder if the Minister would give us some explanation on this point.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: It is very difficult for me to expatiate on this in the direction that the hon. member has asked. This does occur in other broadcasting authority legislation throughout the world. I can imagine that the opening of a new station and the closing of an old station would be a matter of public importance in relation to broadcasting or television. If the hon. member did ask the question I was going to reply to it later; but perhaps at this stage he would want to hear that new licences have been issued for radio broadcasting stations. I suppose they are matters that the Board might think important, and occasionally from time to time Boards....the Board at Great Britain I know reports on particular programmes with great cultural importance or activities of that sort; they probably report on technological advances so that Parliament may have an opportunity, for example, to see the Board deciding a new line system or broadcasting on a different wave length or going into short wave broadcasting instead of local broadcasting and so on. They are things that I would consider would be of public importance.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, one of the things that comes readily to mind in respect of Clause 10(1)(c) is that last year at two public meetings held by the Democratic Labour Party, one at Quakers Road and one in Church Village, St. Philip, the hon. member for St. Michael South Central alleged publicly that \$40,000, this is before I went to CBC, Sir, was missing from CBC. The Minister and the Chairman, the hon. member for St. Michael North West had a special audit done by Peat Marwick Mitchell Hewitt & Co. and I am pleased to be able to report that the special audit has revealed that not one cent has been missing from the Corporation and therefore the allegations made by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central have been proven groundless, without foundation and to be untruthful.

Now, Sir, a matter like that in future is one in which the Minister would be justified in asking the independent Broadcasting Authority to get information from the station and submit to him or put it in their report concerning the allegations raised by, for example, the hon. member for St. Michael South Central who deals in impressions and allegations and not in fact.

The question that Clause 10 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 11 to 14 inclusive were called and passed.

Clause 15 was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, in Clause 15 there is an amendment where in the third last line from the bottom where it reads "The Ministry responsible for communications" it should be "The Ministry responsible for telecommunications".

I beg to move that Clause 15 as amended stand part.

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

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

Clauses 16, 17 and 18 were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

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

6.40 p.m.

On the separate motions of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I would like to move that we re-open Statements by Ministers, I think the Prime Minister would like to make a statement.

Mr. SPEAKER: A Minister may make a statement at any time. The Hon. Prime Minister may proceed.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On Tuesday, July, 29th, the Hon. Member for St. Michael South West, while speaking in a debate on a Resolution to approve a loan Agreement providing funds for the Government to re-equip the Coast Guard and provide training for its members, stated that medical examination procedures for recruits into the Barbados Defence Forces were inadequate and that a recruit who was a Barbadian living in England had been allowed, on return to Barbados, to join the Defence Force although so medically unfit as to require a major operation soon afterwards.

A careful investigation of these allegations, Mr. Speaker, has revealed them to be without substance. My

information is that only two persons formerly in the Regiment and now in the Defence Force have lived in England. One of them, a Warrant Officer, returned to Barbados more than 6 years ago and soon after joined the Coast Guard. While in training in the U.S.A. last year as a Senior Petty Officer he developed a hernia which has required an operation. It is therefore quite untrue to suggest that his recruitment into the Defence Force was a result of faulty medical examinations.

The other member of the Defence Force concerned was born in Barbados and brought up in England. She joined the Regiment last year and within the last few months developed a problem with an impacted wisdom tooth for which she now requires an operation.

Mr. Speaker, the Defence Force carries out full medical procedures in examining prospective recruits. It seeks the highest physical standards and seeks to maintain these by regular medical examination and care.

The statements made by the Hon. Member are therefore totally and categorically denied, and I profoundly regret that they were made in such a forum as this Hon. House.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I beg to move that Government Notices be also taken.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is seeking the re-committal of the Order of Business to present Government Notices. If there is no objection, leave will be granted. The Hon. Minister may proceed.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Betting and Gaming Duties (Amendment) Order, 1980, and I beg to give notice of the following Bills:

A Bill to amend the Companies Act.

A Bill to revise the Law relating to the imposition and collection of consumption tax.

A Bill to provide for the imposition of tax on the proceeds of the sale of certain services and for related purposes.

A Bill to provide for the imposition of a charge on revenue earned by dealers in petroleum products as a result of the supply by them of fuel to aircraft and for related matters, and

A Bill to amend the Storage of Petroleum Act.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, these are all budgetary measures which must be completed in all their stages by August

15th and the House should be made aware that it is the Government's intention to proceed with these matters at next Tuesday's meeting of the House. I think I will also have to ask that First Readings of Bills next be taken, steps are being taken to ensure that all members of the House are circulated with copies of these Bills during tomorrow.

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Companies Act be now read a first time.

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

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

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to revise the Law relating to the imposition and collection of consumption tax be now read a first time.

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

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

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to provide for the imposition of tax on the proceeds of the sale of certain services and for related purposes be now read a first time.

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

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

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to provide for the imposition of a charge on revenue earned by dealers in petroleum products as a result of the supply by them of fuel to aircraft and for related matters be read a first time.

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

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

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Storage of Petroleum Act be now read a first time.

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

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I have one Item here Sir, which we are going to do. It is a supplementary Resolution for \$555,956.

I beg to move therefore, Mr. Speaker, that you do now leave the Chair and the Hon. House go into Committee.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1980-81

RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE SUM OF \$555,956

To move the passing of the Resolution to grant the sum of \$555,956 from the Consolidated Fund and place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1980-81, Part I Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1980-81, No. 3 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

and;

To amend the title of Sub-head Seven of Head 19 Ministry of Finance and Planning and also to amend the note to Item One of the said Sub-head.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, Head 19 relates to the Public Officers' Housing Loans Fund. For a very long time, this Fund languished and because it did not have new monies coming in to enable the aims of the Fund to be met. Also, we were having some difficulties when the Fund was being administered by the National Housing Corporation.

The administration of the Fund has now been transferred to the Barbados National Bank as holder of a majority shareholding in Mortgage Finance Corporation. The examination of the accounts reveals that going back before 1972, there have been very considerable losses at the Fund and the National Bank has pointed out to me that if they enter the Fund on their books, they are entering a loss, rather than an asset and they are calling on Government to make good some of the loss so that they can have a viable Fund to start off with and suggested that it is unreasonable to expect them to have to administer something which starts out by creating a bad reflection on the accounts when they come to be audited.

It will be noted Sir, that the only reason why the National Bank did not show a profit in its first year, was

because of accumulated losses of the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank's bad debts which needed to be written off and which the auditors insisted on writing off. It is therefore proposed Sir, not to grant the full amount because the Bank does consider that it will administer the Loans Fund in such a way as to avoid losses in future and make a contribution towards itself, working on some of the accumulation. Not the full amount of the losses which I seem to recall from memory is getting on to \$700,000.00 but a sum of half a million dollars which will let the Fund begin to revolve again in the black Sir, not revolve in the red. I am sure that Hon. Members who have the interest of housing in this country at heart will be glad to support this Item.

In connection with this Item, Sir, I also have to move that the objects of the Grants, Subscriptions and Contributions in the notes be extended to include Public Officers' Housing Loans Fund, so that when we supplement the Item, your money can lawfully be paid over to the National Bank.

I beg to move that Head 19 stand part.

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

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, it is known in this country, that the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister is an eminent and able Scholar, but here it is, today, he has substituted the word "losses" for the word "languish".

But, I would like only to make a brief comment and to enquire from the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, due to the amount which I consider is a very big one, that is, half a million dollars and I will read the paragraph. It reads thus:

"The Government of Barbados has agreed to make a Grant available to the Barbados National Bank in the sum of half a million dollars to partially"

I repeat that word:

"partially offset accumulated losses under the Public Officers' Housing Loan Fund."

My own comment on this matter is that I would like the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister to explain a little bit more fully to us, the losses of half a million dollars. He has used the term "languished" in here, but in the Addendum here, it is written as "losses". Consequently, I can only suggest to him, to explain it fully to us, so that I can understand well the two words; one is written as "losses" and the other word which he has used today. That is all I have to say on this matter.
7.00 p.m.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, we are being asked this evening to provide a sum of \$500 000 to partially offset the accumulated losses under the Public Officers Housing Loans Fund. This as I understand it is a fund which has been operating for a number of years and it is a fund from which public officers who qualify can get loans in order to construct houses, and the fund as I further understand it is a revolving fund. People who obtain loans from the Public Officers Housing Loans Fund have to sign an agreement for money to be taken from their wages and salaries and paid back into this fund. I believe that it is a fund which could or should have been easily administered, and I think that we would want to know how and why the fund has gone into such a deficit situation. Furthermore if we are now looking at this whole question of setting up under the Barbados National Bank the Public Officers Housing Loans Fund, I believe it would be useful if the Prime Minister who introduced this Resolution could give us some idea about the state of applications for loans from this fund. As far as I understand it, there are a number of people who have been waiting for a fairly long time to get loans to build houses and have not been able to get them, and I wonder if the Prime Minister could give us some indication about the outstanding number of applications and how soon he conceives that these applications would be satisfied.

Further I wonder if the Prime Minister could throw some light on a matter which has been causing some concern in the community particularly amongst people who are interested in purchasing or at least in building a house where I understand and where it is said that the Central Bank has issued a directive to the commercial banks relative to limiting the amount of the loan which could be made available to a prospective house builder. I know this is causing some concern and I am not sure whether that directive has revoked or not, but certainly the Prime Minister would want to give the public some assurance and some kind of explanation if indeed there is need for one in this particular regard.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am at one with the hon. member for St. Lucy. I too would like to know how the Public Officers Loan Fund lost money. I inherited an empty loan fund with accumulated losses and without another Commission of Enquiry which I am sure the hon. member would be the first to deplore if it was going to cost the same as the accumulated losses to discover our loss, we may never know the full answer. But substantially without all the documentation, I do not have all those files with me, the picture appears to be that the rates of interest being charged to the public officers were not sufficient to service the loans, that is really to service the administration of the loans.

Originally apparently, and this is going back I do not know how many years, I am sure it was before

any of us perhaps were in here, it was intended to make grants of these loans, these monies were borrowed from particular funds at particular rates of interest and supposed to be on-lent. For a long time I believe the rate of interest was 4% and it probably remained at 4% long after 4% money was unobtainable and in all probability the fund was being charged interest under its borrowings from other funds out of which grants should not be made. I do not have the old papers, but if you searched the old papers you might find, say, that the Revenue Equalisation Fund may have been lending money to the Public Officer Loan at 6% while the rate was 4%. In these circumstances it was very easy to lose money. Rather than taking a decision that the rate of interest would be raised, say, ten years ago when the rates of interest were going up, nothing was done and the alternative solution of just not providing money for the fund was adopted, so the fund still is collecting money.

Nearly all public officers when they sign to make the repayments they do pay, but we have had some very lurid stories of public officers who had refused to sign the withdrawal form and threatening to chop off the hand of the accounting officer if he stopped their pay. We must not think that this is unusual, Sir. That is not a word of the past. Even at the Barbados National Bank I believe that they have had a recent case with an employee there who somehow has managed to get a housing loan without deductions being made from his salary; so this is nothing that can't happen; it is nothing that requires human wickedness to create. You do get difficulties when you are on such a very tight margin.

We have to remember that the banks in this country are only paying Barbadians 4%, 5% and I doubt even 6% for the use of their money. The banks in this country are still getting money cheap, but they are lending it out with a minimum spread of four points, and for a long time a spread of six to seven points. In the United States even when bank rates touched 20% as it did early in April this year bankers were probably paying 17% to get money to lend out at 20%, and if they had to rediscount it they might find themselves paying the full 20%, the Federal rediscount rate. But the banks in Barbados have a wide spread.

The Government's financial institutions have always operated on a narrower spread of money. The commercial banks in Bridgetown carry a lot of current accounts; people keep \$5 000 and \$10 000 in a non-interest bearing account in a commercial bank. Quite a lot of people do that and it adds up. That is money they have to lend out to make a lot of profit on. The Public Officers Loans Fund never had this and the Barbados National Bank indeed does not have it now, which leads to the next point, the Central Bank's directive on credit for housing and other activities. I know that the National Bank has been particularly hard hit by the credit restrictions and

I think that this has concerned Barbadians as much as the credit restrictions themselves. I do not know the state of applications for loans from the Public Officers Housing Loans division at the moment. The President of the National Bank was here this afternoon to have a meeting. A Board meeting was going on and perhaps if I had notice I could have asked him, but the hon. member perhaps would not have realised that we were dealing with this, and I will endeavour to find out and convey the information to the hon. member, but I can't tell him. I do know that many people are anxious to take part in the tremendous house building programme that this Government has brought to the country. All over the country you can see houses being built at the present time. I have had to comment that I first became a member for St. Thomas in 1966 and they did not open any substantial housing development in St. Thomas until after 1976. Two houses or three houses I think may have been built in the Bagatelle area.

7.10 p.m.

Since 1976, Sir, the National Housing Corporation has built houses at Bagatelle, Redmans Village, St. Thomas and if you go there now at this moment I believe you will find 14 or 15 houses being built in the three developments adjoining Bagatelle, Welches, Bagatelle itself and the development at Warrens, and I think that other hon. members all over the country will find these conditions existing. In Christ Church at the moment, I believe the last notification of housing starts which I got from the office of the Acting Leader of the House was something like 219 stone houses being built at the moment in Christ Church. Clearly this is a lot of construction. When you add that to the Polytechnic, the Post Office, the Sewerage Scheme, when you add that to the amount of private construction in the hotel business, a 250 room hotel going up in St. Lawrence Gap, the Hilton looking to have new additions, hotels on the West Coast, Sandy Lane, all carrying out activities, office buildings being built or renovated around Barbados, it is abundantly evident that we are having the biggest building boom in our history. You can hardly pass the road for the trucks with the marl fill and the boulders, Mr. Chairman. Despite the best efforts of West Indian Suppliers Limited as well as subsidiary suppliers who perhaps don't give quite such a good deal, Mr. Chairman, we have a cement shortage in the island and those who are endeavouring to meet our cement needs cannot bring in enough cement to satisfy the building boom.

Men with lorries put down who have been harassing their M.P.'s for years to get a job dropping stones for the Government now find themselves in such demand that quarry owners are crying out and asking the Government's permission to let them bring in trucks from Britain, indeed asking the Government's help to locate trucks for them in Britain for the trade. Men resigning from being bank managers and buying four trucks and driving them themselves, there is a former bank manager who drives a truck

hauling marl for construction projects, and what has happened is that the construction industry is beginning to overheat somewhat. I could hardly believe, Sir, that you will find a situation where people cry out for building labourers. It seems to me there will have to be an abundance of building labourers in this country. I believe their wages need to go up, Sir, perhaps when a labourer is getting \$30 a day you will not find boys standing up on the street corner trying to get jobs working in a store, they will be attracted by the improved wages. I can assure the hon. member for St. Lucy that I would like to think that Government carpenters would be moving up in the range of \$35 to \$40 a day, but we can't afford it at the present time, that is a fact, but in a matter of two years. I am sure that by 1982 when we come to re-negotiate salary settlements with public workers that artisans will be getting over \$40 a day. I have some confidence in that and we are getting this overheating in the construction business.

I must say, Sir, I was surprised today to get the cost of living figures for last month, June — you know we have a new index now, Sir — to see that our inflation is running at what is really a very moderate rate, considering what is going on in the world around us, of 10%. Food is beginning to go up, but food is the main offender, things like housing and construction have not yet begun really to expand in an inflationary way that could reasonably have been expected in the size of the building boom, but if nothing is done undoubtedly we will get the same inflation in housing and construction as we are getting in food and in imported articles of immediate consumption, and the Central Bank's directive to take some of the steam out of the economy by restricting bank credit is one of the things that we have had to do to give a short breathing space so the banks can digest the loans that they have, so that the industry itself can settle down and contractors can see what they are doing, architects can see what they are doing over a period of a few months while the economy settles down at the new plateau to which construction has been lifted. We want construction just to settle and then it can take off again. I don't anticipate that the restrictions will be on for very many more months.

I would point out to hon. members and the general public that the restrictions only up to \$25,000 so all the people who want to benefit from the budgetary measures to help old people improve their houses will still be able to borrow money, but we don't want to lend money to people wanting to build a \$60,000, \$70,000 or \$80,000 house, we want to lend money to poor people who wish to add on a stone toilet and bath at the back and improve the foundation with a view to improving their housing stock. We want them to get a piece too because we do not want it all to go to those in the middle income ranges, and they are being helped by the fact that avail-

able funds are being channelled to the lower income bracket at the present time.

There is a lot of mischief going on, Sir, a lady called me in St. George and gave me a very worried story that she was told if she wants to add on a bit to her house she cannot get money, because she only wants \$1,200. She is a person with two jobs and would have no difficulty in paying it back.

Now, the restrictions, Sir, have applied in differential ways, the Barbados National Bank has been harnessing because it is the Barbados National Bank which has gone all out to help people get houses both through the Barbados Mortgage Finance Corporation and through subsidiary road builders, so they were out to the baller so to speak, Mr. Chairman, when the instructions were imposed. It is also worthwhile remembering that although the Barbados National Bank had an enormous volume of saving deposits when it came into operation, these deposits cost the bank 4% and the bank has never been called upon to pay the current accounts which the commercial banks had to do and this is a risk again for that bank.

This Resolution providing \$500,000 for public officers' loans may only meet the cost of a house at the moment for 10 or 11 public officers, but at least it will make a start. There are one or two other factors relating to the Central Bank's restrictions that should be borne in mind. The public officers wage settlement is going to cost between 40 to 50 million dollars. This kind of cash, and it is going to be paid at least 6 months in arrears, so \$20 million and \$5 million will have to be part of one thing, this type of cash is very substantial. The country has not got unlimited amounts of money, Government has to have an overdraft, it has to be able to pay pensions and has to compete with the private sector for available loans. In other words if you give the civil service \$45 million that means \$45 million less than the private banks and the Barbados National Bank have available to lend out for housing.

7.20 p.m.

It is very important Sir, especially in these days, to look at the total money supply within an economy before you jump to conclusions. You cannot have the banks lending out unlimited money for house building, the Government paying out unlimited money for public officers' salaries, all within a small economy. Even if there is no feed off in the Balance of Payments, the economy is not able to sustain these sudden expansions in the money supply.

So, I anticipate Sir, that when, as I very much hope by next week when the Barbados Workers' Union and the National Union of Public Workers agree with the Government's extremely generous offer to public

servants, the most generous ever made in the history of our Island, the highest percentage increases at the bottom which we are offering that any class of worker has got this year in Barbados. It will all come out in due course, Sir. I hope that the Unions will agree to it next week, as I confidently expect, if they allow realism and patriotism to play their full part in the negotiations. We will be better able to see what the situation of the overall money supply is. Once we know Sir, that Public Officers' salaries will take so much of the available money supply, we can then say, we will distribute the money supply in these proportions. So much to manufacturing, so much to industry and so on.

I very much hope that by the end of the year that the couple of thousand dollars which Senior Teachers will get, they will be surprised at the arrears which will come into their pockets, the one and a half year arrears, more than enough to buy a good piece of land and start building the house right away. When we see that, Sir, we hope that it will be possible at that stage, for the restrictions to be eased in such a way as to allow productive activity of house building to resume at an even higher peak.

But, for the moment Sir, we must have the credit restrictions. I do not think that if we had allowed things to continue without any breaking off, that we would have inflation at the very moderate annual rate of 10%, or 10.1%, or 10.2% as the projected annual rate. Up to 3.4% in four months from March to June on the new scale, not bad at all Sir. Out of that increase, half came last month. The first three months were a period of moderate inflation.

We think Sir, that we will have our financial business settled by Christmas and that by Christmas people will have some money in their pockets to spend from the Salaries' Revision, from Income Tax release and that they will spend some on the good life, but they will also spend some on a resumed construction programme to upgrade the housing stock in the country.

I am obliged to the Hon. Member for giving me the opportunity of reassuring Barbadians that these restrictions are not intended to last for a long time, but they are dependent on a number of unknown factors which are only gradual in the process of being settled, but we expect them to be totally settled within a further few months.

The question that Head 19 stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 20 was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: There is a very important Customs Course going on Sir, at the Dover Convention Centre and this money is required to supplement the Vote to pay the cost of the Course.

Barbados has benefitted greatly from this whole series of courses. We benefitted by attendance at other people's Courses. We offered Barbados as a location, partly as we feel that after years of being helped that it was time for us to give a little help and partly because when Courses such as these are done in Barbados, it is possible to have a much greater number of Customs Officers participating and receiving training than it would be, if you had to pay for sending them overseas. Even if you want to pay to send them overseas, you are not able to get fully eight nominations which we have got for this particular Course. There are eight of our Customs Officers receiving instruction and assistance Sir and I think that this money will be very well spent and to complete the course which is a month's Course being held at Dover Convention Centre.

I beg to move Sir, that Head 20 stand part.

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

The question that Head 20 stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 39 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Head 39 was called – Ministry of Education and Culture, Sub-head Six, Secondary Schools.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this matter arises out of the fact that the long Lease on which Lodge School was held by its Governing Body, expired on 30th September last year. The freehold of the Lodge School, indeed the building, belongs to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel which was set up under the Will of Sir Christopher Codrington, 300 odd years ago when he left his College and Society Estate in Barbados for the benefit of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in foreign parts.

A part of the Codrington Trust, as should be known to all Lawyers who followed the fate of the cases through the Law Courts of Barbados, was the promotion of education and to this end, Lodge School was leased to a Body. This Body subsequently was incorporated by Statute in the 1890's and has operated the Lodge School for many years Sir, as one of the most important of the Govern-

ment Secondary Schools. The falling in of the Lease of Lodge School is obviously a matter of very great importance. It is possible that Lodge School may be the greatest single asset which the Trust has. But, be that as it may, a number of important consequences have arisen through the application of the Trust to the Government for a substantial rent for the school. In ordinary terms Sir, the rent for Lodge School related to its cost, might be very much greater than \$2,000.00 per month. If one considers that you are paying something like \$6,000.00 a month for the rent of Mr. DaCosta Edwards' property in Belmont Road, for the use of the Polytechnic, while the new Polytechnic is being built, one could imagine how financial the figure of \$2,000.00 would be for the Lodge School and we will recognise that this is not an economic rent.

But, negotiations have been opened with Codrington's Trustees who are, at present, still based in London for a comprehensive reorganisation of the Society's position in Barbados. In this day and age Sir, there is something anonymous about a group of Religious Trustees far away in London, operating two plantations, two schools, a couple of hundred tenantry spots, and some very good beach land in a very beautiful and attractive part of the Island of Barbados.

7.30 p.m.

There is only one thing wrong with St. John and I will not now say what that is, and the Government has therefore taken the initiative to do what is called repatriate the Codrington Trust. This means to localise it. I have held talks, Sir, a Cabinet sub-committee has been set up consisting of the Minister of Education, the Minister of Information who is responsible for Ecclesiastical Affairs and myself, and this Sub-Committee has already held talks with the Archbishop of the West Indies and the Bishop of Barbados and the representative of the Codrington Trustees with a view to setting up a body in Barbados to which the Codrington assets can be transferred and administered locally in the future. This body will be given such powers by statute as will allow it to carry out the objectives of the trust without frequent expensive and time-consuming applications to the courts on every occasion that some development is sought.

The Church is being offered complete autonomy in the matter subject to the appointment of minority Government representation on the Trust. Whether we will continue to have the hon. member for St. John on it in a way might depend on the hon. member, but we are fully prepared to follow the old traditions in respect of the use of the land. We are going to be bringing an Act of

Parliament to allow Codrington College to be turned into a hotel as was the subject of a famous law suit. That is not the sort of thing. We are bringing the Codrington Trust home. As it is the money can only be spent in Barbados; it cannot be taken out of Barbados even now. We are bringing it home. The Anglican Church in the West Indies will administer the Trust under a statutory scheme of management if the negotiations are successful, and I have every reason to believe that they will be successful.

I believe that the Church's conception of the matter is that it should continue to provide religious education and with the fund it hopes to secure from the sale of Lodge School to the Government it will be able to expand the scope of education now given, and that the whole Church in the West Indies not only the Archbishop and the Bishop of Barbados, but other Bishops will be involved in the administration of the Trust. The matter is still under negotiation but it is not at such a confidential stage that I think the House is not entitled to the information which I have given it.

In the interim the Government has made an offer to purchase from the Trustees, we will do it through the Land Acquisition Act, all the tenantry lands such as Sargeant Street, Cottage tenancies and so on. I believe it is going to be about 200 spots and we will add those lands to the Government's tenancies lands which it intends to convey to the tenants in the Tenancies Bill very shortly to come before the House. Notice has already been given; it was given on Tuesday. So in addition to the ADC lands and the Government's lands we have made an offer to purchase the Codrington estate tenancies in St. John for conveyance to the tenants by Government at the earliest possible opportunity, and although they are in St. John we will be trying to develop the tenancies to improve their facilities, improve the roads and improve the water supplies. I think they are all now supplied with electricity. There are also other negotiations about the properties which might be bought by the Government in advance of any generalised settlement of the entire Codrington scheme. So this payment is the thin edge of the wedge, this is the top of the iceberg and so on. In due course we will be coming to the House we expect with a scheme for the localisation of the entire Codrington Trust with a specific provision that the freehold in the Lodge School will be conveyed to the Government in return for a sum of money which will then be put into the Trust along with existing sums of money — there is another statutory Trust which may be associated with the scheme — to give the new Trustees a start to expand religious education, and this will not be religious education for Anglicans only; this will be religious education

for all persons, not only Ministers and not only Anglicans, to expand religious education in Barbados, to make it indeed the centre of religious education in the English speaking Caribbean.

We are very much hoping that negotiations can be completed this year and that before the end of the year we will be in Parliament with the appropriate Bill. I have taken a little time to explain it, but it is a major matter and I think that in the circumstances hon. members will appreciate why we are paying such a small amount. This is only an interim rent to keep the wheels turning so to speak while we negotiate the major settlement, and any short-fall that the Trustees are receiving in the rent at the moment will be taken account of when we settle the price for the Lodge School when we have to buy it.

I beg to move that Head 39 stand part.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to second that. I shall not be long, but I wish to associate myself with this Head and the object of this bold step by the Government to purchase the property on which the Lodge School is now erected. I think that in welcoming this very bold step by the Government one should raise a few disturbing matters about the Lodge School.

Mr. Chairman, I crave your indulgence to make mention of a particular matter. I wish to deal with this particular matter but at this point in time I do feel that it would be best advised to have it dealt with on another occasion. But I must say I associate myself with the Resolution and I wish Lodge School well in the future.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I do not think this is the time or place to enter into a general debate on Lodge School, but if the Minister of Education were here I know that he would say that he is not satisfied with the scheme of Government of Lodge School and very shortly intends to change it, to sweep away the old Governing

Body and to introduce a new scheme. He said so already and I can assure the House not only that he has put his money where his mouth lies, but that his mouth and money will be lying in here very shortly when some amendments to the Education Act are introduced and the Education Act itself is brought into force providing new schemes of Government throughout the whole Educational system in the Island. I hope any infelicities which have occurred in the management of the Lodge School and I obviously do not mean financial infelicities will be settled at that time.

The question that Head 39 stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On motion of Hon. L. S. CRAIG seconded by Mr. SISNETT, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.
7.40 p.m.

On the separate motions of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Mr. SISNETT, the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, this brings us to the end of Government Business for the day. I would like to thank the staff of Parliament once again, and I beg to move that this House do now stand adjourned until Tuesday, 5th August, 1980 at 10.00 a.m.

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

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