
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1976 - 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 10th June, 1980.

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

PRESENT

His Honour W.C.B. HINDS, J.P., (Speaker); Mr. R. ST. C. WEEKES, J.P.; Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B., (Minister of Communications and Works); Mr. J. G. ODLE, B.Sc., (Chairman of Committees); Mr. M. C. C. WARD; Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN, Q.C., LL.B., (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry) (Leader of the House); Mr. V. L. JOHNSON, M.A.; Hon. L. R. TULL, M.A., (Minister of Education and Culture); Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, M.Sc. (Econ.) and His Honour E. E. ALLEYNE, LL.M., (Deputy Speaker).

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, 27th day of May, 1980.

Mr. SANDIFORD and Dr. HAYNES entered the Chamber and took their seats.

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

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

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the following Message, No. 5/1980 advising of the

appointment of Mr. L. L. Sisnett, M.P., as a Temporary Minister for the period 31st May to 22nd June, 1980.

PAPERS

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 4) Order, 1980.

I also beg to lay The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1980.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 4) Order, 1980.

I beg to give notice on behalf of the Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment, of the following:-

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Church Street, St. Michael for the provision of offices for the Central Bank of Barbados.

Resolution to approve the vesting of land at Indian Ground, St. Michael, in Plantations Trading Company Ltd. in exchange for an equivalent area of land at Passage Road, St. Michael.

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Mango Lane, St. Peter, for the extension of the Alexandra School and for road improvement.

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Country Road, St. Michael, for construction of a Family Court and other facilities for the Probation Office.

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Church Village, St. Michael, for the Church Village Re-development Project.

I also beg to lay the following:-

Resolution to approve the use of the sum of U. S. \$10 million to be borrowed from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for the purposes of industrial development, export promotion and vocational and management training.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Evidence Act.

Mr. TAITT entered and took his seat.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Michael South West his question respecting the Agreement signed between the Barbados Government and General Crude Oil Company.
12.30 p.m.

Mr. TAITT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

1. Is the Minister aware of an Agreement signed between the Barbados Government and General Crude Oil Company Limited for exploration of the marine areas of Barbados?
2. If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Minister give details of progress of such exploration to date?
3. Will the Minister state whether Government has invoked any of the penalty clauses of that agreement, and the total sum paid, if any, by General Crude Oil Company Limited to date?

Mr. SPEAKER: The same Hon. Member, his question with respect to the Psychiatric Hospital.

Mr. TAITT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

To ask of the Hon. Minister of Health and National Insurance:

1. Will the Minister make a statement with respect to the recent incident at the Psychiatric Hospital, in which Nurses and other personnel walked off their jobs?
2. Will the Minister give this Honourable House details of the steps taken by Government to ensure appropriate nursing and other care of patients at this Hospital in the future?

Mr. SPEAKER: The same Hon. Member, his question in respect of assistance rendered to the Commonwealth of Dominica.

Mr. TAITT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Will the Minister give details of assistance rendered to the Commonwealth of Dominica by the Barbados Government, consequent upon the destruction wrought on that country by Hurricane David?

Will the Minister give details of any building supplies sent from Barbados by Government as part of that assistance?

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Evidence Act be now read a first time.

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

OBITUARY SPEECHES

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, since we met on the last occasion, the hon. member for St. Michael West suffered a bereavement in the loss of his father and as is customary Sir, we, on this side of the Hon. House, would like to extend to the Hon. Member and his family our deepest condolence at his loss.

The Hon. Member's father, I understood, reached a very advanced age and although I did not have the pleasure of knowing him in his lifetime, I know that he must have been a man of great character and foresight, for he lived to see some of the fruits of his labour, namely, the Hon. Member reach a very high position of prominence in Barbados.

On behalf of the Government Sir, I beg to move that the usual Resolution of sympathy be sent to the Hon. Member and his family.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the Hon. Chamber also wish to associate ourselves with the words of sympathy by the Hon. Leader of this Hon. House on the passing of the father of the Hon. Member for St. Michael West. Like him, I was not personally acquainted with the Hon. Member's father, but in a sense, there was an acquaintance but, indirect.

The Hon. Member and myself were school comrades at a school in the North and we have known each other for a long time. I have always had a great admiration for him and have come in later years also, to see other sides of his personality and other aspects of his character and I am

watching him, as he makes a significant contribution towards public affairs in this country. I think it is a tribute to that paternal care which his father would have extended to him that is responsible in large measure for what we, as a country, are benefitting from today. We know that it must be a time of sorrow for him, and we wish, in our small way, to join with him and his sorrowing relatives in this time of their loss.

Mr. SPEAKER: I want to be associated with the remarks of condolence tended by both sides of the Hon. House.

I have known the father of the Hon. Member for many years and I merely want to say that he was a very strict disciplinarian, but, above all, he was a very talented craftsman and one who possessed the pride of his art.

I hardly think it necessary for me to say more and I would like to ask all Hon. Members to stand with me in silence, for one minute, in respect of the passing of the Hon. Member's father.

(Hon. Members stood in silence for one minute.)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Mr. SPEAKER: Item No. 5 is the instant Order of the Day.

Item No. 5 was called — To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Coleridge Street, James Street and Synagogue Lane in the parish of Saint Michael for the purpose of providing a new Supreme Court and Registration Department.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the object of this Resolution is to marshal a number of parcels of land, eight in all, under one unit of owners, namely, the Crown, so as to carry into effect an improvement in the physical conditions of the Registration Office and the Supreme Court. In fact, there will be a new Supreme Court building, together with the Registry.

The site that is being acquired is familiar to all Hon. Members. It is the site of James Street, Coleridge Street, together with an alley way which I believe is known as Synagogue Lane. Hon. Members will know that this site is situated in an area where the former Jewish residence of Barbados at one time at a Synagogue. During the course of the assembly and identification of this land, special attention was paid to desire my members of that faith that every effort should be made in the planning of these new premises to retain the burying ground which was used, and I believe, occasionally, is still used.

12.40 p.m.

The architects and planners have had several meetings with the trustees or the representatives of the trustees of this cemetery together with the owner of the building, and I am reliably informed that the plan has proceeded upon the basis of preservation and beautification of that area.

The object of the scheme will be to improve and enhance the traffic conditions and access to this area. I am sure that hon. members are fully aware of the congested conditions in the existing Supreme Court and Registry. The Supreme Court building is a very old building and the Registry which was erected in the 1950s cannot possibly be expanded without seriously interfering with and encroaching on the compound which is used by the Barbados Police. My understanding of the future use of the Registry and the Supreme Court is that it is recognised that there is need for an expansion of the central police headquarters, and that the intention is upon completion of the Supreme Court and the new Registration Office that the existing Supreme Court and Registry will form part of Central headquarters and will be repaired and used for that purpose.

We also would like to point out that a tremendous amount of pre-planning has to be done. All the soil tests have been completed and I am sure that as soon as the model is fully completed and finalised that hon. members would be able to have a viewing of the model, and will be able to see that the building being erected is a building which should last for a very long period of time.

I myself have a few observations to make and I have already made them to the requisite authorities, and I hope hon. members share similar views that I have, and I think that we seriously in Government, whatever Government is in power, must immediately make much more use of modern methods of records storing and preservation. I do not believe that enough use has been made in the public service in this country of microfilming or microfiche or other electronic methods of having copies and preserving the same. I believe that a considerable amount of physical space could be saved if we abandon our antiquated methods of keeping records in Barbados. A task force has been appointed headed by the head of the Civil Service to investigate fully the modern equipment that is available. A number of visits have been paid to California and other countries and to other parts of the United States who make extensive use of Kodak or Xerox or Eastman equipment for microfilming and microfiche. I hope that in the very near future the Committee which is headed by the head of the Civil Service together with a representative from the Archives Department and other members will be able to produce a report recommending the particular type of equipment which is most suitable to our conditions, and a start can be made

with the tremendous amount of backlog that we have in this area.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I would like to start where the Hon. Leader of the House left off on the question of mimeographing of the records. I have been reliably informed that stamps have been removed from documents which had been left in the Registry and transferred on to new documents. Now that is a very sad state of affairs because it means that Government has been deprived of revenue. Some of the stamps are in the region of \$100 and \$500 and matters of that kind. For those who are unfamiliar with the Registration Office in Barbados, the least qualified people are the people who have access to the Records Department, that is the articled clerks. Articling clerks in Barbados is a form of cheap labour, almost of slave labour. The articled clerks go into a cell, literally a cell which is a narrow confine – that is what I mean by a cell – and they take down books and they have access to all kinds of records with expensive stamps on them, and I understand that the latest practice, mal practice in Barbados is the removal of those stamps from ancient documents and the substitution of these stamps on to new documents. I have not heard of anyone being prosecuted. For a long time you have had this system of laboriously copying out documents by hand, and there have been people who have worked for as long as 30 years in the Registration Office as temporary clerks doing nothing else but copying and have never been taken on to the establishment of the Public Service of this Island. This is as ridiculous as the practice that we have in the Supreme Court and in other courts in this Island of having magistrates and judges laboriously taking down evidence in long hand, and I can say this with impugnt and without any fear of contradiction that it has been known in the 20th Century – and I do not want to specify any particular period of time, but any time from 1901 to 1979 – it has been known that the people who have taken those notes have themselves been unable to read their own notes when they come to give judgment.

Any legal practitioner who has been exposed to some of the judgements that we have suffered from in the Courts will be able to tell you that, and sometimes it would be difficult to reconcile what you hear emanating from the people who sit on the bench with the evidence which you heard being given in court at the time when it was given. Now as an ex-legal practitioner himself, I should like to enjoin the Hon. Leader of the House not only to implement the system of mimeographing records so that articled clerks do not

have access to these documents any more; articled clerks, I would say, or any unauthorised person or anybody else except in extraordinary circumstances where it should be done under strict supervision, but also that the judges of the Supreme Court and the magistrates can be provided with, these are terms of art I may be using, palantypists or stenotypists. There are lots of people who are partially incapacitated in this country, there are people who are blind who could make good palantypists as they do in the United Kingdom; they employ the services of blind people who could be trained for this. There are people who are in full possession of all their faculties who have been trained by the Government of Barbados and given machines to take home and who have not used those machines from the time they were trained until this day, and that was over ten years ago. We have had the Reportorial Staff of Parliament trained to use stenotyping machines and they are not being used, and we have stenotyping machines lying down all over the place in Barbados.
12.50 p.m.

Yet we have Judges asking Counsel to repeat what they have said which very few Counsel can do because when Counsel have finished making a Statement sometimes they do not remember what they have said, sometimes 90 seconds ago and when challenged to repeat what they have said, sometimes they are at a lost. That happens to the best of us farless from the worst of us so if we have a system.....

Mr. SPEAKER: This is about land acquisition?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The hon. member was dealing with the records of the Registry. I will return to the subject then, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I appreciate what the hon. member is saying.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: What I am saying is that we do not have to wait for a building under this land acquisition in order to improve the systems in the Registry. Those systems ought to be improved now and I was taking the opportunity as we did not get much of an opportunity during the debate of the Estimates to discuss anything, not through any fault of yours because you are not in Committee of Supply, Your Honour, but we did not have much of an opportunity because we ran out of time to discuss these matters in any kind of detail and I am taking the opportunity now to say that we do not have to wait for the acquisition of this land and for the erection of modern buildings and that kind of thing to improve systems within the Registration Office and within the Law Courts themselves.

I will now turn to another aspect of the acquisition and that is the question of the Jewish Cemetery. Now, a

member of the Legal Profession who was at one time Queen Solicitor, Mr. E. Maxwell Chilston, wrote a Historical Book on the Jewish Inscriptions in Barbados, inscriptions of Jewish tombs in Barbados, which is regarded as a classic of this kind in the whole work of Jury, and in the bibliography generally, and the history of Barbados and the importance of that particular Cemetery is highlighted in the Book of the late Mr. Maxwell B. M. Chilston, a former member of the Firm of Cottle Catford and Company and it was certainly a very scholarly book.

I hope that when the builders get to work constructing the buildings there that they will bear it in mind and not forget what the Hon. Leader of the House has said here today, the anxiety of all of those who are concerned about the historical survivals in Barbados to preserve that particular aspect of Barbados History. I can only say that it is a great pity that the Arc of the Covenant was removed from the building which was purchased by Mr. Hutchinson and which is going to be the object of the baker's hammer when the new construction takes place.

The building itself does not have any significant architectural merit but I spent long hours trying to persuade the community to take hold of the building and recondition it because many people coming to Barbados as they do in Williamstad in Curacao often pay a visit to Synagogue Lane in order to see the old Jewish Synagogue and the Jewish Burial Ground. It would be an act of not so much derogation but surely vandalism if any part of the grave yard, which is still from time to time being utilised for the burial of members of the Jewish faith, was obliterated and that part of our history wiped out.

There is another Jewish Cemetery immediately behind the building now occupied by the Barbados National Bank between Swan Street and James Street. I hope that at the sametime some effort would be made to preserve that particular burial ground because the whole of one side of James Street appears to be the subject of renewal and reconstruction, that they take the opportunity to look at the total environment around there so that people who come to see one part of the Cemetery will be able to visit the other part of it which will already be under the ownership of the Government of Barbados.

We on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, are willing to support this Resolution because we recognise the difficulties under which those who had to administer justice in Barbados have been labouring for a very long time. I hope that when the expansion takes place of the Police Department over to the Town Hall that the Town Hall itself which is a historic building is not so radically altered. It used to contain Parliament. It used to contain the High Court of Justice and it used to contain the Prison as well. I do not know if that is worth preserving

but I never like the talk of people being brought up on that junction into the Court of Grand Sessions.

It seems to be slightly reminiscent of medieval times and I remember on one occasion having to leave the Court of Appeal upstairs to go downstairs at the behest of the Judge of the Court of Appeal to look for a document and being confronted with thousands and thousands of Writs for Summons served floating about from the shelves down there in a foot and a half of water and it must have been ordained that I was to win my case because as I waded through the door the first bundle of documents that presented itself to me was one seven years old which had the inscription of the Plaintiff and the Defendant in the Appeal Case on it, out of thousands and thousands of documents.

The question of drainage is something which has to be looked into and I hope that in future people who are awaiting trial will be kept in more congenial conditions until they have to go further up the hill if they are found guilty of an offence where the atmosphere up there is very congenialised but certainly better. They should not be enduring conditions which are worse than which they have to endure after they have been found guilty of an offence so I hope that the architects will not have in mind that you have to treat people who are awaiting trial as if they are going on to the Bastille or some other heretic kind of treatment is to be meted out to them.

We have great pleasure, Mr. Speaker, in supporting this Resolution. I do not know why the Government had to resort to compulsory acquisition because as far as I know most of the land owners and property owners in the district have been trying to get Government to purchase these properties for a very long time, certainly Johnson Stables. The people in James Street I am not so sure about but certainly the people in Coleridge Street have made several attempts to persuade the Government that this boundary should be taken in.

The Waterworks already belong to the Government. The Telephone Company Yard and the building which the Hon. Leader of the House formerly had his office in, that is all property of the Government now and there are very few buildings now which are absolutely necessary for compulsory acquisition. One only resorts to compulsory acquisition when negotiations break down and I only hope that the Government will not have to pay prices in excess of what the willing vendors were willing to part with the property for sometime ago.

Mr. ODLE: Mr. Speaker, I want to lend my support to this Resolution. I am sure everybody is agreed on the purpose for which the motion seeks to accomplish. I am also thankful to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition for the information which he has vouchsafed to us.

1.00 p.m.

On the question of acquisition of land, the Government has been acquiring land over the past three or four years, substantial amounts, but I am not happy that they are doing well enough in St. George North and I really want to ask the Honourable Minister to speed up the process of acquiring land in my constituency, where people can get house spots, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: I believe that you are moved, or touched by the latitude that the Hon. Leader of the Hon. House and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition have been giving but, they were careful I think, to confine themselves to James Street and the surrounding areas. Too far East is really West this time.

Mr. ODLE: Thank you for your remarks, Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate what you have said and I will close by just hoping that the same consideration that is given to James Street, Bridgetown and the immediate areas of this City of ours, be given to my constituency.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, enough has been said with which I agree, as not require me to add too much to this Resolution which I propose to support.

I think it is very important that finally in Barbados, it appears as if the administration of justice is going to be seen as an equal priority in the development of the ordinary masses of the country by way of providing the facilities necessary to administer that justice swiftly. In that regard, Mr. Speaker, I hope that accommodation is being made, or that the Government will give consideration to accommodation so that judges of the Supreme Court would be given a full-time legally trained clerk who will be able to do a lot of the work which apparently, is not done, except by the judges themselves and which, as I understand it, adds to the long and sometimes interminable delays in getting decisions, on sometimes, quite simplex and uncomplicated matters.

It seems to me that a country like Barbados, which has not yet got around to giving its judges and to some extent, magistrates, the kind of assistance that would allow them to deal with the merits of a case matter, that research of the case, that research which the adjudicators have to do, or have to be familiar with, apart from that which may have been put before them by the various contenders appearing before them — I feel that it is a little strange to see a senior judge in Barbados butting around the library trying to see if he can find a case here, or a case there, in order to help him to come to a decision, when he should have been able, especially, bearing in mind the apprenticeship system which is now required in the training of legal practitioners — it seems to me that certainly, in Barbados, there is enough material available that some type of clerk system could operate.

When we look at the Magistrates' Courts, for example, we find that there are a number of persons who work with the magistrates, who themselves cannot be called the most prolific learners in the world and who themselves, are unable to assist the Magistrates until they have been at the job for some considerable time. It seems to me that the whole area of providing secretarial and other assistance which has been touched on by the Hon. Leader of the House and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, needs to be seen in the context of the kind of building, the kind of accommodation which we provide and in that regard, Mr. Speaker — I have not seen the model, I understand that there is a model around somewhere — but I hope that the architect would have given consideration to the technique which is used across the world, where the vaults for the preservation of documents forms the basement of any structure which is put up.

When one looks at the expensive land which we have in the City of Bridgetown, if one takes this hon. structure within which we function, one would realise that the land on which this structure stands could have perhaps accommodated an entire area for the preservation of documents.

Mr. Speaker, earlier in my life, I had the honour of working in the United Nations Secretariat and below that 42 storied building, I believe it is 42, there are some three or four layers of basement floor. An entire floor forms the garage, that is the first basement, the second basement forms another garage, below that, there is an entire printing department, complete from offset, indeed Mr. Speaker, as you well know, any kind of printing you can think of, any kind of reproduction is done in that building and then, below that, that there is a building which is used entirely by the Security Forces and then, below that you have the works that help to keep the building functional, that is, heating, air-conditioning units and that sort of thing. The point I am making, Mr. Speaker, is that on that spot of land in Manhattan, they have managed to increase the availability of space by the quality of the construction, or type of construction which they have used. I am not here suggesting that basements should become the norm in Barbados, but it seems to me that a building, or a property such as this, where the quality of record keeping is going to be so vital and of such vital importance where, presumably, we will be using computerised techniques and computers, where the atmosphere would be required to remain at one point and as long as possible; it would seem to me that a glorious opportunity presents itself for us to go downwards, and thus allow more space to be available, without necessarily having buildings in Barbados that will spoil the skyline. I hope Mr. Speaker, that the architects would have given some kind of consideration to that.

My colleague, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition has already spoken about stenographic capability, but again, Mr. Speaker, one would hope that the architecture would allow for the sound system to be built in and not be something added and therefore, something to which the people who have to participate within the room are at the mercy of whatever technique is being used at that time. It is amazing, Mr. Speaker, how many buildings there are in Barbados which makes it almost impossible for a person only 50 yards away to hear what another person is saying, even though he is supposed to be saying it publicly.

I have not been to the Courts often, Mr. Speaker, but I once went to hear a case, not so very long ago and sitting in what was supposed to be the visitors' gallery, it was impossible to hear what was going on between the judge and the lawyers participating in the case. It was virtually impossible and unless the lawyer raised his voice, or unless the Judge on the Bench raised his voice, one could see the people acting out what appeared to be a pantomime. Now, Mr. Speaker, I believe that in the last quarter of the 20th Century, that no one should be afraid to use modern techniques of communication.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you dealing with land acquisition?

Mr. TAITT: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am dealing with the type of structure and the architecture but, I am coming to the end now, Mr. Speaker, and I just wish to draw attention to what appears to be an anomaly to me. I see that the Hon. Leader is not in his Chair.

1.10 p.m.

There appears to be an anomaly to me in the Schedules. When we look at the Fifth Schedule, all of the measurements are in square meters, but in the Fifth Schedule they have "inclusive of 834 square feet in a private roadway". There must be some technical reason why that is included there, and I am sure that we will hear the reason why, but I formed the impression from previous Bills that had come down that they would be meticulous when we were acquiring property using the metric system to ensure that all the measurements are absolutely correct, so that we do not have to go through the process we have had to go through in the past of coming back to the House to correct a full stop or a comma. I have no doubt that the 834 square feet has a reason. I draw this to his attention as I indicate once again my willingness to support this measure.

Mr. SPEAKER: Which Schedule is the hon. member referring to?

Mr. TAITT: The Fifth Schedule. If you look in the fourth line, Mr. Speaker, having said "by admeasurement

888.71 square meters or thereabouts" it then says "inclusive of 834 square feet in a private roadway". For what it is worth, thank you very much.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, just a very brief contribution on this matter, because I have had no experience of the Courts other than as a plaintiff on one occasion and on many occasions as a witness. I would like to draw attention to three components which I think should be considered in any land acquisition for the purposes of building new courts in Barbados.

The first one referred to but not fully I think expanded on by the hon. member for St. John, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition was the appalling state in which prisoners are kept, virtually underground, and I have had occasion in a professional capacity to visit prisoners in that situation, and I am sure it would be impossible for anyone who has spent hours in that situation to be in a mental and emotional state to properly defend himself or give evidence in a proper manner when he is brought up from down there, and this may go on from day to day. So I would like to speak for the prisoner community and hope that adequate facilities will be made available for them consequential on this land acquisition and consequential on the provision of new premises.

I would also like to speak on behalf of the general public who are required from time to time to attend the courts and there are hardly any facilities available to them, and it causes considerable inconveniences when they are called upon to give evidence.

I would also like to draw to the attention of the hon. member for Christ Church South that perhaps the acquisition of this land could be substantially paid for if certain modern techniques in relation to giving of evidence were applied in respect of professionals because of the fantastic saving to the Government which some five years ago I estimated at some \$300,000 per year. At that time I submitted a detailed study after looking at practices in the United Kingdom and not very far away in Jamaica where medical professionals in certain circumstances are allowed to supply their evidence on a prescribed form and only with the discretion of the presiding officer particularly in the lower court would it be necessary for the doctor to appear in court. I have been a casualty officer in the United Kingdom for a period of six months and I have never had to appear in court. A casualty officer here in Barbados who works at Mr. Speaker, I am trying to point out how money could be saved in order to service this acquisition of land.

Mr. SPEAKER: But the Chair wants to point out how time must be saved in this particular.

Dr. HAYNES: In this particular, I am suggesting that the Government should look at the question of the savings to be derived by simple amendments to the Laws of Evidence which have been submitted to the Attorney

General's office some time ago, and I think that over a five year period that it would save about \$2 million if this was done, if you were to cross out the amount of doctors' time spent hanging around the courts in Barbados.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, for the better part of two decades, there have been constant complaints about the conditions obtaining in the courts of Barbados, both the Supreme Court and the Magistrates Courts, and indeed of the Registration Office in Bridgetown. We on this side feel that the time is ripe that some attention should be given to those complaints. We have on our side a number of lawyers who are familiar with those conditions, and it was because of this, because of the constant complaints, that we decided to take action on it. I am glad that the hon. members on the other side have seen the wisdom of the move that is being taken at this stage. I need not go into all the tales of woe and the inconvenience in the Registration Office and the courts and so on. All I would point out at this stage is that the proposed new Supreme Court building will provide comfortable and commodious law courts and facilities for members of the profession, conveniences for the general public so that the point adhered to by the last member who sat down in respect of the difficulties witnesses and litigants find of standing in the rain and the sun in the yard of the courts waiting for the case to be called will be brought to an end with the establishment of this new Supreme Court complex.

There are two points however, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to address myself to very briefly. One relates to the point raised by the hon. member for St. Michael South West in respect of trained clerks. The point is well taken but it was taken by us on this side three years ago because we realised there was a shortage of skilled para-legals in Barbados, skilled clerks who could carry out all the minor and ancillary legal work to relieve the Attorneys-at-Law from the burden under which so many of them suffer because of massive detail which they have to attend to, and it was for this reason that we decided to set up a course for para-legals at the Barbados Community College to train those people who would not only be of service to the courts but to Government Departments and indeed in the Chambers of many lawyers in Bridgetown; and so we have addressed ourselves to that problem. So I must assure the hon. member that he is a little bit late, but we are thinking alike. Now what troubles me even more is the question raised by.....

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would give way on a point of elucidation.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope the hon. member would learn that when he rises to elucidate, the hon. member must give way, but the Chair might never call you. I call you on this occasion.

Mr. TAITT: All I said is that I hope.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I call you on this occasion, so speak.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, along with the para-legals that I spoke about, the gravamen of the point I was making was that the Chief Justice and the judges ought as well to have a law clerk, that is to say, a barrister functioning as a law clerk that will assist them. This is the point I was making along with the para-legals which the hon. member seemed to have missed.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I do not believe I have missed the point. Already the Chief Justice and the Judges of the Supreme Court have law clerks, but they are not trained and the whole purpose of having Para-Legal Courses is to have those Clerks trained and a number of Clerks of the Supreme Court are already lined up for the Course that we are talking about.

1.20 p.m.

The hon. member recommended that they be Barristers-at-Law. I do not necessarily agree with that but that is his point of view. What troubles me even more, Sir, is the point made by the Rt. Hon. member for St. John. He has made a charge that is at the bottom a wild swipe at honourable young men and women. At best his expression is a suspicion or rumour but I am sure that the Rt. Hon. member would know that if it is within his knowledge that Articled Clerks are going into the Registry and removing stamps from Documents, Deeds and so on in the Supreme Court Registry, and putting them on other documents, that that is a matter that should be brought to the attention, not through a statement thrown out in a debate in Parliament, but that it should be brought in the proper way, through the proper channel, to the Attorney General's Chambers who is responsible for the Registration Office or to the Police but to make a statement of that nature about the young men and women who work in the Registration Office day by day to me it is a little bit unkind and I am sure that the Rt. Hon. member would not mind providing such information as he has so.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of explanation.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no point of explanation.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: My name has been called, Sir, and I want to explain a point.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is nothing called a point of explanation.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I will call it elucidation, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: You may elucidate.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The point I want to elucidate is that reports have been made. It is not my

throwing out a remark and the hon. member well knows that these reports have been made to the proper authorities. I did not see any stamps being removed from anywhere because I do not go into that cell or any other cell.

Hon. L. R. TULL: It is a bit unfortunate that the Rt. Hon. member should get up and say I know because I do not know and it is not the type of statement he should throw loosely banded about. I do not know and if the hon. member wants to make an official complaint on it he should do so through the proper channels and I personally would have it investigated but I do not know anything about it.

In respect, Sir, to the whole question of the Registry with the sorting of Deeds, the Recording of Deeds, and the searching of Deeds, there is a system that has been in existence for the whole of this century and although we agree that the system needs some kind of change to meet the demands of the 80's, we can give hon. members the assurance that we have already set in motion the type of planning and procedures to revise the system that would minimise the difficulties that hon. members have been adhering to throughout this era. There is no question at all, Mr. Speaker, that the administration of Justice in this country should be and must be a matter that is beyond partisan dispute. We are committed and I believe all of us in this Chamber are committed to a proper administration of Justice in this country.

The workings of the Registration Office at the moment are some of the most desirable practices in the Law Courts that are occasioned by a shortage of skills and a shortage of facilities and a shortage of modern equipment. All of these are things for which we are pressing on and addressing ourselves to and it is all part of the overall strategy of this Government to make the Administration of Justice not only sound but that it appears sound to the people who have to come into contact with it.

This land for a Supreme Court complex is not something put down in isolation. Hon. members would know that only last year we brought the Chief Marshal's Office away from the Police Department under the Court so that better processing would be carried out in the country.

Hon. members would also know that we are seeking not only to remove the discomforts and inconveniences in the Supreme Court of Barbados but also in the Magistrate's Court and it is precisely for this reason that we intend to retire the old Magistrates' Court at Boarded Hall and build a new Magistrates' Court at the Valley in St. George. This is the reason, Mr. Speaker, why specific changes, alterations and renovations had been done to two or three other Magistrates' Courts in Barbados,

Courts which have not had anything done to them for 40, 50 or 60 years.

We are very much on this side, Mr. Speaker, aware of the difficulties mentioned by members of both sides and we will continue, not only to make the administration of Justice more acceptable at the highest level, that is at the Supreme Courts, but at every level throughout Barbados, right through the Judiciary, right to the Magistrate's level and indeed to the Police Force.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to second this Resolution.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The hon. member has effectively replied but there is just one point which was raised by the hon. member for St. Michael South West in relation to the reason why in the description of the specific area of land which has a private road, why it is not in square meters. The only explanation I can think of is that the land under a private road that other people have rights over that. In other words, this particular piece of land other people have the right of way over it and it may cause some confusion in searching of other people's land if we convert this into square meters at this present time, since we are not dealing with the acquisition of the right of way and we are not closing off the right of way. That is the only explanation. If we were including the right of way all would have been harmonised but the Lawyers are very jealous in the descriptions nowadays.

It is conceded that when you are buying an area of land you can put it in square meters because in the future people will be dealing with the whole thing but when you are dealing with rights which other people have over it, unless you are extinguishing those rights then you should leave it in accordance with the original description so that when they are searching back for 30 years they would be able to follow it. That is the only explanation of it, Sir.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE USE OF THE SUM OF U.S. \$1.5 MILLION FROM THE OPEC SPECIAL FUND FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE PROVISION OF LOCAL COST FUNDING FOR THE INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Order No. 4 was called – to move the passing of the Resolution to approve the use of the sum of U.S. \$1.5 million from the OPEC Special Fund for assistance in the provision of local cost funding for the Integrated Rural Development Programme.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this Resolution we are seeking Parliamentary approval for the borrowing of U.S. \$1.5 million from the OPEC Special Fund in order to take advantage of the quota under this Special Fund that has been allotted to Barbados.

Hon. members, I am sure, would appreciate that this is a very, very small sum and like me, would be disappointed in that this sum of money to us is far under for a country like Barbados who has suffered like others from the economic ravages of oil price increases which can be obtained from this much wanted fund by a select band of oil producers who trumpet abroad their generosity and they have no concern for the impact of oil prices on Third World Countries.

To put it in perspective, I think it would be useful to indicate to hon. members what impact the prices that have taken place so far this year alone as a result of OPEC countries increases in prices have had on the Balance of Payments in Barbados in respect of our oil import bill alone. It has nothing to do with the impact of other price rises in manufactured goods which use oil as a constituent. It has nothing to do with the impact on the cost of transportation both by air or by sea.

Well, Sir, in 1979 the total oil bill for local consumption was roughly \$49,146,000 Bds. In 1980 the original estimate of my Ministry assuming only a mid-year once for all price increase of 10%, that bill would come to \$71 million. In short, in foreign exchange alone to pay for the same volume of oil that we imported in 1979, we have to look for \$11 million US., more and our predictions were a little conservative because in January the price of oil was U.S. \$25.93 per barrel. Very soon after it went to \$26.17.

As hon. members are aware, only this month the Venezuelan Government has announced that they have added on a surcharge of U.S. \$2.50 per barrel on theirs. Of course, other countries in the World in relation to the grade of the oil have been tacking on \$3 surcharge and \$5 surcharge. In short, when an Organisation like OPEC says that \$1.5 million we can borrow, I want them to know that there is nothing in that, absolutely nothing in that.

1.30 p.m.

It is a puny sum of money in relation to the amount that they have passed on on us, but we have to pay it back. We are not beggars that is why we can talk as we are, we are not begging them for anything. We just want to point out to them that the impact of the price rises is very great on all Governments in the world, all Third World countries in the World and we cannot recover like the industrialised nation who can add it on to

the cost of manufactured, exported goods which they themselves buy, and add it on other activities which they like to indulge in, in the metropolitan capitals of the world that they go to. This is the kind of reality of the situation that we are dealing with. It is nothing to do also with the impact on the cost — increase in construction cost and things of that kind which filter through the economy. Eleven million U.S. Dollars this year alone in Barbados to buy the same volume of oil. Hon. Members will appreciate the kind of impact this has on other economies who import because of the nature of their activity — more oil than us. One can imagine what happens to a capitalist goods economy, a raw material economy, a primary economy like Jamaica and Guyana who have to import of necessity, or for bauxite mining, or things of that kind.

This money will be used specifically for the Integrated Rural Development Project, considerable progress of which has taken place. As hon. Members are aware, a special unit has been set up, the Inter-American Development Bank has approved the loans and the Administering Authority is a restructured BADC. Hon. Members will have noticed the whole stream of advertisements that have been appearing in the newspaper for the General Manager and the Unit Project Managers. The Integrated Rural Development Scheme will be part of the responsibility of the restructured BADC. The closing date for the advertisements has taken place. I think it was the end of May, I have not actually seen the response to the advertisements, but I hope that with the salaries that we have offered, they are slightly outside of the scale and obviously, they will benefit from the salary revision that will take place as well; we hope that we will attract the people that the Inter-American Development Bank, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Cabinet want to get because we really want to get the scheme off the ground. Everything is in place, we have the money for it, the Loan Agreement has been approved, it is just a question of getting the personnel.

We have also put the Spring Hall Scheme in that, with a separate project unit dealing with that, the Project Manager for that will be different, although, he will be responsible to the overall Manager of these projects. That is a CDB financed scheme and again, not only are the advertisements for the Unit Project Manager but also the advertisements for the tenants and surveyors. Luckily, I understand, we have found surveyors who have undertaken to do the sub-division in accordance with the approved Plan, within a reasonable degree of time. I understand that a lot of harsh negotiations took place because we had many people who were willing to do the surveys, but not many of them who were willing to commit themselves to a time span for the production of the documents. Well, of course, we could not allow an open-ended contract in relation to time. We did not want

to have a Bay Land situation which I understand has not even come to fruition yet. So that, this question of surveying is a very important one. Any way, I understand that that is well advanced, that they have found people who are willing to give a commitment as to completion date and they are working, so that these projects are well on their way.

All of the tenancies forming part of the Integrated Rural Development Scheme, that is, those plantation tenancies which have tenants on them who have a sufficient area of agricultural land farming now, or where the tenancy is situated with a sufficient area of contiguous agricultural land which can be grouped into convenient units, those are the ones which come under the Integrated Rural Development Scheme. That is, the tenancy for agriculture where the tenants, the new owners will be farming too, whether it is full-time, or part-time, but that must not be confused with the rest of the Plantation Tenancy Scheme which is the Scheme related to the acquisition by tenants who only have house spots and can work somewhere else, not really interested in land at all. So that, that scheme is not being financed by the Inter-American Development Bank, we have to finance that Scheme out of our own resources. Now Sir, that area is in the background.

1.40 p.m.

I want to say this, Sir: I have been at a number of fora lately in which the question of the impact of oil prices has been discussed. As a matter of fact, you cannot go to any meeting now of Third World Countries in which the whole of the meeting is not dominated by the question of the impact of the latest \$11 price rise. That is what has happened between December 1978 and now. It is \$US11 a barrel that has gone on on top of a bigger base price, and at the same time manufactured goods are rising. So that we welcome the efforts being made within the Latin American and Caribbean areas. Some countries are not members of OPEC, and hon. members would be familiar with the statements that have been made by the President of Venezuela and by the Minister of Caribbean Affairs in Trinidad in relation to Caribbean countries, and Venezuela relating to Latin American and Caribbean countries who are customers. In short outside of the OPEC situation two specific countries have said that in respect of their traditional customers a new type of loan facility — I am not talking about any grant — will be available. That loan facility will work in respect of the incremental cost of oil above the January 1979 base figure. In short they will finance the additional cost. You must pay your 1979 amount, but the 1980 and any increase that comes you will be able to borrow the increase in price. In short, theoretically the borrowing capacity of Barbados in relation to this fund would be the excess between 1979 and 1980, the total oil bill, which as I said, is \$11 million.

This is going to cause quite a bit of a quandary to some Governments because already in the discussions it is felt that the way how it is worded you are forced to borrow to buy oil. In short it is like not giving you money or lending you money to buy food perpetually. So far we have not seen the details of the scheme, but you cannot use it for buying other goods.

Now I think that these points have been put because remember all of us have to continue to press on with the question of conservation, and one of the things that people are worried about is that having set out the specifications of this loan in such a way, it does not encourage people to increase their consumption of oil, so that they would be able to borrow more money.

Now the details of the Trinidad scheme obviously are the most advanced because I understand that that is to reach their Parliament next week. The one in relation to Venezuela has only passed what is known as their economic cabinet, that is, it has come out of the executive branch, and it will be appreciated that the Latin American system of government is not quite the same system that we have operating in our area. It is more like the American system, and there is no guarantee yet that Congress will approve this decision of the executive branch, but we hope that these specific schemes will come to fruition at a very fast and quick rate, because there can be no doubt about it, this is a very very serious matter. All countries who have to import in the year 1980 must feel the impact of that \$US11 a barrel price rise.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I beg to second that.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Speaker, about six or eight months ago there was a similar Resolution in Parliament in connection with borrowing money from OPEC, and at that time the Prime Minister took charge of the Resolution and spoke very favourably of this, and then I heard the hon. member for St. Michael South on the other side also speak very favourably of borrowing money from OPEC. I had in mind saying a few things then, but quite honestly, Mr. Speaker, after hearing hon. members speak that way about it, I figured that perhaps I would have been out of line, but today once again this matter of borrowing money from OPEC has come up, and I do not feel that when a matter like this comes before Parliament it should give any of us any joy or satisfaction.

There is no organisation on the face of the earth that is so wholly bent on bringing economic chaos to the world as OPEC. They are not concerned in the

slightest way with the various countries that are on the brink of bankruptcy; they are not concerned in any way as to who they hurt; they cannot even spend the money they have, and yet they continue to sap the resources of small countries. It appears to me that when they started their chief target was the United States and Israel. The U.S.A. has sufficient natural resources other than oil to be able to ride out the storm but many small countries are going through very difficult times.

I remember, I think it was a Jamaican or at least it may have taken place in Jamaica, that some learned person in the Caribbean introduced what is now known as a new economic order. It is a very worthy proposition to put to the economic stresses that we have, but before that could even get a footing, the Arabs must have heard about it, they said you want a new economic order, well we will give you one, and the new economic order is quite contrary to all that they thought of in Jamaica. They were talking about if you sell bananas to me and I sell shirts to you, or I sell you televisions and you sell me rice, let us work it out where everybody would come out reasonably well, but the Arabs came along with a new one. They said we have got the oil and we will now give you the new economic order you want. As a result there are two countries in the Caribbean already who cannot blame the chaos in their country on oil, because the leaders of those two countries have brought their countries down to an all-time low.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the time has come when legislation should be introduced that leaders of countries who bring their countries down should be subject to imprisonment. I believe that leaders whom the country gives a mandate to lift their country up and they drag it down to the earth should get a prison term. No Barbadian minds this. That gentleman who just left, it does not apply to him, nor does it apply to any on this side. I know two countries in the Caribbean where this would very well apply; but be that as it may, added to that problem, OPEC has now introduced this most unfair system of trade.

Today, Mr. Speaker, in our Advocate there is a quarrel going on between OPEC members. The ones who charge more are saying to those who have a conscience about how much to charge that they have to bring their rate up to theirs. Can you believe an organisation would find fault with a country being sympathetic with poor countries and selling their oil at a lower price and would call on them to increase their rates? The irony of the situation, Mr. Speaker, is as you are aware that the globe is quite small at the present time.

1.50 p.m.

Once we used to think of the earth. Once you went to Australia you could go to the moon. Today people go around the World and they do business and they come back. What happens in Singapore affects what happens in the Caribbean. What happens in Alaska affects what happens in the Argentine, the World and its communications. It is a very small place as it were, Sir. Men are even going to the moon in all so that what a country does with a commodity such as oil affects us all.

Another thing, Mr. Speaker, is this. If the Americans or the British had introduced these terrible prices on a scare commodity as OPEC has done, the World would come tumbling down in a barrel. They would have said the Americans have used the CIA. They would abuse the Americans. They would abuse the British but none of them is prepared to get up and speak against the Arabs. None is prepared to speak against OPEC.

As far as I know, Venezuela and Nigeria are also members of OPEC but they are many other countries that are members of OPEC as well. OPEC is holding the World at ransom with that scare commodity called oil. As far as I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, I cannot speak on behalf of the Government, but I would not want any loan from OPEC. I would not want any loan from OPEC. That is for me. I know that the hon. member for St. Michael South praised it. The Prime Minister spoke at that time when he was in Barbados in very good terms but left to me I would not want any loan from OPEC because, Mr. Speaker, what is the biggest problem in Barbados at the present time — electricity rates. Where does the problem come from electricity? It comes from the increase in the price of oil. I would stand corrected but I understand that the oil bill that the Barbados Light and Power has is now \$1 million a week. This touches every household in Barbados. Every household in Barbados is affected by OPEC and their very unfair and inequitable charges for oil. For this particular reason I would not want any money from them.

There are two clowns among the University. Every little thing that takes place — they say they are Economists, they try to get their pictures on Television and in the paper, two clowns. Even in 1975 they decided to form a Political Party, the two clowns, and when the time came for them to put their names down they sent saying that they are at the University, they are not in it and those two clowns are now walking around the country stirring up turmoil but not going about and saying where the problem lies in Barbados at the present time.

Mr. Speaker, I will tell you something now. We are leaning very heavily on a fragile industry, Tourism. Do not believe that we have any stiff resources. Do not believe that we are in a position where our foreign reserves cannot vanish between a twinkling of an eye. I hear a lot,

of people boasting and they say it is quite true and when we hear the Chairman of the Board saying we have 60,000 more tourists this year than last year, statistics can be misleading. You can get 100,000 more visitors who spend \$25 million less. When you talk about numbers you want 400,000. Four hundred thousand might come from Europe with a sack on their back and looking for somewhere to pay \$5 a night so that if you are talking about statistics you had better tell the facts to the people.

Also, my idea about statistics would be to say how much revenue comes from Tourism, not numbers. I play the numbers but the point remains that numbers can be very misleading to the public. More tourists came this month than last year but how much did they spend? So therefore, Mr. Speaker, I am saying that I do not think the Opposition is acting so responsible when it comes to the issues that are facing this country. I think they are trying to get political mileage out of a very serious thing. (*Asides*). Certainly, all this talk about Electric Companies and electricity rates; you all would not tell the truth about the Electric Company. The Electric Company is sandwiched between needing capital for expansion and the price they have to pay for oil and the picture is not being put across to the people. The truth about the situation is, Mr. Speaker, that if any of them predict what electricity is needed in three year's time they would see the difficulty that Barbados can be in.

You see, Mr. Speaker, the Opposition is anxious to take over the Government but they might find themselves very sorry if they did for trying to undermine the situation where electricity and electricity rates are concerned because the Electric Company in this time need to expand. Mr. Speaker, where is the problem — all in OPEC. You can see every problem we have in Barbados going right back to OPEC.

The Economic Order which I talked about, if that had come into being would have been very effective. We would be able to get a good price for our sugar based on the wages we pay our sugar workers. Cuba up there pays nothing to sugar workers. We pay what is reasonable but it can be improved. But what happens? We cannot sell our sugar because Cuba would dump cheap sugar on the market all over the World so a good equitable arrangement and a new Economic Order is a very feasible and justifiable arrangement but the Arabs say, and I repeat it, that if you want a new Economic Order we will give you one and that is the chaos that exists at the present time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Does the hon. member want to address the Chair?

Dr. HAYNES: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will it be completed by 2.10 p.m.?

Dr. HAYNES: No, I do not think so. I do not think I would be able to do justice to the subject within the confines of ten minutes. I could start now for one minute and finish or break now and finish afterwards.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not see the point of starting now for one minute.

Dr. HAYNES: I would like to retain my right to speak on the subject.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, it is time to put the motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting now stands suspended until 2.45 p.m. today.
2.00 p.m.

RESUMPTION

On the resumption:

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

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

There is one item of Private Members' Business standing in the name of the Hon. Member for St. Michael South Central.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I am not yet ready to proceed with this Resolution. I crave the indulgence of the Hon. House to allow me to proceed at a later date.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Member for St. Michael South Central is seeking the leave of this Hon. House that consideration of this matter be deferred until a later date.

The question that the matter be deferred until a later date was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: This brings us to the end of Private Members' Business. Government Business is the instant Order of the Day.

When the suspension was taken, the Hon. Member for St. Michael South Central had intimated his intention to address the Chair. He may do so now.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, in the course of the introduction of this Resolution by the Hon. Leader of the Hon. House, several important points were made relating to problems of price rises in respect of oil by OPEC countries and various other matters were raised by the Hon. Member for Christ Church North Central and I hope, that in the course of my speech, I would be able to address myself to some of those specific points which have been raised.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in 1974, the economy of this country was buffeted by more than 400 per cent increase in oil prices. This, of course, had its consequential effects on prices and to cut a long story short, by effective management of the economy of Barbados, the macro data there to be examined by all will indicate, that not only were our Foreign Reserves and our Balance of Payments in a good situation by the end of 1975, but also, that the rate of inflation in this country had dropped to zero per cent at the end of the second quarter of 1976 and had levelled out a five per cent at the end of that year. The point has been made, that the achievement of this objective — I need not go into details of it now — was to some extent, at the sacrifice of the element of growth. That point has been taken and quite clearly, faced with an onslaught of this kind, then the sensible thing, of course, would be to study the position within the economic environment and set off on a new launching pad for growth in 1976 which was clearly staged when this administration was changed.

There is but little point, Mr. Speaker, in trying to blame all the ills of this society on the price rises, the rises in oil prices, as a result of the action by the OPEC countries. That is a fact of life. It is also a fact of life that oil represents one of the major resources of those territories and that those territories share the same experience of exploitations by the industrialised countries and by multi-national corporations which other colonial territories have shared. Whereas, one, of course, is concerned about the effects of these prices on developing countries such as Barbados, it is most essential that we do not find ourselves in an adversary situation in relation to the OPEC countries, when we recognise that those countries, even after increases in 1973 and 1974 that the prices of commodities which they have to import from the developing countries rocketed them to such an extent that a substantial proportion of the monies earned from the increase prices was further consumed by the excessive prices at which they had to buy their commodity goods.

There was also the other factor that because oil dealings are done in the U.S. Dollar, that there was a tremendous element of control as to where such money should be invested, which meant that those economies that were large enough to absorb the investment with that money, such as the United States, the United Kingdom

and Western Europe were, in fact, in a way beneficiaries of the oil increases. So, I think that I would be far less inclined to launch out on any attack on OPEC countries and be somewhat, if not totally sympathetic with their position.

Only recently, countries have had to take a very strong stand because of moves by the United States, in order to create large reserves of oil, in order to undermine the bargaining power of the OPEC countries and I do not think that the undermining of the bargaining power of the OPEC countries is necessarily in the long term, to the particular advantage of the developing world speaking generally.

Now, this specific Resolution — I believe it shows some consideration by the OPEC countries because although the loan is small, the terms are extremely good. There is a significant grace period up to April 1983 and the loan will bear an interest rate at four percent. I would suspect, Mr. Speaker, that when this was being negotiated, US dollars would have earned interest somewhere in the region of between 15% and 19% and this is a considerable concession rate which the OPEC countries would be making in respect of this loan to Barbados and we must be thankful for little mercies. But, indeed, Mr. Speaker, I share the concern of all Barbadian citizens, that without any evidence to show for the kind of borrowing that has taken place in Barbados over the past three years, that we find ourselves in a situation where the total national debt of this country has virtually doubled, and what is even worse, and more significant, is that the foreign component of that national debt has virtually been tripled during that period.

I am also concerned about attempts to relate the burden of that foreign component of that debt to exports, when one knows perfectly well that the dollar value of your exports, looking at the export pattern of Barbados, is not a satisfactory figure to relate the debt service of your foreign loans because although you might have a gross figure, it is a net figure which you have to think about in terms of relating any foreign loans that you have, or the service of those loans, and not purely to the question of the quantum of your exports.

3.00 p.m.

But, Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that this country should realise that this object of this loan is primarily a balance of payments loan. Barbados is heading for a serious crisis in its balance of payments, and the defensive measure already instituted by the Government I do not think would necessarily cope with the problems, because despite all the mouthings, despite all the talk about industrial expansion, of new industries, of promoting exports from Barbados to Caricom and non-Caricom areas, when you look at the hard statistical data, Mr.

Speaker, you will find that the gap between our visible trade has widened from some \$219 million in 1975 to \$546 million in 1979, and, Mr. Speaker, that gap has been closed largely by earnings from the tourist industry, and there are many people who have serious doubts about the earning capacity of the tourist industry this year and in the next two years. Whereas no one can forecast for sure certainly I would like to re-echo the views expressed by the hon. member for Christ Church North Central who has had some experience in this area, that you cannot expect the tourist industry to continue to earn foreign currency at a level to cover this ever widening and enormous gap.

Now, Mr. Speaker, figures do not always tell the right story. The balance of payments of this country show a significant decline in 1979 from the 1978 level, a drop of somewhere in the region of \$10 million when we experienced a slight surplus of some \$27 million, but what is not generally known is that in 1978 there was a major reduction in capital expenditure in Barbados moving from a figure of some \$83 million to \$71 million despite significant rises in inflation, and that is a major drop in capital expenditure, and it just about picked back up \$6 million ahead in 1979-80. This means that although you showed on paper some surplus in your balance of payments, this was at the price of a reduction in capital expenditure and also a reduction in the generation of job opportunities in Barbados.

Now Mr. Speaker, there is another very important matter which I think this Honourable House should look at. When you find that the dollar value of our exports from Barbados have risen by only about \$50 million over a four year period, this is a matter of serious concern because it makes you begin to wonder whether or not there has not been a quantitative reduction of exports from Barbados bearing in mind the pattern of our export industry which is largely based on a significant import content into Barbados. So that when you get behind all the talk, it is becoming increasingly clear that the economy of Barbados is facing the same crisis today which it faced in 1977, and that this is not only due to rises in oil prices. It is due to a whole range of other factors.

One important factor, Mr. Speaker, is the total failure of the Government to control the domestic content of inflation. We are not prepared on this side to take the position that all price rises in Barbados are due to the incompetence of the Government. We are not prepared to take the view that it is all due to imports. We know that a significant contribution to the escalating cost of living in Barbados is due to bad policies on the part of the present administration in terms of failure of price controls in various areas. Now, Mr. Speaker, this has a very significant effect on the balance of

payments in Barbados. I have already spoken of that widening gap in the visible trade of this country. This is a major disaster and the Government must be condemned to allow the situation to be developing. Mr. Speaker, it will get worse because as you get a further domestic content in your inflation which remains uncontrolled, it means that the prices of your exports will be increased and therefore their competitiveness will be significantly reduced unless you are exporting to protected markets which have become less and less available to us.

Mr. Speaker, I further go on to say that unless this Government recognises that they have an obligation to institute in Barbados a policy mix in order to mitigate the effects of increased oil prices, then they just cannot sit down or come in here day after day and shout and blame all the ills of Barbados on OPEC. OPEC has oil, Barbados has other sources of energy. Instead of trying to divert as much natural gas as you can into the home of people and into organisations such as the Barbados Light and Power as a base of power, the first thing you did to make inflation worse was to slap a consumption tax on the natural gas in this country. Natural gas is a natural commodity; the only thing you do with natural gas is, I think, reduce the amount of pressure that it comes out of the ground with, and you slapped a consumption tax on that in order to put up the cost of living on the consumers of this country.

We have wind energy. What is being done in Barbados in order to make sure that we have to import less oil and to make sure that we can maximise the sources of energy that are available in Barbados. We have heard a lot of talk about this and we hear more and more talk about this. There is no point coming and telling us that the price of oil has gone up by this and that amount when in point of fact you have had four years, and unlike the Democratic Labour Party where unless you were an Arab Minister you would have known what was coming, it was perfectly clear to anyone who was living on this globe in 1976 that there would be continual increases in oil prices principally of what the developed countries did to the OPEC countries after they put up their price rises in 1973-74. You have had four years to create a situation in which we should be less dependent today on OPEC oil and that we should be even using alternative sources of energy as the base of power in this country. I am not saying you can totally replace oil; all I am saying is that there are other sources that should have been exploited before, and now you are waiting until you get in a mess with the rate of inflation being 300 per cent greater than when you took over this country. It was 5 per cent in 1976; it is now over 16 per cent. The rate of inflation has risen over 300 per cent and you wait until now to talk about having policies on energy and so on; and the hon.

member for Christ Church South Central must bear a heavy responsibility in this regard, because one of the major thrusts in his Ministry should have been to find alternative sources of energy for use in Barbados, and he has been a total and complete failure in that regard.
3.10 p.m.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this matter will take on a new and much more serious dimension and it is this dimension. The Government, this present Administration, not only have they failed miserably to implement a single capital project which they have conceptualised but all they have done so far is to carry out a few projects of the Democratic Labour Party and even in their four-year programme up to 1983 I think it is, you can hardly find anything inside there that was not initiated and part of the Democratic Labour Party Programme which in 1974 they had said had run out of ideas.

What have they done and this is a serious charge. They have deliberately delayed all of these capital projects until a pre-election or an Election year. It means that the prices of those projects would have escalated considerably. It means, Mr. Speaker, that the foreign money that will be required to finance those projects would increase considerably. It means that the amount of intermediate goods you have to purchase will increase in price considerably and that this will create a severe strain on the economy of this country and further disastrous effects on the Balance of Payment unless you are going to continue on the path of borrowing to mortgage the future of this country for the next 10, 15 or 20 years at a level it cannot afford.

Not only that, you have created an artificial shortage of labour and materials. That in itself is a serious inflationary component of what is going on there. That in itself would then lead to a further demand of wages and legitimate demands for wages in order to cope with this problem. As the Governor of the Central Bank has said again and again that there is a given percentage of all expenditures on foreign imports into Barbados so you are creating a situation by the very folly of the Government for political purposes having nothing to do with the true and realistic economic objectives of development and that you have created this problem that you are now trying to blame the OPEC countries for exclusively. Sure, oil prices have something to do with it but your own policies have made it much worse and it is your own policies that have precipitated the prices which you had in 1977 which you precipitated at that time yourselves as well.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it is incredible that in a situation like this that a Government should totally abdicate its responsibilities in a major area of energy and I want to respond to a few remarks made by the hon. member for Christ Church North Central. I do not

think that he is aware that with the Fuel Adjustment Section of the Electric Bill that that cost is passed on, that the increased cost of fuel is passed on to the consumer and that all the Barbados Light and Power Company does is to collect the money and pass it on. That is not our quarrel. Our quarrel is with the fact that the Barbados Light and Power as a result of a recent Rate Hearing that the people of Barbados over the next five years are being robbed of \$30 million. That is the basis of our quarrel.

We do not argue, Mr. Speaker, that Barbados Light and Power does not need increased capital. We do not argue that they do not need more money. We do not argue that they do not need more equipment. Our quarrel is who pays for that equipment. What devices have been used in order to inflict a \$10 million bill this year on the consumers of this country in excess of what the revenue requirement of the Barbados Light and Power which is \$5 million for each year to come. That is the question.

Can you ask the consumer to pay for an expansion programme? Can you come and say, Mr. Speaker, that if the present level of domestic consumption remains the same or increases only slightly that there will be no need for expansion of the Barbados Light and Power Company and then you ask the consumers of this country, the domestic consumers, to pay for it. In my view, Mr. Speaker, it is highway robbery because the \$30 million is in excess of what are the legitimate revenue requirements of the Company based on their operating cost, depreciation expenses, taxes, retained earnings or whatever legitimate factor you may bring in here, anything in excess of that is the shareholders' responsibility. Therefore, I think that if the Government felt that it needed further capital in order to support foreign loans, it was the duty of the Government to get together with the Barbados Light and Power Company and see whether the Barbadians who are the consumers are prepared to invest in the Barbados Light and Power Company on the basis of ownership, part-ownership in the equity of the Barbados Light and Power. It becomes the property of the shareholders of the Barbados Light and Power and then you and I, Mr. Speaker, as consumers, would then be asked to pay rates based on an increase valuation of the property of the Barbados Light and Power Company. But, Mr. Speaker, if you think that the OPEC oil increase this year is going to have disastrous effects on the economy of Barbados, let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, and the country might as well understand this, and here is a classic example of what we can do to ourselves and then blame it on oil. It is a classic example where we are imposing a situation in Barbados where the consumer is going to have to pay increased rates of electricity, a substantial increase of the lowest ones, 33%; medium consumer up to 59%. Some burn some 1,000 kilowatts and will be charged about

85% and above and over that 100%. You have to pay for it out of your own pocket.

Now, Mr. Speaker, you also have to pay for it when you go to the supermarket. You have to pay it as a country the price of a reduction of output of the industrial sector. You also have to pay the price of the increased goods that emanate from industry. You also have to pay the price of a possible diminution in the demand for your exports. You also, Mr. Speaker, have to pay the price of unemployment because there is only so much that a Company can absorb. It would be passed on to the consumer.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, whereas I recognise that the OPEC countries could possibly have been a bit more lenient in their relationship with the Third World, I am not getting myself psyched up into a situation where we feel that we have been terribly wronged by OPEC countries because the kind of exploitation that those countries have been subjected to over the years more than justified their position in regard to the industrial countries such as the United States and United Kingdom. It more than justifies that and instead of an expression of our gratitude that we can get a loan on this kind of concessionary term, either a postponement or a grace period of three years then 4%....

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has two minutes in which to wind up his debate.
3.20 p.m.

Dr. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Instead of feeling happy that we have got this kind of generous loan, generous in terms and I hope that we can have some influence in the various International Councils of the World, in order to persuade the OPEC countries to make more money available to us. I do not think that it serves this country any good to make the kind of contribution that I heard from the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister who should be much more responsible in his utterings on a matter like this. We have no fight with the OPEC countries because we have done more over the past four years by our own mismanagement of the affairs of this country to create the mess that the economy is in today.

I am telling you this, that by the end of the year, the rate of inflation in Barbados would be about 20% officially. I have no doubt that it has been over 20% a long time ago, but officially, by about 20% at the end of the year. Our Balance of Payments are going to be in trouble and we are finding ourselves back where we were in 1978 where, the position of our Balance of Payments, if you look at the Economic Report, you would see that the \$37 million was largely due to capital inflows which were very clearly defined, whether loans, or whether they were capital in terms of investment in Barbados. I have been trying to find out exactly which it was, but I have

not been able to establish that yet and so, Mr. Speaker, finally, I think we should be grateful to the OPEC countries for this small loan at concessionary rates and I would hope that the Government would recognise that they cannot blame the high levels of inflation in Barbados today purely on the basis of increased oil prices. It is a scape goat. It is contributory, but only contributory and not totally responsible.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: It has just been drawn to my attention that the Hon. Member was the first speaker for the Opposition on this matter so the half hour time limit does not apply.

Dr. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had virtually wound up. There are one or two things I wanted to speak about which I had omitted because of time and there is a question relating to tenancies.

Now, the Hon. Member for Christ Church South Central referred to Government's tenancies' policy. I want to say this, I was shocked to hear the statement made by the Hon. Prime Minister of the country in respect to tenancies in Barbados and his position in relation to allowing people to purchase tenancies, the house spots and so on.

The Democratic Labour Party did a very thorough survey of all the tenancies in this country. There are some tenancies, Mr. Speaker, which are subject to that type of development. If I take an area that I know quite well. You take a tenantry like Bel Air, I think the Democratic Labour Party bought Bel Air some time ago. Now, that is an area linked very closely to a viable community, such as Bridge Cot, St. George, the Market Hill area, it has a shopping centre and gas station. It is on a main route and therefore that is the kind of tenantry which would be susceptible to that kind of policy.

On the other hand, if you take a tenantry say, like Ashbury, to take up \$500.00 or whatever the figure was, to buy a house spot in Ashbury tenantry, where, if you go home on a wet night and you slip on the grass, you are bound to roll down into Sweet Bottom, there is nothing to stop you. It would be a waste of money and it is quite wrong to induce people to go and buy a house spot in a situation like that. You are much better off buying the land across the road and re-siting a tenantry like that.

There are also many tenancies where there may be three or four people living at the end of a road, one mile long, away from any services. (ASIDES: He said that.) It was not in the Budget Speech, I read it, it was not inside there.

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it that the Hon. Member is addressing the Chair.

Dr. HAYNES: Yes, Mr. Speaker. You go and you buy three or four house spots down inside of there, or you encourage people to buy them, or you provide the financing for them. You are not really giving them an asset which they want to pass on to their children because their children would not want to go down there. You might find yourself buying a house spot at more than one dollar per square foot and end up with a person having an asset for which the taxes they would have to pay on it would be a lot more than the rent that they are paying for it now, nobody to leave it to and nobody interested in even inheriting it from them.

If you work out the cost of running services down to those three or four houses, you would see the kind of dollars that you are faced with. Therefore, a tenancies' policy in the context of Barbados, Mr. Speaker, has to be extremely flexible. You take another tenantry like Drax Hall in St. George. Now, Drax Hall is a tenantry which is ideally suited to that kind of development and to the kind of development where you ask people to buy the land on which they are living and to be even probably part of an Integrated Rural Development. As a matter of fact, I think that the previous Administration had entered into negotiations with Mr. Drax over the acquisition of Drax Hall, so you go from tenantry to tenantry and you look and see what is relevant.

Now, if you go to Cottage tenantry, for example, in St. George, the only thing that people living on Cottage tenantry would obtain is rab land and a house spot, whereas, if, on the other hand, on the right side, you move that tenantry over on the right hand side where there is an open field, I think it belongs either to Moscow or Golden Ridge, I am not sure, then, you will have a situation where you can offer people land and house as a viable alternative to living on the left hand side of the road. I know what I am talking about. So that, that kind of, should I say, omnibus policy, as expressed in the Budget Speech has no relevance to Barbados and you have to be extremely selective in how you set about this question of handling the tenancies in this country.

I recognise that there may be problems of a psychological and emotional nature bringing people to services, there may be some resistance. It is a matter of education, it is a matter of time and I think that what you will find and I have stressed this again and again, that Government's housing programme itself can be considerably accelerated, if you look carefully at the road network in this country, if you look and see where you have water already, if you look and see where you have electricity already, if you look and see where you have good communications existing already; you might find that if you decide to graft a housing development on that

type of infrastructure, that your rate at which you would produce accommodation for people to live in Barbados would be much greater than where you go and buy a piece of land like at Cave Hill, or somewhere like that, I just give you an example of Cave Hill where you have to run in all the infrastructural services.

Now, ten years ago, the same considerations did not apply and they did not apply for the simple reason that the costs of these infrastructural services were not forbidding as they are today. As a matter of fact, even private land developers hoping to sell at a profit, cannot find themselves in a position in Barbados where they can enter into a project unless, they can probably determine that that project could be completed in six or nine months' time, or they run into a lot of trouble.
3.30 p.m.

The hon. member for Christ Church South Central should know more about that than I would, but if you do not get in and out in about six to nine months in the present situation, you are in a lot of trouble, and you cannot even predict or span a project involving any kind of development where you have to put in roads, water and electricity with any certainty beyond a six-month to nine-month period at today's rate of inflation.

And so, Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I would like to say this: we welcome this loan. We think that it has been on much better terms than many of the loans that we have obtained from other organisations. I think for example that the Orion Bank loan was certainly not at this kind of concessionary rate. We recognise there is a problem with oil prices but we further recognise that the Government by its own action, by its failure to make sure that there is extensive use of alternative sources of energy in Barbados, that there is not adequate research being done, and that wind energy etc. which could be used economically is not being used in the national interest, that there has been an utter failure in this particular area, and I think that if any person, if any individual apart from the Prime Minister himself can be accused of doing considerable harm to the economy of this country, then it must rest fairly and squarely on the shoulders of the hon. member for Christ Church South Central who has been a miserable and desperate failure as far as his energy policy for this country is concerned.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member in his usual declamatory manner has made many points which call for an answer. I think we can say at the very outset that many of his submissions cannot be supported either by empirical evidence or by anyone with a balanced and intelligent judgment, and I do not think that we can allow him to get away with many of the very distorted submissions which he has advanced here today; but before I deal with his understanding of the arithmetic of this economy and its management, I want to use as my

start off point his remarks with respect to the tenancies. As I understand it, he has only been creating straw men to knock them down and really restating the obvious. It has long been made clear on this side by the Prime Minister and those who have spoken over the last few months in respect of our proposals dealing with tenancies that in some cases, and the classic example which the Prime Minister gives is a village called Springhead, that in that particular case and cases of a similar nature where the few houses are outside of the reach of the utilities, water and electricity, that it would be in the interest of the people, in the interest of the Government, in the interest of good management and the interest of the economy to abandon these tenancies as it were and resite the people elsewhere, so that there is no need for him to preach to us with respect to the need for flexibility in these circumstances, because we ourselves have built flexibility into our planning and into our proposals in relation to this matter.

The tenancies proposals constitute one of the most significant social advances which this administration will be introducing. It seeks in a way to correct one of the major residues of slavery in this country, because ever since emancipation the labourers who were free and who did not want to or could not work on the plantation looked for the marginal lands on which to eke out a living. We in Barbados had a very small peasantry quite unlike Jamaica and other countries because we had little land, and so from a very early point after emancipation many of our people sought immigration as a deliberate means of making and earning a livelihood. They went to Cuba, they went to Panama Canal, they went to Suriname, they went to some States in the United States, and in more recent years to Canada and the United States; so that we on this side cannot, Mr. Speaker, allow the Opposition to distort or take away from the pride of this achievement on our part. This is a significant and enduring social advancement which we are making, and we ought to be very careful to protect it for what it is worth. For the hon. member who has just spoken to say that they surveyed the tenancies and to leave it there, apart from the fact that there is no evidence on the files that the tenancies have been surveyed, what is the use of saying they surveyed it and left it there in fifteen years. That does not help anybody just to survey the tenancies and leave them there. We are giving the tenancies to the people and that is a step that we in this country ought to be proud of and certainly we in this party ought to take the applause for the initiative. The people are happy with it and nothing that the hon. member has said or can say will take away from that achievement on the part of the Barbados Labour Party administration.

Now, Mr. Speaker, any unicausal argument in relation to a complicated and complex phenomenon is a weak argument, that any one factor is the cause of some-

thing as complicated and as complex as the inflation which the western world and which Barbados is experiencing, and it is not true that we on this side blame the OPEC countries for the inflation which we are experiencing alone as the sole cause. The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister who is not in the Island today and who is not in his place has often said that a lot of the inflation which we experience in Barbados is generated from within. He has often said that on the floor of this House, so that in so far as he is the major spokesman of finance and economic matters in this House and in this country, you cannot attribute to him that statement because he has never said it. But my friend puts up again that mock man to knock him down and claims credit for his argument. We are not claiming that the oil prices and the dramatic increase in oil prices alone are responsible for the inflationary spiral which we have been experiencing in this country, but it is also true, Mr. Speaker, and I think we ought to put this in perspective, that much as there has been considerable justice in the OPEC countries doing what they have done to the developed countries, they are in danger of hurting themselves if they do not recognise that only a stable and prosperous world can in the end help them.

It seems to me that they have gone too far and that they are in danger of causing the whole postwar economy which has been built up to collapse, theirs included.

The other point I make is this, Mr. Speaker; to the extent that they have not made any distinction between the increases to the First World countries and the increases to the so-called Third World countries, I think that they have done us their so-called brothers a disservice, and the hon. member who has just spoken does not seem to recognise that that is a significant distinction which we ought to continue to urge upon them. (*Asides*) I would not go so far, Mr. Speaker, because I have no evidence to suggest that he is in the Arabs' Pocket; so I am hearing that. But certainly, Mr. Speaker, it is a valid distinction which I think all of us who recognise the gravity of the situation ought to be urging upon the Arab States and the OPEC countries.

3.40 p.m.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have heard of a very desperate economic situation in this country. Intelligent spokesmen on that other side in an honest moment would concede that the situation could not have been worst than when they left office. It could not have been worst. Unemployment was even worst than when the Barbados Labour Party Administration left office in 1961 and that was an extremely high point and I concede that and that relates to the former Barbados Labour Party Administration.

The period after the Deep Water Harbour was finished in Barbados in 1961 all into 1962 was one

of the worst periods for unemployment, I believe, since the War, in this country and the period 1974-1976 was even worse and though honest men may disagree about the figures whether they be 24%, or 28%, or 30% unemployment, the point is that it was definitely in the mid-twenties very, very high indeed.

There were many families in this country where you could find able bodied people where you only had one working. The National Insurance Statistics they tell no lies. In the last four years we have created over 14,000 jobs in this country. There are the figures. All the outside observers and analysts who have got to look into these matters support that. We are not lying on these matters.

There is a shortage in these areas in this country today and we are still more than a year from the end of the mandate. The point I am making, Mr. Speaker, is that no one can honestly say that we created artificial shortages and only started the projects for electioneering purposes. No one can say that because strenuous efforts were made from the very outset to our coming into office, certainly continuing into two and three years to correct this bad situation which we had inherited and to ensure that the people in this country who were able to work were put to work. We have succeeded in that in a way that no administration has succeeded since adult franchise in this country. The modern politics of Barbados started from 1951, Mr. Speaker, so we do not have to go back before that. By way of setting the record straight, we have got to make these points in this Chamber.

I want to say something else for the benefit of the hon. member who I am sure knows. If you, Mr. Speaker, decided tomorrow that you wanted to acquire 10,000 sq. ft. of land to erect an 1,800 sq. ft. house, with the ordinary three bedroom, one bathroom, one patio, assuming that you had to go through the Attorneys-at-Law to acquire the land, that you had to raise the mortgage from the Bank, that you had to secure Town and Country Planning permission for that spot and that you had to also secure the services of the Contractor, I put it to you, Mr. Speaker, that at least one year to 18 months would pass before you could live in that house starting tomorrow.

Consider, Mr. Speaker, the enormity of the projects in which we are involved. Consider, for instance, a Project like Oistins. For all the talk about Oistins when we got into office there was not even a single file marked "Oistins". Even without anything in the file, just even a file jacket marked "Oistins", we did not even have that. We had to plan all the components of the Oistins Scheme. We had to get money from the EDF. We had to move the tenants who were around there. We had

to go through all the feasibility and pre-feasibility studies, all the reconsiderations, amendments and adjustments of the planning processes and notwithstanding that, that Project is getting off the ground within a month.

The point I am making, Mr. Speaker, is this that careful and intelligent planning calls for time and if in relation to a simple 1,800 sq. ft. house you quite often cannot achieve that, the erection of the house and its readiness for habitation in a year to 18 months, what are you saying, Mr. Speaker, in relation to projects that involve reclamation of the sea, major reconstruction and re-development. Three years, four years, that is the time, Mr. Speaker.

It was mentioned too, Mr. Speaker, that all that we have done in this country in the last four years is to implement plans which were initiated by the Democratic Labour Party. What were we to do, Mr. Speaker, in relation to plans that were unwound? Were we to chop and change things? What were we to do, Mr. Speaker? That is one of the great strengths of this country, the continuity and administration in relation to things that are good for the country. Why did they not stop the Queen Elizabeth Hospital when they came into office in 1965. Why did they not blow up the Harbour and resite it, if possible in St. George? Why did they not do that if the great goal is to chop and change for changing sake? Apparently, only the last speaker himself would have undertaken any such elaborate and expensive nonsense.

This is not a Government of spite, Mr. Speaker, and we have to give some continuity to the Administration of public affairs, Mr. Speaker, and if things have been undertaken by our predecessors in office which make sense and redound to the public interest there will be continued. Where they make no sense, they will be abandoned or amended, or modified like the Polytechnic. They wanted to put it literally in a swamp just for visibility purposes but we recognised that that did not make sense, Mr. Speaker, and we located it elsewhere.

Another thing, Mr. Speaker, and a point that should be made is that it is not often recognised how long a period of time elapses between the conception of an idea, its acceptance by the public generally and its acceptance by a group of political decision makers. Take, Mr. Speaker, the East Coast Road. In the course of some research a few years ago I found out that the East Coast Road was talked about every since the abandonment of railways in Barbados in 1937. It is a positive fact, Mr. Speaker, and not until the mid-sixties were we able to get the first stages of the East Coast Road.

the Deep Water Harbour which we managed to construct in 1961 was talked about 50 years before, Mr. Speaker. Even the Post Office, Mr. Speaker, that is now under construction was certainly talked about for over 20 years and we are only now in the process of constructing it and they were in office for 15 years, talked about it every year and never achieved anything at all, not even the breaking of the ground. These things ought to be put in perspectives and we ought to understand how ideas develop in the public domain.

With respect to energy, one or two points have got to be made. We were the ones, Mr. Speaker, who supported and created the framework necessary for addressing our minds seriously to the development of energy and alternative sources of energy in Barbados and we as a result created the National Petroleum Corporation. It was our idea. We had it in the Manifesto and we have implemented it.

3.50 p.m.

There is such a para state organisation in existence today. The building which will house the officers who will be employed in that organisation is near completion in Wildey.

We were the ones, Mr. Speaker, who took the major initiatives in relation to the exploration of energy, the oil at Woodbourne and in Barbados generally, and concluded negotiations between the Government and General Crude. We were the ones, Mr. Speaker, who took the decision that natural gas must be carried to our industrial estates and to the Airport first, before domestic consumes. You will see, Mr. Speaker, driving through the country that the pipes have already been laid between Woodbourne and the Airport, and Woodbourne and you but, Mr. Speaker, Barbados, by itself, as a small, poor country cannot undertake either by way of finance, or by way of the trained personnel all the research, or even the major part of the research that is necessary in finding alternative sources of energy.

We have taken steps in relation to solar energy. In relation to our housing estates, the Government has set the example of putting in solar heating. We have put solar heating into a Government building for the first time under this Administration, the Agricultural Headquarters at Graeme Hall. In addition to all of that, Mr. Speaker, we have given special tax concessions to those who are involved in the manufacture and the development of solar heating, but, when it comes to wind power, there are major and fundamental difficulties that even the rich countries in the North Atlantic World, as yet, cannot lick. We have neither the money, nor the technology, so we have to get one side, as it were, Mr. Speaker, and urge those countries to get ahead with the research necessary, hoping that as soon as they make a breakthrough, we would be the first to use the technology to our advantage, but, we have got to put these matters into perspective. It is perfectly misleading to the public and dangerous

too, to give abroad the impression, Mr. Speaker, as was done by the last speaker, that these things can be done as if you are searching for a salt bread.

The search for alternative sources of energy, Mr. Speaker, is not an easy one. That path is fraught with obstacles and difficulties and we would have to await the passage of time, Mr. Speaker, before we can get a significant breakthrough.

So, Mr. Speaker, these things must be said, lest the press run away, pick up what has been said by the last speaker and give the public out there, the impression that we allowed those statements to go unanswered.

The last speaker made a highly misleading speech, Mr. Speaker. The submissions cannot be supported by any empirical evidence and I think that we, on this side, can only conclude that the lessons which he is taking in the Arithmetic of this economy — how it hangs together — he has not quite mastered.

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Member for St. Michael South Central may have made a misleading speech, if you look at it from one point of view, but I think he made a very revealing speech because Sir, I think he has been able to demonstrate in very concrete terms, his total act of social conscience because I heard him to say here earlier in his course, that the prices charged by OPEC are more than justified when you take into consideration the exploitation that those countries suffered, by industrialised countries. He is speaking, Sir, about the prices which OPEC charge Barbados because this Resolution before the Hon. House concerns money that Barbados is borrowing from OPEC to provide social services for the people of this country.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the point of Order?

Dr. HAYNES: I think that the Hon. Member is mistakenly misleading this Hon. House, mistakenly, I said, because that particular statement related specifically to the relationship by...

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no point of Order.

Mr. JOHNSON: The Hon. Member said that OPEC prices are more than justified and he is speaking about the prices which OPEC countries charge little Barbados, a struggling country with slender resources. He is talking about those and he is saying that those prices which our brothers and sisters in this country have to pay for oil, are more than justified.

Then, he goes on to make a wandering speech about the Barbados Light and Power Company, Sir. I am wondering how an Hon. Member who purports to be representing an urban constituency in 1980, a constituency made up fundamentally of poor people can be heard in this Hon. Chamber to say that the prices that the people in the country of Barbados are asked to pay by OPEC, are more than justified and a few short weeks from now, perhaps, next Sunday night, you are going to hear the same Hon. Member on the platform saying that the people have a right to complain when bottle gas costs \$75.00 per bottle or whatever it costs for a 100 lb. cylinder. But, he said in here, where he is supposed to represent that constituency that the prices charged by OPEC are more than justified so he is sympathetic to OPEC, and we must read from his speech Sir, that he has no sympathy at all in fundamental, social terms, for the people who elected him, to come in here and represent their interests. He made a very eloquent speech in representation of the interest of the OPEC countries here this afternoon.

He spoke, Sir, about gas. Barbados is engaged at the moment, in a very difficult task of trying to provide natural gas facilities for the people of this community and he is criticizing the Government because he said that the gas which comes out of the ground, we do not have to pay for, and you should not pay any tax on it. The oil which OPEC pumps out of the ground comes from the same ground that we get our gas from Sir and therefore, he is saying that naturally, gas should not bear any tax at all. How can he, in the same breath, be heard to say, the gas which we manage, by God's Grace, to generate here in Barbados, should be free, but that OPEC prices are more than justified. He should bear in mind Sir, that those facilities require expensive piping and the conduit to run that gas from one household to another, Sir, is expensive. We do not build it in Barbados, we have to buy it from abroad and the initial outlay of providing that service is staggering. Consequently, Sir, he should recognise that every Barbadian gets down on his knees and he prays for the time when he will see natural gas put into his house because he recognises that natural gas is infinitely cheaper as a resource, than bottle gas is, at the moment. But, still, he is telling us that it does not cost anything for Barbados to produce natural gas and therefore, we should go ahead and have it hooked up.

He is talking Sir, about tenancies and this, again, Sir, is a gentleman, the Hon. Member for St. Michael South Central who represents poor people in this country. 4.00 p.m.

The hon. member is getting up in 1980 and finding strength and voice to criticise the Government of Barbados for implementing one of the most revolutionary acts that has come into the minds of any Govern-

ment in the history of the country in providing opportunities for people who have had to live in the shadow of slavery all their lives to own the land on which they have had to pay rent. However marginal that rent may appear, it does not provide the pride of ownership, and the Barbados Labour Party Government is now providing the opportunity for those people to own their land at a very nominal price, and the hon. member for St. Michael South Central says that that is a waste of time and it is not worth anything.

I have here in my hand, you will be familiar with this, a document. I am not going to read from it; I am just going to refer to the fact that I am holding it in my hand. It is the.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope you are not holding it as a sword in your hand.

Mr. JOHNSON: No, Sir. It is the Progressive League, founded in 1938, "Policy of Programme, November, 1944". You hear the year, Sir? 1944. The same year that the hon. member for St. Michael North West was born. This document puts forward an argument for the sewage scheme that we are now seeing in Bridgetown. In 1944 the Progressive League, now the Barbados Labour Party, put forward in its manifesto programme — I went in the Barbados Labour Party archives to get it — the East Coast Road. The rural development scheme about which this loan has to do is in here since 1944 and the Barbados Labour Party is now seeking funds to bring to fruition a dream from a seed that was planted in 1944.

Now, Sir, when you talk about social foresight, you have to give more than high marks to the Barbados Labour Party, because when you hear those people on that side getting up and talking about social legislation in this country, the genesis of social legislation in this country has always been in the bosom of the Labour Party, and as we are seeing here today in the bosom of the Progressive League as far back as 1944. I do not have the time to read out all that we have set out in this document here and all that the members on that side have stolen out of these archives over the years. I use that word "stolen" not in any derogatory sense. We are flattered by the fact that they did have to rely on the Barbados Labour Party's programme to get any semblance of a social programme put together over the last fifteen years or so that they were in power, but I do not think it is reasonable for us to come in here and talk about OPEC being responsible for the cost of living problems in Barbados and so on and so forth and in the same breath be heard to be congratulating them on the fact that they are gouging, and that is a very modest word, the very life-blood out of countries with whom they link arms as part of the Third World.

I would like too, as part of this integrated rural development programme to put forward a suggestion, because I would think that at least 90% of the people who will be involved in this programme will be persons who will be keeping pigs, cows and chickens. I believe, Sir, that we have already started off by looking at solar energy as a meaningful alternative to the oil problem that we have in Barbados, and I think the time has come when we have to look critically at bio-gas energy as a meaningful alternative so that we can tell OPEC to go and drink their oil at one point not too far in the distant future, because I think it should be very obvious to us that if they continue with their present attitude, it will be virtually impossible for any struggling community like Barbados to find survival. Bio-gas is a meaningful alternative because a large percentage of our population already keep animals, and it has already been demonstrated and proven that three pigs, two cows and forty chickens can produce enough energy to provide all of the cooking gas that a household will need and all of the heating that a household of five would require. A programme has been implemented in Jamaica, it has been implemented in the Dominican Republic and I believe that the time has come when we in Barbados should at least provide a pilot programme of one or two units to demonstrate the feasibility of turning animal waste into useful energy. I do not want anybody to go away and report that the member for St. Michael West is saying that people should go back to burning cow dung. I am talking, Sir, about converting animal waste through natural processes into methane gas which will go to fire the stove and also to heat and provide hot water for the household. I think, Sir, that it is not an expensive programme. The literature is available; the entire technical aspects of the programme have been worked out and all we need to do is to get hold of that information and use it as an alternative so that householders particularly in the country who already have the raw material can start converting. The hon. member for St. Michael South is already a chicken farmer, a marginal one I must admit, but he at least has enough chickens in his place down there to heat the whole house. The house is a very large and expensive house, but he has enough chickens that could provide cooking and heating for that entire house at a modest capital outlay. I believe, Sir, that we need to investigate this so that we do not have to come into this Chamber time after time and criticise OPEC. Instead of cursing the darkness we should be lighting a candle, and I am suggesting, Sir, that we need to at least set up a final programme so that it can be demonstrated that this is an imminently feasible scheme and we would then be in a position to save a large amount of our foreign reserves by not having to depend on purchasing oil from the Arabs or whoever else are sellers of oil.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to wind up by suggesting to the Government that it is a wonderful step that we have undertaken to provide the ownership. I happen to

come from the country and I believe that I know every plantation tenantry in the Island. I do not believe there is one that I do not know. I know very intimately the Castle, Lamberts, Welchtown and I believe you, Mr. Speaker, would know a little bit about Welchtown, Nicholas and the Castle. I know those tenancies well and I am certain that every person who lives on those tenancies lands will be grateful, and if they ever heard that the hon. member for St. Michael South Central got in here and said it was foolishness, they would probably... I would not want to suggest what they would want to do, but they would not at all be happy because they have looked forward for a long time to an opportunity to own that land that they are on, and in addition to reap the benefits that were offered to them as the Minister responsible for Finance in the Budget where they would be able to convert their houses now from wood into wall and be able to write that off against their income tax. I would like, Sir, to commend the Government on this step and suggest that we continue to look for ways to find money on soft terms so that we can continue to provide for the people of Barbados those amenities which are so critically needed in the 1980s.

4.10 p.m.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, today OPEC has become a rather formidable force in the World Economics. Twenty years ago when five oil producing countries got together and formed OPEC, not much importance was attached to it. I think then that none of the industrialised countries ever thought that a time would come when such an Organisation would be causing serious concern for developing countries and developed countries in the World.

Today OPEC has 13 members in it and the total production of oil by that Organisation is about 31 million barrels of oil and the World, those that are developed and those not developed, are even experiencing more problems as a result of a haphazard way in which oil has been increasing from time to time.

As we sit here now, Sir, debating this loan, Ministers of those oil producing countries are somewhere out in North Africa discussing a new formula as how to arrive at the fixing of oil prices and if that formula is accepted, it is likely that within the next seven years the price of oil would have doubled. They are trying to arrive at a formula which would take into consideration the rate of inflation, the rate of growth and the foreign reserve position of a country, whether or not they would agree but that is left to be seen but judging from reports coming out, it seems that there will be likely to find at the end of that Conference that oil will be fetching a price for as much as \$35 per barrel, the basic price, plus the other arrangements which the individual countries make because I think the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that many of the countries in OPEC after having

agreed at a basic price then set about to making final arrangements to ensure that they even get a better price for the product than the price which they had sat down at a Conference and agreed to.

I find myself being critical of the terms of the loan and just to draw some comparison, the loan for the Sewage System in this country given by the American Development Bank was granted at 2% interest rate over a period, if I remember right, of 35 years and at a grace period of eight years before starting to repay the loan. When you compare that with the present terms of this loan, one would have to admit that the terms of this loan are not as generous as a small Island as Barbados would like it to be. Certainly, 4% interest rate at a grace period of only three years and 14 semi-annual repayments cannot be considered to be generous bearing in mind the constraints which we have here in Barbados so I repeat that I find myself somewhat critical of the terms of the loan because when you take into consideration that these countries have a lot of money and they do not know what to do with it at the moment, they are not using it for the rapid development of their own countries with the possible exception of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait which seems to be making rapid progress in the development of their own international economies.

We find that many of the other countries like Venezuela, United States and Latin America where you find that when you go through that country the immense poverty, in spite of the large amount of oil we feel that they could be a lot more generous in the terms in which they are giving the developing countries such as Barbados when they set out to borrow money from OPEC.

It must be obvious to all of us who are interested in these affairs that OPEC is dominated by Saudi Arabia and Iraq at the moment and to a lesser extent by Iran. There is a lot of political input or political advantage to be gained or expected to be gained by the way they set out to lend money or make their oil available. They are primarily concerned with those people who can protect or develop their own interests and one has to bear in mind that one of the particular interests which the Arabs have at this moment is the status of those people referred to as the Palestinian people, exiles somewhere out in the Middle East and they are primarily concerned in getting the greatest political advantage out of the tussle with Israel on the one hand and United States on the other hand, so one has to bear this very forcibly in mind.

Sir, what I am really concerned about is what steps the Government is taking to prepare itself for what is obvious would come out in the short period of time ahead of us and in this regard I hope that the Hon. Minister would be able to throw some light on what is happening to the oil being produced in Barbados at the moment.

We are told that we are producing about a third of our daily needs. I would like to hear from him what happens in this area, whether it is still being sold overseas or whether it is being used in Barbados and what effect that oil, if it is being used in Barbados, or even being sold overseas, has in cushioning the impact being made by the sudden and abrupt increases in the oil all over the World.

We have also heard a lot about gas, or natural gas in this country. I do recall that some years ago when the Democratic Labour Party was in power, the idea was put out that gas should be used for the generation of light and power in this country and some investigation into the matter was to have been undertaken. Being no longer the Minister, I am no longer in a position to comment on the status of that suggestion but I do hope that the Hon. Minister would be in a position at this present stage to be able to tell us what steps the Barbados Light and Power have made towards using locally available gas for the production of light and power in this country.

At that particular time we were told that there was an abundant supply of natural gas in this country. So much so that at one time it was found necessary to pump the gas from Woodbourne over to a disused well somewhere out in St. Andrew and with all the drilling that has been going on since then in this country, I would like to know if the gas reserves in this country are as good as we were told they were at that particular time or whether it had to be revised. In general, what is the actual picture now concerning our gas supplies in this country.

To go a step further, when we are thinking in terms of alternative sources of energy, one has to bear in mind that a country such as Barbados cannot find the necessary amount of money to engage in this type of research but at the same time we must have our ears out, highly pricked at all times to find out what is going on in the areas of research where people are seeking to produce other sources of energy to offset the havoc being caused by these haphazard increases in oil. One thing that comes forcibly to my mind is the use of solar energy in this country.

4.20 p.m.

I am told that in a house where you have bottle gas being used as a source of energy for heating your water and for cooking, that usually, one quarter of that gas of that one hundred pound cylinder is used in the heating of water, purely for washing your clothes or, for bathing and I wonder, if that is so, why some serious step, or some serious filip could not be given to the people of this country to install and use more solar water heaters because by doing this, there would have to be a tremendous reduction in the amount of gas imported into this country.

Sir, I would like to say that the people of the plantation tenancies in this country have been, for a long time, underprivileged and one does not have to recite the history of Barbados, although at times, it becomes necessary to do so, to trace the reasons why this is so, but, I think that at this particular point in time, people are not interested in the reasons why they have to suffer as they have been suffering, for so long a period of time, what people are interested in right now, is that something is done, and done urgently to remove the plight of their condition and if this money which is being borrowed can be used quickly and efficiently to remove the plight of those people who now find themselves still occupying plantation tenancies with all the disadvantages that have been there for a very long time, I think it is our responsibility to urge upon Government and especially, upon the Hon. Minister responsible, to do everything to get this programme off the ground as quickly as possible.

It is an unfortunate reaction in Government that things take a very long time and it has been refreshing to hear the Hon. Member for Christ Church East talking about the long period of time which elapses when ideas are born and when they are finally put into operation, and I hope that in reciting that, or drawing that to the attention of this Hon. Chamber, he is, in a way, trying to indicate to us that we cannot be too expectant and that this may well have been the case with this present project. I would like to be assured that that type of long delay will not overtake this project.

I would like to add a correction to certain remarks made here by one Hon. Member. I would like to draw to the attention of this Hon. Chamber that the conception of a Deep Water Harbour for Barbados goes back to 1889, put forward by a man called Sir John Boos and the conception of a Sewerage System for Barbados goes back as far as 1937 which can be checked out. I am throwing this out because ideas cannot be claimed to belong to any particular person for all time, or solely, because ideas come very often from various sources, but what is far more important than the idea, is the steps that are taken to see the idea given some practicability and if that is done, that is what we have to applaud, not so much the idea, because many ideas are produced and never bear fruit. Sir, that is as much as I would like to say at this particular point on this loan. I am not prepared to enter into any wide ranging discussions on the economic highlights or high points of Barbados at this point in time and I would like to end by restating that when compared with loans that we have got from other sources, I would have to agree that the terms under which we are getting this loan are certainly not as generous as the terms given by the Inter-American Development Bank for a loan such as the Sewerage System of Bridgetown.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I am very glad that the Hon. Member who has just spoken, spoke in the way in which he spoke, for, by his speech, he

indicates, quite clearly, that within that Party, there is still some hope for some measure of sanity and responsibility to prevail. His speech is in sharp contrast to the total irresponsible contribution of the Hon. Member for St. Michael South Central.

I will reply straight away to the Hon. Member's query with respect to the utilisation of natural gas and alternate energy in Barbados because it is an area which concerns us all, whatever our political Party. For the information of the Hon. Member, the United Nations Report on the assessment of reserves of oil and gas in Barbados was delivered in our office about two months ago and it states that Barbados has about seven billion cubic feet of natural gas. In respect of oil, oil in place, in the 42 wells that were drilled up to that time, an evaluation up to well 38 showed that we had between three to four million barrels of oil in place in those wells. For the benefit of all Hon. Members, the estimation of oil and gas reserves is not an exact Science, you have to estimate it by mathematical tools, based upon the historical performance of the wells, as well as, by a measurement of the remaining unfiltered sands. You cannot have what is known as a probable reserve, based upon a reserved estimation, determined by a spacer within a given acreage of how many wells you can put in there.

Now, none of the experts in Barbados would hazard, a definite estimate as to the probable reserves on land in Barbados because we have a very complex and peculiar geology and you can put two wells within two acres of each other, one produces and the other does not produce. Then, you can go and put another well in there and it will produce, so that is why probable reserves are difficult to estimate in Barbados. We, therefore, have had, as a result of a Seismological Agreement which we signed last year with Mobil Barbados, a seismic programme, using modern seismic techniques to be able to determine whether there are sedimentary basins outside of Woodbourne, offshore, onshore. Now, Hon. Members will also appreciate that the Science of geo-physics is a rapidly changing science and modern techniques have been developed which are much more accurate than the techniques that were used when General Crude was in Barbados and things of that kind.

Now, this survey has been completed and the computer processing of the data. We expect to receive the print outs and the interpretation by Mobil very soon, but, in order to ensure that we are satisfied with the interpretation, part of the terms of the Agreement was that we were entitled to have our own geo-physicist who observed when the seismic was being done and who would be able to give us his own independent interpretation of it. We were able, through our own resources, to hire a very eminent geophysical firm from the United Kingdom who was recommended to us by the UNDP Consultant who also is doing work for the

Government of China, which also has such a Seismological Agreement with Mobil, onshore and offshore. 4.30 p.m.

Now as soon as the data has been presented to us, and we expect it within another two weeks, then parallel with their interpretation we will get our own interpretation of that data. In short, we are trying to have as much information as we can about the true probable reserves in Barbados.

Now, Sir, the question of utilisation of natural gas. If hon. members will have a look at any of the reports from the Central Bank, any of the Economic Reports, they will notice that there has been a steady increase in the gas consumption and utilisation in Barbados. I explained on more than one occasion on the floor of this House that since we have been in power we have had to expend money at current cost to strengthen the pipelines. When I say "strengthen" I mean increase the capacity of those pipelines to carry a given volume of gas. We only had one pipeline from Woodbourne running through the centre of the Island. There was no connection between that transmission line and where the distribution lines were along Highway 7 and Highway 1. We had to put in a loop so that if anything went wrong with that pipeline particularly during crop time, it is above the surface, we would be able to continue to supply to the customers through an alternate bypass. I have explained also that in the planning of a transmission and a distribution system for gas, it is very similar to what happens with water, and the hon. member himself was a Minister of Communications and Works and he would recall how before you can distribute water to customers you have to have in your trunk mains to get a given flow and then you put in reducers. Well gas is the same thing. We therefore have put in from Woodbourne to the Airport; that is complete. We have moved it from Maxwell corner right to the Oistins Plaza. The line now has to come from Woodbourne to Oistins. They started at two ends; they started from Newton end where there will be a reducer. The volume of gas coming from Woodbourne to Newton will be at 300 pounds per square inch; you distribute at anywhere between 5 PSI and 10 PSI, so you have to put in a reducer, and that reducer is on the high ground outside the Newton Industrial Estate. That was about 4.5 miles. A little over a mile is left now. We were able to go through the cane ground all along Balls, Rising Sun and Searles, but then you had to hit the road; you had to move off the cane ground where you could excavate at a very high rate and then you had to move on to the road.

Now there are a lot of problems when you start digging in the road, particularly in Barbados. A number of pipes were laid in the past by utilities, but they did not have a map of where the water was laid or where the utility was or things like that. That has changed now.

Since 1950 on there has been a drafting section in the Waterworks Department and in the Utility Companies and they know where approximately all their lines are; so you have to go gingerly when you are digging them up. You cannot use the big bulldozers and rip up. Now going through St. Patricks Village there is also an additional problem which slows down the progress, that is, a large number of the houses which are near to the road also have small pipes coming from the trunk main on the other side of the road to let in their individual water. You have to deal very slowly with that because when you break one of those, you have to have plumbers on site to be able to repair those pipes, otherwise you have to get lost around the area. That happens.

The hon. member who was the Minister of Communications and Works would appreciate the difficulties that you have. The Waterworks Department undergoes those difficulties so that progress there is not as fast as we would have liked. Secondly during the crop season in our narrow roads you are only allowed by the Police Department to open a trench of a given distance; I think they allow 100 to 150 feet. Now we have been pushing to see if we could get weekend work, but it was pointed out that during the crop season peasants move their canes on weekends so that in any event you will still be in the problem of the trucks. Now we hope to complete that line by the end of July.

Now on the question of the utilisation of natural gas to the Electric Company, when I went into the Ministry we raised this question with the then Managing Director of Light and Power, Mr. Nelson. He raised all kinds of objections to it. He said that the boilers were not designed for this. We had a gas technologist from UNIDO, a Mr. Gunning, who was down here. He used to work at British Gas. He said that he knew that in Trinidad and other countries they were using natural gas for electricity generation. He said that he would do samples not only in Barbados, but in Canada, in the United Kingdom and in America of the constituents of all gas to see the BTUs in it, the foreign matter in it, because as far as he as an engineer was concerned, it was a better fuel than Bunker C, and I pressed the Light and Power Company to get their fuel technologist from the University of Pennsylvania; they have consultant fuel technologists. Apparently that is an area where they do a lot of experiments on coal gas and converting boilers. After a long series of tests, the fuel technologist came back with the view that it would be possible to use the gas in the boilers, but you would have to have special burners designed for it. We found out what was the cost of designing the burners and it is a cost which is reasonable. I do not know the exact amount, but the Light and Power has agreed to put in the burners, we have agreed to spend the money for the pipeline to get it to Light and Power, and the reason is very simple. We are producing about 2 million cubic feet a day and at

peak use we use 700,000. This little country uses more of the associated gas that comes up with the oil than many countries in the world. Trinidad does not use 60% of its gas; the rest is flared off. To get the gas up the oil has to force it up, and unless you have an alternate use for the gas, the oil companies claim that the oil is worth more than the gas; so we have in this country in three years gone farther than many countries in the world including the Arab countries who are now having to build L.L.G. plants than anywhere else, and yet the hon. member over there says that I must take the blame, that I have done nothing. The basic position is that I hope by October the million cubic feet that we used will be used there, and all we have to do now is to complete this 1.2 miles of line which will be speeded up. We have to take the line out of the gully at Mahaica at the back of where Rayside is and bring it up where the crematorium was supposed to be, — you know the line passes on the other side of the gully — and award a contract from there to Spring Garden, because the volume that these burners would need at the pressure of 40 pounds, given the distance, you have to have two four-inch lines feeding at the same time; so that with the bypass from Oistin feeding that section and that line feeding off the Belle transmission line, we will get the amount and the volume there, and we hope to use particularly between 10 o'clock at night and 7 o'clock in the morning all the excess gas. The burners come in pairs of four. If Light and Power was on 100 per cent gas they would need 10 million cubic feet a day. Those pairs of four will be one million cubic feet, one-tenth. It costs them \$1 million a week now at the present prices, therefore it will be one-tenth, and therefore they would be utilising all our gas which is now going up in the air.

4.40 p.m.

Now the price that that gas will be sold at, we are having an argument over this price and the Minister will soon settle that argument because in my opinion it must be less than the price of bunker C, fuel. That is my view. On the other hand you are tied to an Agreement which says that the prices for hydro-carbons, including gas, are prices which should be set at what is available export wise so therefore you constantly have this argument going along and in the end we have to settle it but obviously we cannot settle it. We can settle it by a discount in the World price but it cannot be so far a discount because you have the Agreement and you have the Arbitration Clause.

In that respect, I also want to say that we have got new industrial customers. The Biscuit Company is one. Many of the bakeries are on. Many of the hotels who are on the line are on. It goes as far down as Trents in St. James coming down that hill from Lancaster but we cannot rely on the pipe line that goes from Turner Hall because the pipe line from Turner Hall as far down

as Gregg Farm is over 30 years old and the hon. member would appreciate that these things have a life, but we could not go and replace that when the source of gas at present is at Woodbourne. We have to fix this line first and then we would be able to go and replace that line.

Now in Barbados, and I want to tell you this straight, we used in the past to use screw pipe, not welded pipe and modern standards today, the Gas Association of America, all around say that that is a very dangerous thing to use that you should use welded pipe or what is known as a slotted plastic pipe which is put on with a machine.

Now Welders. The only person who is allowed under standards to install a gas pipe is a person who can produce a Welding Certificate of a certain kind. We do not have examinations here in Barbados. We had a few here in Barbados but many of them worked not only here but they worked through the Caribbean with Limpton Mark Contractors and they are able to build gas tanks so therefore we had to get a Barbadian who was in Canada, one who was in Britain and other places and we have attracted them back to the Natural Gas Corporation and we are using the sack rock pipe which is approved in accordance with the standards because if we had to wait on welders we could not produce them or keep them here in Barbados so that I want to give the hon. member the assurance that contrary to the impression that the hon. member for St. Michael South Central has been given, that tremendous progress has been made in the last three years in the utilisation of Natural Gas in Barbados and it is not the only area.

Let us deal with the question of solar energy. I have here the Central Bank of Barbados Annual Report, 1979: "Sales of solar water heaters in 1974, less than 50; in 1975 less than 50; in 1976 about 60." We came into power and in the first Budget Speech the Prime Minister said that he was removing the duty on the raw materials for manufacture. Hon. members would remember that. Since then, I, as Minister of Industry granted two firms concessions for the manufacturing of solar water heating.

In 1977 over 140 were put in. In 1978 in the Budget Speech again the Prime Minister said that he would give consideration to allow people to write off the cost of converting from conventional bottled gas or electricity to solar water heaters. The number jumped to over 300 and, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am proud of the fact that in 1979, six hundred units were installed in Barbados. Six hundred solar units were installed in Barbados.

That monster who calls himself an expert and spokesman for economic affairs who spends all of his

time misleading the people and do not know any better, in many spheres of activity can get in here and say that I must take the blame for not doing anything at all for alternative energy sources. (*Asides*). No, you are never impressed with the truth.

I also want to say, Sir, that I made a speech two years ago and repeated it last year at the Tradex, the opening of the Hotel Association, and I told the hoteliers then that the Ministry expected and directed that they should immediately make full use of alternative energy sources. I am also pleased to record that not only have many of them converted from electric water heating or bottled gas water heating to natural gas for those who are on the line, but that many have gone further and we have units in Barbados, as much as 45 units. Many have just completed solar installation for solar water heating and it was in the papers two days ago.

In addition to that, I am aware of the fact that as many as 85 units in a new extension at Marriotts in St. Philip will be using solar heating. I am also aware of the efforts of the Government in its contribution to the idea of using solar for cooling to get at the Ministry of Agriculture building, solar cooling units there.

As hon. members have said, we are operating in an area in which very few countries have hitherto spent money for research in this area. As a matter of fact, one of the leading areas of the utilisation of solar energy and the leading research areas is the Georgia Institute of Technology which has a U.S. \$3 million grant from Saudi Arabia. You have Australia in the North. You have Israel and a few other countries who are pioneering this research in the Pyrenees between France and Spain and in those areas but as far as technology is known I must pay tribute to the commonsense of the Barbadian Engineers and others that they kept themselves up-to-date. They suggested to people that they should use it. They demonstrated where it is feasible and we have had a great deal of acceptance of that.

Now, Sir, it is not only in the area of solar energy. Only last week the Minister of Agriculture and I witnessed another scheme for the utilisation of bagasse in Barbados. This Project, in 1977 the Commonwealth Scientific Research Council had an alternate energy Seminar here in Barbados. We were identified as being an area where this could make a potential contribution. We were told that solar, wind, wave and biomass were our potential areas. All of the documents that were available from the computer and the Energy Research Programmes were made available and experiment after experiment went through with respect to bagasse and they have reached the stage this year where they were able before the end of the crop to actually feed excess

the same manner as which he carried out his duties in steam, borrowing a generator, into the national grid. 4.50 p.m.

Now, the contribution that bagasse can make to the total electricity in Barbados, if all the factories were on it, is somewhere between four percent to six percent, but if you can get 10% from natural gas, four percent, or six percent from there, you are 16%. You are reducing your dependence on fossil fuel. Now, if you can find more oil, then you are reducing your dependence more.

With respect to our oil, the record of production is very clear, that since we have been in power, that local production has increased and I want to tell the Hon. Members this, that in 1977, some was exported and a little bit was exported in 1978. The reason for that was that the refinery here in Barbados had been adapted to use our particular type of oil. Barbados has a light oil, it is very high in fuel oil, very low in gasoline and high in kerosene. The refinery here was designed to use crude from Venezuela because in those days, Mobil used to control the production and the export in this refinery. That is no longer so, and therefore, Mobil had to adapt the refinery. That adaptation has taken place and it cannot be exported because I have power to allow exportation and there can be no doubt about it, I feel that the first claim on oil is Barbados, the second claim is the Caribbean area and thereafter, the rest.

We are producing an average of about 283,000 barrels per year, it fluctuates and it varies, but that is the annual average and that is a better production than at any time during the time when the Democratic Labour Party was there. I do not see how it can truthfully be said that we have done nothing to use our own resources in this direction.

I am also aware of the fact, because we have an alternate Energy Department, that there is an experiment going along now with one of the largest chicken farms in Barbados to use the chicken manure in the same way in which the Chinese and others use it for the production of gas. I am aware of that.

Now, I also want to remind Hon. Members that we came in here with the Resolution to approve the post of Chief Geologist in my Ministry, Mr. Barker, Mr. Payne; our Petroleum Engineer, Mr. Sargeant; our Petroleum Economist, Miss Redman and an Energy Economist, Mr. Cox; five people. When I went down there, they had one employee, Mr. De Verteuil, we now have five, plus Mr. De Verteuil working alongside because we have faith in our people, we have faith in what we are doing. If the Hon. Member, when he was Hon. Minister responsible for natural gas, was not able to persuade the Ministry of Finance to invest some money in personnel in his Ministry, thank God, I have persuaded the Ministry of

Finance to do that. Thank God that I have sufficient influence to persuade the Ministry of Finance that I want that staff and I got that staff because they are producing royalties for it. He can look and see what is happening and the Hon. Minister of Finance likes to see justification, especially in the form of good financial returns. That is it.

We have the wind power. We have been having a number of discussions with Consultants in this respect. It is well-known that USAID is interested, through the Caribbean Development Bank, in financing schemes for alternate energy and again, Barbados has been picked in respect of this wind power. Dr. Gouveia is the Head of the Energy Department dealing with this. But, we also had in the Barbados National Standards, an officer who, for a long period of time, was discussing with us, in our Ministry, what could be done in relation to wind power and to show you how we operate, I am only going to call his name and people will know, Jose Chiga. I approved his going to the U.N. Conference on wind power because I feel he has a contribution to make in respect of that. Of all the small countries, Barbados was the only one that sent somebody there and talked sensibly on alternate energy resource, because of the background work which we have been doing here. Not only doing, not only reading the research documents, but actually persuading consumers and manufacturers to convert that research into practical products here in Barbados. It is a record that we can be proud of, but before we can implement the Energy Scheme, we need the Meteorological Data as to how much wind you have and for what period of time you have it. Now, we have that kind of data at the Airport because there is a Met. Station there but you have, with wind power, as the technicians have pointed out, always to have a back-up with a conventional source because if you rely on wind, when the wind is down, what happens is that people get no electricity and you cannot just ring them and tell them that the wind is not blowing. Therefore, it does have its limitation and you have to look for the areas where you have the most consistent volume of wind that is necessary for the generation.

The Caribbean Meteorological Institute is collecting data, stations are being set up. We know that in Nantucket Island, off Massachusetts, we know that in other areas in Germany and in France, that generators have been operating and producing up to one megawatt. That study is going along. So, therefore, again, we are in the forefront of investigation and only today, before I came to this Hon. House, I had a meeting with the Executive Secretary of OLAYE in which they want to have Barbados as the area where their investigations are to take place in respect of wind. All of this has taken place, the Hon. Member knows that. All of this has taken place but, such is the mind of that man, that truth, whatever it

is, unless it suits the particular occasion, it will not be used.

I would also like to deal now with one or two other points that he raised. He talked about the inflation. I am not going to allow the Hon. Member to get away with this. I just want to point the facts to the public. He wants three years; in 1974, the inflation rate, under the Democratic Labour Party was 38.9%; in 1975, 20.3%; in 1976, 5% — 64.2% in three years, an average of 21.4%.

If I see published any statements made by the Hon. Member in here today about this and I do not see published my facts about this then in the future, people will not be able to come in here because the Rules Mr. Speaker, state that you must have a fair and accurate report of the proceedings and a fair and accurate report does not consist of publishing untruths made by any Hon. Member in here, and not publishing the contradiction.

I am going to repeat it. In 1974, the rate of inflation in Barbados was 38.9%; in 1975, 20.3%; in 1976, 5% — 64.2% over a three year period, an average of 21.4%. 5.00 p.m.

Now let us deal with the three years 1977, 1978 and 1979. In 1977 it was 8.4 per cent, in 1978 it was 9.5 per cent and in 1979 it was 13.9 per cent; over the three years 31.8 per cent, an average of 10.6 per cent, double when the Democratic Labour Party was in power and yet that monster — that is all I can call him because when people fly into the face of facts that is what I call political irresponsibility — is going to come in here and say that we are in a disastrous situation in Barbados. It is 21.4 per cent as opposed to 10.6 per cent.

Now I want to say this: Let us deal with the reserves because the true danger of a character like the hon. member for St. Michael South Central must be exposed to Barbadians. He said that the reserves in Barbados in 1975 were at a record level. That was due to the sugar crop and the price sugar brought in 1975. That hon. member is one of the ones who goes around here night after night telling people not to cut canes in Barbados. I am not giving way; I did not interrupt you. There is no point of order in that.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, it is completely and totally erroneous to say that I have ever.....

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the point of order?

Dr. HAYNES: The hon. member has made an erroneous statement saying that I have told people not to cut canes. It is simply incorrect and I am sure he has been misled into saying that.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The Labour Party has tape recordings of the hon. member making that speech. I repeat the charge that the hon. member and his colleagues in the Democratic Labour Party have repeatedly in the course of this crop season throughout the country encouraged people not to cut canes.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.....

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the point of order?

Dr. HAYNES: The point of order remains the same. I have never spoken on the question of cutting canes and the hon. member got up and repeated it.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I have tape recording evidence of that. You can shout at your little boy; you cannot shout at me. That hon. member ought to know that this year in Barbados we had one of the best sugar crops that we have had for a long period of time. He also knows that in the last two or three months sugar prices on the free market in the world have risen, but the truth of the matter is that the hon. member does not want the economy of this Island to survive. He wants disaster so that he can take over.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the hon. member is imputing improper motives to me by suggesting that I wish this country to be in a state of economic disaster.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is the Chair's ruling that he is not imputing improper motives to you in this Honourable House.

Dr. HAYNES: Thank you very much for your ruling, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The thing is that the hon. member believes that he can walk up and down this country spreading a lot of distorted material, encouraging people in this country to act against their best interest and I cannot demonstrate it in this Assembly. The hon. member cannot silence me. I lay the charge that the hon. member has repeatedly on political platforms advocated people not to cut canes in this country. I lay the charge that the hon. member has repeatedly in this country walked about and spread propaganda and untruths. I lay the charge and I will be able to demonstrate and deal with it.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the hon. member has said that I repeatedly spread untruths in this country which is a clear implication of improper motives.

Mr. SPEAKER: I rule not inside this House; it has nothing to do with anything inside this House.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The hon. member got up in here and I listened to him saying that I must take the blame for not doing one thing in relation to oil, gas and things like that. I say that when I have given the facts, when they are there in the documents that the hon. member is a malicious distorter of the facts. That is what I say. If you want to deal with it, deal with it. The evidence has been laid and I will draw the strength.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has risen on a point of order.

Dr. HAYNES: The hon. member has accused me; he has used the term "malicious distorter" of facts. It is my contention that the word "malicious" is unparliamentary and an imputation of improper motives.

Mr. SPEAKER: I agree it is unparliamentary and I will ask the hon. member to withdraw it.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I withdraw "malicious" Sir. Gross.

Mr. SPEAKER: Now you cannot withdraw "malicious" and substitute "gross". You withdraw and that is the end of the matter.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I withdraw the word. "malicious". I now say that having regard to the published facts as published in the Economic Reports the hon. member is either ignorant, shows a lack of appreciation of the written word, or that he has distorted the facts. Now, Sir, I am not going to reply to the balance of the utter nonsense the hon. member talked in relation to the economy of this country. I have already demonstrated that the windfall that you got in 1975 was attributable to the extraordinary sugar price that you received then. You do not know what we will get in 1980, that is your trouble. The hon. member does not know what we are going to get in 1980. The hon. member does not know what the outturn of the crop will be which he has done nothing to encourage people to reap. I challenge the hon. member to name any day any place that he has got up on a political platform and encouraged people to reap canes. I challenge him that he knows that according to the crop estimates this is one of the best crop years. I challenge the hon. member for St. Michael South Central to get up on the floor of this House and say at what point in any of the public meetings he has held, and he has had many of them all over the island, he has got up and said "the Democratic Labour Party recognises the contribution of sugar to the economy of Barbados and I urge you as fellow citizens of Barbados to try and complete this crop". He cannot answer. The hon. member is silent.

I have dealt with his distortion of the figures on inflation; I have dealt with the patent absurdities and untruthfulness of the statement that I am responsible for not doing anything in relation to energy. At another place and at another time I will finish him off in relation to the economy of Barbados.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, this concludes Government business for today.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 17th June, 1980, at 12 o'clock noon.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I beg to second that.

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

5.10 p.m.